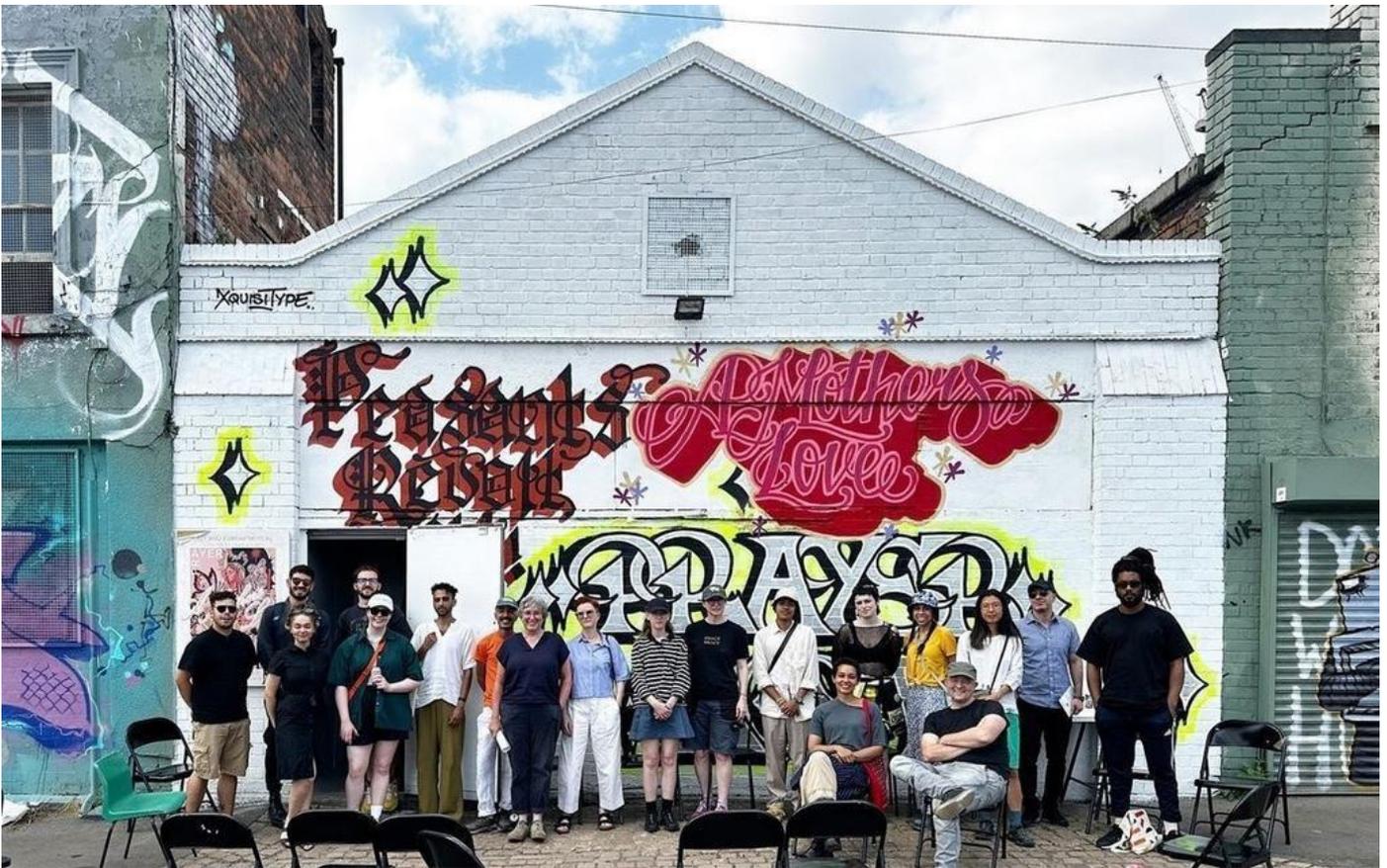


# S Y L L A B U S IX

## **Syllabus IX**

*Applicant Information Pack, April 2026*



*Syllabus VII outside Prayer Room, gathering organised by Eastside Projects, August 2024.*

## ***Syllabus IX***

*Applicant Information Pack, April 2026*

Page 3-4	<u>About Syllabus</u>
Page 4	<u>Context</u>
Page 4	<u>Background</u>
Page 5	<u>People</u>
Pages 6	<u>Programme Structure</u>
Page 6	<u>Costs and Access Budget</u>
Page 7	<u>Person Specification</u>
Page 8	<u>Timeline</u>
Page 8-9	<u>Application Process</u>
Page 10-11	<u>About Syllabus IX Partners</u>

## About Syllabus

Wysing Arts Centre, Eastside Projects, PS<sup>2</sup>, Studio Voltaire and Site Gallery invite applications from artists for Syllabus IX.

