

Artist Residency Open Call: Milton Keynes at 60

On 23 January 1967, Milton Keynes was officially designated as a New Town. It was created to help ease housing shortages post-war and to be future-looking, to offer ease of movement, low density buildings set in generous green spaces, and equal opportunities for all residents.

2027 will be the city's diamond anniversary year and Milton Keynes Arts Centre is planning a series of artist residencies over the year, partnering with parish councils, arts and heritage organisations and residents across the city to ask the question 'What will Milton Keynes look like in 2087?'

Milton Keynes Arts Centre (MKAC) is now inviting artists' proposals for the first artist residency, which will be in the residential area of Campbell Park Community Council (CPCC) (comprising Fishermead, Oldbrook, Newlands, Springfield, Willen, Winterhill and Woolstone) and is developed in partnership with CPCC and MK Gallery.

The residency will be from 1 January – 31 March 2027. The artist(s) is/are not required to be in residence throughout this period and no studio space is provided. However, the artist(s) is/are required to connect to, and work with, local residents on a regular basis throughout the 3-month period. CPCC offers community centres in Oldbrook, Fishermead and Springfield – as well as a community hub and café in Springfield, which may be used for engagement events. MK Gallery also has an Event Space and Learning Studio, which will be available to the artist(s). All spaces are provided free of charge but are subject to availability. For further information about the CPCC area, go to <https://www.campbell-park.gov.uk>

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Brief

A fee of £6,000 is available (20 days at £300) to cover the artist's/artists' time and expenses. An additional £4,000 budget is available to cover all other costs, as agreed between the artist, Milton Keynes Arts Centre and partner organisations.

- The residency proposal should encourage residents to engage with MK Gallery. This may be through the exhibition programme, the history of the building, its current use or place within Milton Keynes.
- A minimum of 30% of the artist(s) fee should be spent on direct in-person engagement with residents in the Campbell Park Community Council area. A specific focus of this engagement should be on working with young people, aged 12-17.
- The residency must result in an artwork, or series of artworks, co-created by the artist(s) with local residents for display in Campbell Park Community Council Hub, in Springfield. MKAC accepts a broad definition of artwork to include physical and digital objects, events and performances. The artwork(s) must be publicly accessible and must respond to the question 'What will Milton Keynes look like in 2087?'
- The residency should include a public event at MK Gallery designed to widen awareness of the project. This event should not be longer than one day and may take place at any stage in the residency.

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How to Apply

Artists are invited to submit a proposal for how they would approach this residency opportunity. This proposal should include the following details:

- An outline of the residency's structure and the anticipated outcome(s).
- Who you would like to work with, and why.
- How the residency fits with, and would develop, your current practice.

It may may be submitted either:

- In writing – a maximum of 2-sides of A4.
- As a video submission – no more than 3mins long.

Please also provide an artist's statement, a CV and no more than 6 digital images of previous work relevant to your proposal.

Proposals should be sent via email to hello@miltonkeynesartscentre.org no later than 5pm, Friday 25 September 2026.

Interviews will take place online on Tuesday 6 October 2026.

MKAC treats all applicants equally, regardless of class, age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any other equality characteristic. We particularly encourage applications from individuals who are underrepresented in the cultural sector.

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