

Koro Lab - FAQs

ACCESS & APPLICATIONS

Can I submit my application in another format (not just written / Google Form)?

Yes. You can submit your answers in video or audio format. Upload your recording to a platform such as Google Drive (or similar) and include the link in the final section of the Google Form ("Please share links to your work").

If you prefer to apply in writing, please do not worry about grammar, spelling or polished language. We are not assessing applications on writing style. What matters to us is your idea, your artistic voice, and how the project connects to immersive or interactive practice. You are welcome to use bullet points, short sentences, or any format that helps you communicate clearly.

If you have difficulty using Google Forms, please email programme@koro.org.uk and we can discuss an alternative way to submit your proposal.

Can I get access support to write my application?

Koro is a very small organisation with limited resources, so we are not able to offer one to one access support at application stage. Our small team is also involved in shortlisting and selection, so it would not be equitable to provide drafting support to individual applicants.

That said, we are very happy to clarify anything in the brief that feels unclear. If specific questions in the form feel confusing, let us know which ones and we can explain what we are asking in plainer terms.

For any application questions, please email programme@koro.org.uk

Can I use AI to help me write my application?

Yes. We will not penalise the use of AI to support your writing.

We just ask that we can clearly hear your creative voice and ideas in your answers. If you choose to use AI, we recommend drafting your ideas first so they are genuinely yours. Please do not use AI to generate your entire application, as it is unlikely it will be successful that way.

Can I apply for personal access costs?

Yes. Our budget is limited, but we have ringfenced a small budget to cover personal access costs in addition to the bursaries. Please indicate how much you would like to apply for in the budget section of the form.

If you would like to discuss what might be covered in advance, email programme@koro.org.uk. We are a small organisation with limited funds, but we will do our best to meet requests where possible.

What access consultancy is provided as part of Koro Lab?

An access advisor will be available to support you throughout your R&D process to help you think about how to make your work as accessible as possible.

This support includes:

- An initial group session focused on access in immersive, interactive and site specific performance
- One online one to one session at the start of your R&D to discuss your idea and how access can be embedded creatively
- Attendance at your sharing, followed by notes and suggestions on how to approach access provision as the project develops

We can also tailor this support depending on what would be most useful to you and your project.

We see access as a creative conversation, not just a compliance exercise, and encourage artists to think about it as part of the artistic process from the beginning.

ELIGIBILITY

Is this only for London based artists?

No. However, training and sharings will take place in London.

We welcome applications from artists outside London, but please consider your capacity carefully as we are not able to cover additional accommodation or travel costs.

If you are based outside London and would prefer to undertake your R&D week locally before sharing in London, we are open to discussing this. You would need to include rehearsal space costs in your budget.

What do you mean by migrant and Global Majority artists?

By migrant, we mean artists who were not born in the UK. You must have the right to work in the UK.

By Global Majority (or People of Colour), we mean artists from all ethnic backgrounds except white British and other white groups, including Black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic groups.

Why are you doing this, and why is the programme restricted to migrant and Global Majority artists?

It is widely acknowledged that the immersive sector, like much of the theatre industry, suffers from a lack of diversity, with emerging Migrant and BAME creatives significantly underrepresented. 90% of theatre workers are white (ACE NPO survey), while 14% of the UK population identify as Global Majority (41% in London).

A Migrants in Theatre survey found a similar gap: while 16% of the UK population are migrants (37% in London), 86% of first-generation migrant artists reported that their status had negatively affected their opportunities. Further, a recent Immersive Experience Network (2023) report found that across the theatre industry, the immersive sector is particularly "lacking in development opportunities, and access to funding", creating a "precarious foundation" for the future of the form.

Koro Lab was created to address this gap and provide paid development opportunities for migrant and Global Majority artists to experiment and grow their practice.

Can I collaborate with artists who are not migrant or Global Majority?

Yes. However, projects must be migrant and or Global Majority led. We are looking to support artists from these backgrounds in a meaningful way, so the leadership and creative direction of the project should sit with migrant and or Global Majority artists.

We encourage genuine collaboration, but would discourage tokenistic approaches where eligibility is based solely on one team member rather than on who is driving the artistic vision.

Does the project need to be completely new? Does Koro need to be the sole partner?

No. Your idea can be a new concept, an early stage project, or a project with partners already attached, as long as it has not had a successful full run and will undergo meaningful development through Koro Lab.

Koro does not need to be the sole partner. However, you must be open to presenting the work as part of Koro Festival in May 2027.

Koro Lab is about experimentation, risk taking and testing work with a live audience. We will prioritise artists who will genuinely benefit from development, rather than projects that are already fully formed.

Immersive, interactive and site-specific theatre include many genres. Are there particular formats you are more likely to programme?

You are free to propose projects of any scale or format, as long as it involves genuine audience participation. However, we want to challenge the idea that immersive theatre must be large scale, high cost or VR led, so we are particularly interested in inclusive, affordable work that could tour to different spaces and reach audiences who may never have experienced interactive work before.

