

# The Lucky Dip Bursary Scheme 2026/27

## Open Call

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### 1. Introduction

The Lucky Dip bursary scheme is back. The grant programme offers eight visual artists in the SO postcode £500 to fund the creation of a new artwork or activity.

The application process will be light-touch and proposals will not be assessed. The bursaries will be awarded to artists through a lottery selection. This experimental approach seeks to proactively remove barriers around application and selection processes.

'a space' arts is committed to becoming an anti-racist organisation and as part of this work four of the Lucky Dip Bursaries will be offered to global majority\* artists.

*Please note, this bursary scheme is only open to artists aged 18+. Unfortunately previous recipients of the Lucky Dip bursary are not eligible to reapply.*

#### *\*Notes on terminology:*

- We acknowledge language is fluid and evolving and aim to ensure our use of language remains inclusive and inoffensive.*
- As an organisation we have joined the movement to reject the acronym BAME as this state-manufactured term flattens and depoliticises global solidarity between people with a lived experiences of racism.*
- We acknowledge the term 'people of global majority' as it is factually true with over 80% of the world's population making up the global majority of non-white peoples.*

## **2. Objectives:**

- To fund new and exciting works of art or artistic activity.
- To encourage visual artists to experiment and take risks.
- To get more money directly to local artists to make work.
- To support artists in the city from a variety of communities.
- To remove the barriers created by conventional application and selection processes and reduce discrimination towards artists who find funding applications lengthy and difficult.

## **3. The Artwork:**

- The outcome could be an artwork or an art activity. It doesn't have to be a finished project or a 'final' outcome. It could be a work in progress, or a new area of research.
- This is an opportunity for visual artists to experiment, test new ideas and take risks.
- The funded activity must be completed by Sunday 4th April 2027.
- The work, documentation of the work or a work-in-progress must be available for a group exhibition in April - June 2027 at God's House Tower, Southampton.

## **4. Other commitments:**

- All successful artists will be asked to supply images and text for promotional content and work with the 'a space' arts marketing and comms team to promote their work, the bursary scheme and the exhibition.
- All successful artists must be available to attend all progress meetings and the exhibition launch event in April 2027.

## 5. Fees:

In order to support as many artists as possible, the bursaries are capped at £500. Artists will be expected to work within this budget.

- Artists will receive £450 upon signing an artist agreement in May 2026.
- Artists will receive £50 once they have contributed to the evaluation in July 2027.

## 6. How to apply:

To add your name to the lucky dip, please fill out this short application form:

**[Lucky Dip 2026 Application Form – Fill in form](#)**

If you're unable to fill out the form then you can send either an email, voice note or video responding to the prompts below. Please send that to the 'a space' arts Curator & Programme Manager, Mia Delve by **Monday 11th May 2025 at 9am.**

### **(1) Contact Details – Name, email address and postcode.**

This is so we can contact you and verify your postcode.

### **(2) In what way do you consider yourself to be an artist (50 words)**

We decided to ask this question as an alternative to asking for evidence of an artistic practice such as a link to a website or portfolio of work. This is so that artists who have little experience or formal training can apply.

**(3) 100 words about what artwork or art activity the Lucky Dip bursary would fund**

**(4) Do you identify as a person of the global majority?** This information will allow us to make four of the Lucky Dip bursaries available to global majority\* artists

**(5) Do you have any access needs? If yes please give details.**

This will enable us to support you to do your best work from the very beginning if you are one of the lucky artists.

**(6) How did you hear about this opportunity?**

Was it word of mouth, social media, on our website or another way?

You can contact Mia Delve by:

- Email: [mia@aspacearts.org.uk](mailto:mia@aspacearts.org.uk)

- Phone or WhatsApp : 07917850603

If you have any questions please also contact Mia Delve before **Thursday 7th May 2026 at 5pm.**

*Please note, applications will not be assessed but they will be vetted to assure proposals are not racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic or offensive in any way.*

## 7. Project Timeline:

| Date                                 | Actions                         | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday 13th April</b>             | Open call goes live             | Open Call open for Artists to apply<br><b><u>Lucky Dip 2026 Application Form - Fill in form</u></b>                                  |
| <b>Monday 11th May, 9am</b>          | Deadline                        | Open Call applications close   |
| <b>Friday 15th May</b>               | The Lucky Dip Draw              | - The Lucky Dip Draw will premiere on the 'a space' arts YouTube channel   |
| <b>Monday 18th - Friday 22nd May</b> | 1to1 Meetings                   | - 1to1 Meetings with successful artists<br>- Artist agreements written and signed  |
| <b>Thursday 18th June, 6pm-8pm</b>   | Start-up meeting                | - A chance to meet the other Lucky Dip artists<br>- Also find out about previous Lucky Dip exhibitions and hear from past recipients |
| <b>W/C Monday 13th July</b>          | Progress group meeting          | - All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together  |
| <b>Friday 14th August</b>            | Progress group meeting          | - All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together  |
| <b>W/C Monday 9th November</b>       | Project mid-point group meeting | - All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together  |
| <b>W/C Monday 7th December</b>       | Progress group meeting          | - All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together  |
| <b>W/c Monday 25th January 2027</b>  | Progress group meeting          | - All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together  |