Syllabus is an alternative and independent learning programme in its ninth year, supporting ten artists across ten months. Syllabus offers time for artists from across the UK to discuss ideas, work, life and approaches to practice, while building community and taking risks. Syllabus creates an environment of mutual learning and exchange between the artists that is responsive to each cohort.

Beginning in September 2026, Syllabus IX will be built around a series of six intensive in-person weekend gatherings. The ten selected artists will collaboratively develop the curriculum, with curators and artists from partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator, and Syllabus IX Artist Lead, [Harun Morrison](#).

Artists will benefit from:

- The opportunity to rethink individual practices through an intensive programme of in-person gatherings and an online programme, hosted by the partner organisations.
- Working together to collaboratively shape and develop a reflexive, experimental, and collective learning experience.
- Critical conversations about ideas and work in progress with a supportive, national network of artists, curators, and organisations.
- Becoming part of a new network of artist peers.
- Introductions to, and connections with, arts organisations, communities in cities across the UK and access to new networks, expertise and resources.
- Two gatherings at Wysing Arts Centre and gatherings at partner organisations, including Eastside Projects, Site Gallery, and PS<sup>2</sup>.
- Two 1-2-1 meetings with Syllabus IX Artist Lead, Harun Morrison, to discuss ideas and practice.
- Two 1-2-1 meetings with a Syllabus partner, to discuss ideas and practice.

To support participation in Syllabus IX, artists will receive:

- A bursary of £1,250, towards accommodation and travel costs.
- A £75 budget per artist to support learning on the programme, e.g. books, or exhibition entry fees.
- An access budget available upon request (see 'Costs and Access' section on [page 6](#) for guidance on what this could cover).

Syllabus IX aims to reach artists with a range of practices and artistic approaches and bring together individuals from across the UK who have not yet had access to similar programmes. We are particularly keen to support people who are currently underrepresented in the visual arts including artists with Global Ethnic Majority heritage, those who have faced socio-economic barriers, artists who identify as LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities. We ask applicants to make this clear when applying, if applicable.

## **Context**

Syllabus offers an alternative learning model where artists can practice together. We organise the programme in a way that is responsive to artist needs, not outcome driven, and encourages deep work.

We hope the programme can contribute towards a [life-affirming sector](#).

We are developing the programme to ensure it is as artist-led as possible – this work is ongoing.

## **Background**

Syllabus has been running since 2015, and is currently supported by funding from Freelands Foundation.

[Read about the current cohort Syllabus VIII here.](#)

Previous iterations of Syllabus have involved contributions from a wide range of artists, writers and curators. Applicants to Syllabus IX will have the opportunity to access similar networks.

Contributing practitioners have included Larry Achiampong, Ruth Beale, Monster Chetwynd, Shortwave Collective, Celine Condorelli, Chan Fagan, Adam Farah, Nav Haq, Nadia Hebson, Anthea Hamilton, Andy Holden, Evan Ifekoya, Shama Khanna, Pil and Galia Kollektiv, Mark Leckey, Richard Long, Modern Clay, Sofia Niazi, Katrina Palmer, Keith Piper, Holly Pester, Saziso Phiri, Rory Pilgrim, Morgan Quaintance, Nicola Singh, Tai Shani, Rosalie Schweiker, Cally Spooner, Linda Stupart, melissandre varin, Richard Wentworth, Jonathan P. Watts, Keith Wilson, DM Withers, Rehana Zaman and Andrea Luka Zimmermann.

The artists Wingshan, Barby Asante, Sonya Dyer, Jade Montserrat, Andy Holden, Milly Thompson, Jesse Darling, Harold Offeh, Uma Breakdown and curators Helen Nisbet, Amanprit Sandhu Louise Shelley and George Vasey have led the Syllabus as Artistic Leads in previous years, engaging with and supporting participating artists over the course of the programme.