We will prioritise live performance. Projects may include digital elements, but we are especially interested in low fi, accessible or everyday technologies rather than VR or XR.

Proposals must be realistic within the timeline and budget. At sharing stage, we want a clear sense of what the finished piece might feel like. If your concept involves multiple rooms, large casts or complex builds, it may not be feasible to test properly within this R&D framework. More contained proposals are more likely to be prioritised.

I am not eligible/available for this opportunity but would love to work with Koro. Can I?

Absolutely, we'd love to hear from you. Koro Festival will be a new biennial festival of inclusive immersive, interactive and site specific work taking place across London in May 2027. If you have a finished or in development show you would like us to consider, email programme@koro.org.uk with information, tour packs, photos and video. We are unlikely to programme work we have not seen in some form, either live or recorded, so please invite us to see your work.

We will begin programming the 2027 festival from May 2026, so you may not hear from us immediately.

BUDGET

What can I use the bursary budget for?

You can use the bursary for anything that supports your R&D. This may include:

- Fees for yourself or other practitioners (performers, designers, collaborators)
- Materials
- Equipment or props hire
- Travel expenses

We do not require a detailed budget at application stage, just a rough breakdown so we understand how you intend to use the bursary. We will not request a final budget or receipts at the end.

Besides the £2500 bursary, Koro will cover:

- Filming and photography
- One week of rehearsal space at one of our three London-based venues
- An access advisor supporting the development of your work
- A PA system for sharings

If you require additional technical equipment (for example projectors or specific lighting), you will need to include this in your budget.

If I am successful, can I use this as match funding for other applications?

Yes. You are welcome to use this as match funding. Our producing team can also offer advice on additional fundraising opportunities, including Arts Council England Project Grants.

However, we ask that you submit proposals you feel confident to deliver even if additional fundraising is unsuccessful, and that your budget reflects both options.

SELECTION PROCESS

What kind of work are you looking for?

You can apply to more than one bursary, for the same or different projects. Please clearly indicate which project relates to which bursary.

We have four types of projects:

- **Open Spaces Bursary**

For four artists creating new socially engaged immersive or interactive performances. We are interested in work that places audiences at the heart of urgent contemporary stories, responding to social, political, economic or climate challenges and the global histories that shaped them. We are more likely to programme work where the audience is essential to the experience rather than incidental.

Rehearsals and sharing will take place at Shoreditch Town Hall, but work may be designed for theatre, community, heritage or civic spaces.

- **Wellcome Collection Bursary**

For one artist to create a new immersive or interactive piece exploring questions of health and health equity, inspired by Wellcome Collection's archives or collections. You do not need prior research experience, but you should be interested in engaging with collections and archival materials. You will have access to the collections and two days of curatorial support.

You may respond to one of the three themes outlined in the Information for Applicants (care and repair, nourishment and nutrition, health and our land), or propose another health related angle connected to the collections.

- **Marketplace Bursary**

For three migrant artists or migrant led collectives interested in creating work for high streets, marketplaces and busy public spaces. Formats could include immersive performances in empty shop units, interactive storytelling in market alleys, games, pop up market stall performances or smartphone based experiences. A site visit will take place in May with selected artists, so you are welcome to include multiple possible approaches or types of spaces in your proposal.

Work must be accessible to a broad range of audiences, including passersby who did not come for the performance. Your work does not need to be a finished piece, but this is the only R&D commission that forms part of a public event, so you must be comfortable presenting your work to the general public.

We are more likely to prioritise work suited to busy environments, such as short repeat performances or projects accessible to larger groups, rather than one to one experiences.

- **Site Specific Bursary**

For one artist creating new work in response to a specific space or type of space. This might include libraries, cafés, restaurants, green spaces or entire neighbourhoods. We are open to other proposals, provided they are feasible and permissions can realistically be secured.

TIMELINE & COMMITMENT

When do I need to be available? Is there flexibility?

It is important that selected artists attend the core programme dates. We understand that things can come up and will be flexible where possible, but please only apply if you feel confident you can commit.

- **Training Days**

7–8 May: training and practice sharing programme. These days are important for creative development and for us to get to know you and your project. We will prioritise artists who can attend both days.

- **R&D Space**

Open Spaces, Marketplace and Site-specific: Five days of rehearsal between May and September, scheduled in conversation with artists, venues and the Koro team.

Wellcome Collection: One week in the Forum studio. If rehearsing for five consecutive days, you must be available either 26–29 May or between 29 July–8 September (excluding 12 August and weekends). Non consecutive days between May and September may also be possible in discussion with Wellcome Collection.

- **Sharings**

Open Spaces: 30 September (optional get in and tech on 29 September)

Marketplace: 17–18 September

Wellcome Collection: September date agreed with artist and partners

Site-specific: September date agreed with artist and partners



When will I hear back? Will I receive feedback?

We will inform all successful and unsuccessful applicants by 15 April.

We expect a high number of applications and, unfortunately, will not be able to provide individual feedback.