|   |                                   |   |
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| <b>Monday 8th February</b>                  | Deadline for Exhibition Proposals | - Artists will be provided with guidance and support at this stage to complete an exhibition proposal   |
| <b>Monday 8th February</b>                  | Comms                             | - Campaign Announcement on Websites, Email Marketing Campaign and Social Media (including a news post on the ASA website).<br>- Distributing Press Release with local and national contacts |
| <b>Monday 5th April</b>                     | Deadline                          | - Deadline for finished artworks  |
| <b>W/C Monday 5th April</b>                 | Exhibition install meeting        | - Artists will meet with technicians to discuss how to install their work   |
| <b>Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st April</b>   | Install                           | - Artists will install their work with the support of the 'a space' team and technicians  |
| <b>Friday 23rd April 6pm-9pm</b>            | Lucky Dip exhibition launch event | - All artists to attend and celebrate!  |
| <b>Friday 23rd April - Sunday 13th June</b> | Exhibition open to the public     | - GHT will be open to the public from Thursday - Sunday each week during the exhibition   |
| <b>Monday 14th June</b>                     | Deinstall                         |   |
| <b>June</b>                                 | Evaluation                        |   |

## 8. Alternative Formats

This brief will be made available in multiple formats including audio.

If you would benefit from a different format that is currently unavailable, please contact us so we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application.

You can contact Mia Delve by:

- Email: [mia@aspacearts.org.uk](mailto:mia@aspacearts.org.uk)

- Phone or WhatsApp : 07917850603

## 9. Access

As an organisation we actively look to reduce barriers for artists applying for our opportunities and commissions, and we are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive.

We offer a range of access support for artists, including alternative formats for information we release and submissions we receive as well as an artist access fund; please contact us so that we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application or project.

Please either email us on [enquiries@aspacearts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@aspacearts.org.uk) or call 07824326005

For more information about this work please visit - [\*\*aspacearts.org.uk/about-us\*\*](https://aspacearts.org.uk/about-us)

## 10. About 'a space' arts

Established in 2000, by artists for artists, 'a space' arts is a visual arts organisation leading on a range of artist development projects, including the Arches, God's House Tower and the RIPE programme, along with offering a bespoke range of Artist Resources.

Artist development at the heart of all of our projects and we deliver our mission of supporting visual artists and inspiring audiences in enterprising ways. The organisation is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For more further information and an overview of our work please visit [\*\*aspacearts.org.uk\*\*](https://aspacearts.org.uk)

For project specific information please visit [\*\*godshousetower.org.uk\*\*](https://godshousetower.org.uk) and [\*\*ripesouthampton.org.uk\*\*](https://ripesouthampton.org.uk)

## 11. About GHT

God's House Tower (GHT) opened to the public in September 2019 with a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and activities. Through inventive and imaginative programming GHT shares and celebrates its' own special Southampton story through the permanent exhibition *Stories Behind the Stones*. Our changing programme of exhibitions and activities create opportunities for artists and audiences, open up conversations and create access for those facing barriers to heritage and culture. The programme empowers communities to be creators and develop a lifelong interest in arts and culture, along with diversifying Southampton's

creative community and creating role models to inspire a new generation of diverse creative communities in the city.

For more information about GHT please visit [\*\*godshousetower.org.uk\*\*](http://godshousetower.org.uk)

## **12. Anti-racism**

To further our mission we are taking proactive steps to becoming an anti-racist organisation. We have pledged to deliver a number of commitments through our Anti-Racism Action Plan over the next two years along with a series of activities to bring immediate benefits to global majority artists. We feel this combination of working towards long-term change and immediate action can make a real difference to Southampton's global majority visual artists and we plan to continue working on this dual approach.

For more information about this work please visit [\*\*aspacearts.org.uk/about-us\*\*](http://aspacearts.org.uk/about-us)

## **13. Climate Action**

As a cultural organisation it is our responsibility to raise awareness, as well as reducing and mitigating our own environmental impact. The environmental impact of this project will be monitored and steps will be taken to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions where appropriate.