[Examples of previous gatherings can be viewed here.](#)

## People

Key individuals and organisations who will collaborate with the Syllabus VII artists, and who will be involved across the ten months, are:

- Artist Lead: Harun Morrison
- Wying Arts Centre: Freya Yeates, Syllabus Coordinator; Rosie Cooper, Director
- Eastside Projects: Ruth Claxton, Artist-Maker; Gavin Wade, Artist Curator
- PS<sup>2</sup>: Jane Morrow, Co-Director.
- Site Gallery: Laura Clarke, Head of Programme; James Clarkson, Producer
- Studio Voltaire (Associate Partner): Dot Zhihan Jia, Curator; Siavash Minoukadeh, Studios and Residencies Coordinator. Studio Voltaire supports the Syllabus Alumni programme.
- A fourth Permanent Partner Organisation (to be announced)



*Syllabus VIII artists participating in a workshop led by participating artist Emma Brennan, PS2, Belfast,*

*August 2025.*

## Programme Structure

The programme will be structured around a series of gatherings which all participating artists will be required to attend. During the first retreat at Wysing, Syllabus artists, individuals connected to the partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator and the Artist Lead will collaborate to identify broad themes for the programme and discuss ways of working together. This may include: sharing practices, creating a collaborative code of conduct, discussing communication styles, approaches to conflict resolution, and alternative economies.

These will form the starting point for an evolving, responsive curriculum that will support individual and collective artistic development and provide access to networks and knowledge across the next ten months. Subsequent weekend gatherings will be hosted at partner venues in November, February, April and May usually running from Friday morning (around 11am) to Sunday afternoon (around 2-3 pm). Syllabus IX will conclude with a final gathering at Wysing in late June.

Syllabus IX will draw on the skills, talents and experiences of the cohort itself as a key resource, combined with carefully chosen external contributors. We are looking for artists who are willing to take an active role in leading and contributing to elements of the curriculum, from sharing skills and experiences to organising workshops and leading reading groups for the wider group.

During periods between the gatherings, the Syllabus Coordinator and Artist Lead will support and advise participating artists through a series of planning sessions and 1-2-1 conversations.

### Costs and Access Budget

Access to the Syllabus VIII programme is free.

Each participating artist will receive a £1,250 bursary, towards the costs of travel and accommodation. Sessions are planned well in advance to give time for participants to book this at a low cost.

In addition, we have ringfenced an annual budget to support access costs across the cohort. In the past, this has been used for childcare (during and between the gatherings), a support worker, or additional travel costs to attend in-person gatherings, for artists who face geographic barriers to participation.

The partners are happy to write letters of support for participants who wish to make applications for professional development or travel grants.

Here are links to some funders who have supported previous participants:

- [Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice](#)
- [Creative Scotland Open Project Funding](#)

- [Arts Council Wales](#)
- [Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust](#)

## Person Specification

There is no age limit to apply for Syllabus. However, applicants must have been out of formal education for at least 4 years. This includes art and non-art related programmes, and both academic and practice-based PhDs. We are also interested in hearing from artists who have not progressed through formal art training routes at all.

- We aim to establish a cohort that represents a diversity of experience, cultural perspectives, and artistic practices.
- We are looking for applicants who want to both develop their own work and actively contribute to the collaborative development of the curriculum for Syllabus VIII.
- Applicants are expected to make a significant contribution to shaping the programme and must commit to attending all gatherings, plus any relevant online planning sessions.
- Applicants should attend monthly online check in sessions where possible to stay connected to one another between gatherings.
- Applicants will be interested in building a community of practice by skill sharing, leading activity for others in the cohort, and contributing to a caring environment.
- Applicants will ideally have an interest in alternative learning models and holistic approaches to making and working.
- Syllabus IX is open to artists based in the UK.
- Applications may be made via video or audio, rather than written form.

## Timeline

July-September 2026	Syllabus IX Onboarding and Planning
17-20th September 2026	Syllabus IX gathering 1: Hosted by Wysing, 4 days onsite - all partners attend 1 day. Focussed on getting to know each other, identifying key themes and sharing practice.
6-8th November 2026	Syllabus IX gathering 2: Eastside Projects, Birmingham
5-7th February 2027	Syllabus IX gathering 3: Site Gallery, Sheffield
2nd-4th April 2027	Syllabus IX gathering 4: PS2, Belfast
May 2027	Syllabus IX gathering 5: TBC
17-20th June 2027	Syllabus IX gathering 6: Hosted by Wysing.

### Application Process

Deadline for applications: 10 am, 19th May 2026.

We use Submittable (an online application portal) for applications.

Applications can be made via text, audio or video – please use whichever method/s you prefer.

[Access the Submittable portal here.](#)

You will need to create a Submittable account. Once you have set up an account you can return to your application any time up until the deadline. Please allow enough time to approach us with any questions or queries in using the Submittable website. We are not able to accept applications after the deadline.

We want to remove as many barriers to applying as we can, so applications can be made in writing or in video or audio formats. If there is another method that you would prefer to use, please let us know.

- A statement. Tell us why you would like to participate in Syllabus VIII and why now is the right time to do the programme (max 250 words)
- Information on your work and interests. This could include an artist statement, a text written by another person or some thoughts on what you would like to do next. (max 250 words)
- Please describe ideas for contributions to Syllabus IX. Your response could include ideas for workshops, skill shares, reading groups, or other group activities. It could also include ways of collaborating, themes the group could explore, or external contributors you would like to invite. We ask this question to understand how you might share your interests and learning with other artists in a peer-to-peer environment. (Max 250 words)
- A current CV (max two pages);
- Examples of your work. You can upload a portfolio or individual images or can provide links to a website or to individual works (vimeo/youtube/soundcloud). We advise sending three key works, but you may submit up to five if appropriate to your practice.
- Information relating to your personal circumstances, if you feel these have acted as a barrier to your participation in similar programmes, including formal education. This might include information on your financial circumstances, your cultural background, gender or sexuality, or details of any access needs. This information will be kept strictly confidential. (150 words)

We expect interviews will be held on the week commencing May 31st, 2026.

### **Want to talk it through?**

The Syllabus Coordinator, Freya Yeates, is available to have an informal conversation about your application. Please email [freya.yeates@wysing.art](mailto:freya.yeates@wysing.art)

### **About Wysing Arts Centre**

[Wysing Arts Centre](#) leads the Syllabus programme.

Established in 1989, Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting, ten miles from Cambridge city. It holds 20 subsidised studios, accommodation for up to 80 visiting artists annually, recording and ceramics studios, flexible space to experiment, present and learn, fields, woodland, and several outdoor artworks.

Wysing's mission is to support artists, and to be leading in the way we do it. We provide artists and publics with time and space to expand their creative practice, away from the pressures, habits and conventions of daily life. Our rural site is a creative sanctuary: we believe that everyone should have time and space to imagine otherwise.

Wysing supports artistic experimentation, research, risk-taking and skills development. We do this through national and international artist residencies, commissions, innovative partnerships and civic connections, events, a youth-led learning programme and affordable studio provision.

## **About Eastside Projects**

[Eastside Projects](#) is an artist-run pluriverse based in a free public gallery in Digbeth. We say multiverse because 'organisation' or 'space' are not enough. We mean that we imagine Eastside Projects as a process, as a place where multiple narratives and experiences coexist, where we make visible an evolving set of possible realities.

We believe in working alongside others towards change and do so to support Birmingham. Since 2008 we have brought world-class art to our city and now, through our Incidental Artists programme, we are building a constellation of collaborators who are exploring and expanding the role of the artist in public life. Together we make art.

## **About PS<sup>2</sup>**

[PS<sup>2</sup> = Paragon Studios + Project Space](#). We are an artist-led organisation based in Belfast. Established in 1994, we are a resource and network provider, offering affordable artists' studios and long-term residency programmes for graduates, curators, art writers and a collective. Our Project Space hosts a substantial programme of exhibitions and events, alongside artist-initiated projects next door in PS<sup>3</sup>. Alongside our artist support and development work, we also initiate offsite community-based projects and interventions, including custodianship of PeasPark: a large green space on a former interface site in the North of the city.

## **About Site Gallery**

[Site Gallery](#) is Sheffield's leading international contemporary art space, supporting artists specialising in moving image, new media and performance. We connect people to artists and to art, inspiring new thinking and debate through our exhibitions, residencies, public programmes and extensive participatory activity.

In 2018 Site Gallery re-opened after a building programme which trebled the scale of our public area. We now have a large scale gallery, a dedicated projects space, a café and shop.

**About Studio Voltaire**  
**(Associate Partner)**

[Studio Voltaire](#) is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts organisations. Placing great emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation, our pioneering programmes of exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development, live events and offsite commissions have gained an international reputation.

As Associate Partners, Studio Voltaire supports the syllabus programme by hosting the Partner and Alumni Gatherings.

Syllabus Partners:



**SITE  
GALLERY**

**STUDIO  
VOLTAIRE**



WYSING

Syllabus Funders:

