

Arts, British Council

Call for Curators

Women of the World (WOW) Festival
Nepal 2024

30 July 2024

Apply now!

Deadline for Submission: 8 August 2024

WOW Curator Call webinar: 2 August 2024 (4 to 5 pm)

Join us as we walk you through the plan for the festival and the process to put in an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be a curator.

Register [here](#) to attend.

The Women of the World (WOW) Festival is more than just an event; it is a movement to amplify voices of women, girls, and non-binary people, celebrate their stories, and inspire change. We are looking for passionate and creative individuals and teams to join the WOW Nepal curatorial team who will work together to organise the WOW Festival Nepal this year.

We invite you to bring your unique vision and ideas to design programmes for various strands of the festival. Together, we can craft a dynamic programme filled with insightful discussions, compelling performances, and empowering workshops that celebrate the strength and resilience of women, girls, and non-binary people from all walks of life.

Join us in shaping a festival that inspires, empowers, and looks forward to a more equal world!

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The opportunity

What is the offer?

Based on the different strands of WOW, we are offering nine curatorial grants.

SN	Strands	Details
1.	Gender Grants exhibition	Curate works by 14+ British Council Gender Grantees and organise a multi-media exhibition at WOW. Learn more about the Gender Grants here
2.	Bites	Bring together at least 20 local, national, and international women, girls and non-binary people from diverse backgrounds for intimate storytelling sessions on a wide range of subjects. Examples of Bites
3.	Pop-up performances	Curate performances including music, dance, theatre, spoken word, stand-up comedy, etc. featuring an inclusive line-up of artists.
4.	Talks and Big Ideas	Organise keynote speeches and panel discussions on diverse and relevant contemporary gender issues featuring speakers from various fields. Example of Talks Examples of Big Ideas
5.	Speed mentoring	Design a brief and focused mentoring activity where participants can receive on the spot advice and guidance from expert mentors. These sessions aim to foster networking and professional development.
6.	Marketplace	Curate a marketplace featuring stalls and booths showcasing products and services by women and non-binary artists, artisans, entrepreneurs, campaigners, etc.
7.	Film screenings	Select and organise screenings of fiction films and documentaries that highlight issues relevant to or are made by women, girls, and non-binary individuals.
8.	Young feminist corner	Design and run a creative, fun, and resourceful space for under 18 years attendees of WOW to learn, share, and play.

9.	Develop your own strand	Propose and develop an innovative idea different from the strands above that aligns with the WOW's objectives, creating a unique and impactful experience for participants and audiences.
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Who can apply?

- Women, gender non-confirming people, and men are all invited to apply
- People based in any part of Nepal can apply, but you are required to attend all planning meetings virtually and be in Kathmandu at least two weeks ahead of the festival in November
- You need to be over 18 to apply
- You can apply as an individual, a collective, or an organisation

Selection Process

EOIs will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from the British Council and the WOW Advisory Committee. Successful applicants will be notified by 12 August 2024.

The evaluation will be based on the following areas:

Area	Details	Rating
Portfolio and network	Previous curatorial experiences and key local and national contacts and networks	15
Relevant experience	Work in arts, culture, gender, and inclusion programming.	20
Motivation	Reasons, passions and personal goals for being a part of the WOW Nepal curation team	20
Idea and creativity	Approach and perspectives on innovative programme design and implementation that aligns with the objectives and methodology of WOW	15
Partnership and fundraising	Evidenced experience of and approach to building partnerships, business development and stakeholder management	15
Diversity, inclusion, and sustainability	Understanding and alignment of these principles and experience of integrating them in work	15

Timeline

SN	Date	Activity/milestone
1.	29 July	Open call for application
2.	02 Aug	Webinar on WOW Nepal 2024
3.	08 Aug	Deadline for EOI
4.	12 Aug	Curator selection confirmation
5.	14 – 26 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory meeting• Venue visits• Ideation and planning• Proposal and budget finalisation
6.	16 Aug	WOW stakeholder event – understanding WOW Nepal 2024
7.	26 Aug	Proposal submission
8.	27 Aug	Signing of grant contract
9.	28 Aug	Curatorial work commences
10.	10 – 14 Oct	Dashain break
11.	31 Oct – 4 Nov	Tihar break
12.	22 – 24 Nov	WOW Nepal
13.	26 Nov – 15 Dec	Reporting

If you have any queries, please write to arts@britishcouncil.org.np by 6 August 2024.

About the festival

WOW — Women of the World — is a global movement that champions gender equality, celebrating the achievements of women and girls everywhere examining the obstacles that keep them from fulfilling their potential. Festivals take place year-round across the world. The first WOW in Nepal was held in Lalitpur in 2017, and was convened by Jude Kelly, founder of WOW in partnership with the British Council. Since then, WOW in Nepal has been organised in Lalitpur in 2018, in Janakpur in 2019 and virtual iterations have been organised in 2020 and 2021. We travelled to Lumbini province in 2022 for the sixth edition of WOW which saw a one-and-a-half-day physical festival and a 10-day-long digital campaign that began on the International Women’s Day on 8 March.

Since 2017, the British Council in Nepal has organised the [WOW Festival](#) in partnership with WOW Foundation UK to support women/girls, men/boys and gender minorities to come together and review the needs and challenges of gender equality through arts and cultural participation. WOW Festivals have reached more than 25,000 people in three provinces – and three cities in Nepal.

- 2017: First edition held at the Nepal Administrative Staff College, Lalitpur
- 2018: Second edition held at the Patan Engineering College, Lalitpur
- 2019: Third edition held in multiple venues in Janakpur
- 2020: Fourth edition held virtually
- 2021: Fifth edition held virtually
- 2022: Sixth edition held in Lumbini Park, Lumbini
- 2024: Seventh edition to be held in Kathmandu from 22 Nov – 24 Nov 2024

WOW Nepal 2024 is organised by the British Council in partnership with WOW Foundation. The Festival is hosted by Kathmandu Metropolitan City.

What are the objectives of the Festival?

The curation grants are intended to support the development and delivery of original activities for WOW Nepal 2024 that

- Raise awareness about challenges faced by women, girls and non-binary people by sharing their stories
- Equip participants with the skills, capacities and networks to deliver development outcomes focused on gender through cultural and creative tools
- Foster and strengthen connections between individuals and institutions working for gender equality

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- Support the voice and agency of women, girls, and non-binary people so that they can participate in and benefit from social decision-making and public life

Who is WOW Nepal 2024 for?

The Festival is open to all individuals regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, faith or background. We aim to attract a diverse audience including students, professionals, activists, policymakers, artists, and members of the public who are interested in women's issues and empowerment.

Are there any priority themes for WOW Nepal 2024?

Gender will be the overarching theme of the Festival. These are some of the sub-themes and topics that we would encourage curators and artists that we work with explore through the Festival:

- Rights of women, girls, and non-binary people
- Intersectional feminism in the Nepali context
- Combating gender-based violence
- Work and life
- Pleasure, Sex, and Sexuality
- Health and Wellbeing
- Climate change and sustainability
- Creative expression and storytelling
- Building networks and allies
- Activism and advocacy
- Working with the community
- Identity and indigeneity
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)

More information to help you apply

Making it happen

Joy, play, and challenges <p>WOW Festivals throughout the world are joyful, challenging, and surprising. We hope to work with curators who can imagine and realise a festival that is joyful, playful, and thought-provoking.</p>
Working together <p>While curator(s) for each strand will be responsible for the planning and implementation of their projects, curators will also be collaborating with other curators and different partners from the inception to the closing of the festival.</p>
Festival design <p>Curators will work with the British Council, the WOW Advisory Committee and community members to design and plan the festival. This will be done through virtual and in-person meetings, venue visits, interaction programmes and workshops.</p>
Production and logistics <p>The British Council will be bringing on board an events management team and a production team to support curators in fabrication, logistics, and production. Curators will need to coordinate with the events management and production team to realise their projects. Curators will also be managing logistics for and coordinating with artists, facilitators, and other speakers involved in their projects for their participation.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation <p>Curators are required to support the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan designed and implemented by the professional by participating in after action review meetings and/or filling out feedback forms.</p>
Timeline and deadlines <p>A timeline with key deadlines will be agreed to ensure overall festival coordination. Curators are responsible for planning and managing their own detailed timelines to meet deadlines and ensure their projects are completed on schedule.</p>
Communication and reporting <p>Regular communication with the organising team is essential. Curators will need to participate in weekly update meetings virtually and maintain close coordination with the British Council team and the events management team as required. Curators are to maintain a project management sheet provided by the British Council, to keep everyone informed and on the same page.</p>
Health and safety

Curators are responsible for creating a safe and inclusive space for all individuals involved in their projects. They should manage their schedules to allow sufficient breaks and avoid burnout. The organising team will provide guidelines and support to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all participants and attendees.

Where is WOW being held this year?

This year, WOW is coming to Kathmandu!

We will be announcing the venue soon. Curators will take a trip to visit the venue together and will also account for the space that we are working with to finalise their activities. Most of the programming will be held in the open, with limited activities including workshops being held in closed spaces.

More information on WOW strands and other requirements

In this section, we have compiled additional information regarding each strand, some examples of works from past editions and some guidance regarding the curator's possible role and the logistical requirements that the strands entail. We highly recommend that you read the sections that are relevant to you and reach out to us at arts@britishcouncil.org.np by 6 August 2024 if you have any questions.

Please note that selected curators will need to work with the British Council to ready a proposal for their activity prior to receiving a grant award for their WOW curatorial work.

Gender Grants exhibition

In 2023, the British Council awarded 14 Gender Grants to various organisations and individuals to execute gender-focused art projects including documentaries, theatre, music, podcasts, and more. Out of these 14 projects, seven have been completed and six are still ongoing, with a few aiming to finish by the end of October, just in time for WOW. The curator for this strand will create a multimedia exhibition featuring all the gender grantees' works, documented in photos and videos.

Below are short descriptions of all gender grants projects. While some projects are not available to view online, each grantee has documented their work, and the content will be available for exhibition.

S.N	Project name and short description	Project Status
1.	Healing the Mother's Heart : Raises awareness of post-pregnancy mental health challenges in Nepali society through texts and illustrations.	Ongoing
2.	Demjang: Showcases the Sherpa community's unique matrifocal marriage system through music and film.	Ongoing

3.	God is a Woman : Nepal's first all-female HipHop platform featuring artists from Jhapa, Hong Kong, Kathmandu, and London, followed by a workshop to empower aspiring female artists.	Completed
4.	Banki Sapana : A play on the struggles of Dalit women in inter-caste relationships in rural Nepal.	Completed
5.	Sadak Satta ra Siddanta : Retells Nepal's nation-building history by including women's stories in political movements.	Ongoing
6.	Shringar Stories podcast: Explores aesthetic symbols in Nepal's indigenous communities that represent mother-daughter bonds, transferring traditional cultural knowledge through stories about these meaningful practices.	Ongoing
7.	Hear me Sing: Documents the stories of women in Nepali music through audio and video recordings from various regions.	Ongoing
8.	Empowering Voices : An accessible music video to highlight gender equality and disability awareness.	Completed
9.	Breaking Boundaries through Dance : Raises awareness of LGBTIQ+ rights in Kailali District through dance and drama.	Completed
10.	Empowering Newly Married Girls: Uses theatre, workshops and paintings to empower newly married girls from marginalised communities in Banke District.	Completed
11.	Healthy Relationships: Promotes healthy relationships among adolescents through workshops and school visits.	Completed
12.	Gender Grants Documentation - Two women filmmakers have documented the impact of 10 gender grants projects since January, sharing these powerful stories.	Ongoing
13.	Bhoomi - An all-female folk musical ensemble performing at a festival celebrating culture, art, music, and youth, held in Janakpurdham.	Completed
14.	IAWRT - Supports female filmmakers and women in media through film festivals, competitions, and workshops.	Completed

Components:

- Existing Content: The content for this exhibition strand has already been created. The curator will utilise and build upon this existing material.
- Exhibitions and Displays: Showcasing the outcomes and impacts of these projects through exhibitions, interactive displays, and digital presentations.

Curator's role:

- Exhibition Visioning: Develop a clear vision and conceptual framework for the exhibition that ties together the diverse projects into a unified narrative.

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- Coordination: Liaise with project representatives to gather materials and the production team to put up the exhibition.

Production requirements:

- Curators must produce an exhibition design plan to communicate with the event management team. The plan should outline the layout, display methods, and multimedia requirements.
 - Curators can collaborate with a designer if they do not have the necessary design skills.
-

Bites

Bites are short, engaging presentations or talks typically lasting 10-15 minutes on a variety of topics relevant to women and girls. These sessions are designed to be impactful and thought-provoking, providing quick insights into important issues.

[View a video from a previous Bites session [here](#)].

Components:

- Short talks: Engaging and concise presentations or talks on a variety of topics relevant to women and girls.
- Interactive sessions: Opportunities for audience participation through Q&A sessions or interactive discussions.

Curator's role:

- Content curation: Identify and recruit speakers who can deliver impactful short talks. with selected speakers to refine and ready their presentations
- Scheduling: Organize the timing and sequence of the bites to maintain audience engagement.
- Audience engagement: Ensure sessions are interactive and engaging for the audience.
- Workshop: Organise a storytelling workshop with the participants

Production requirements:

- Curators should create a detailed schedule, layout and logistical requirements list for the sessions.
 - Include requirements for seating, audio-visual equipment, and any interactive elements.
 - Collaboration with a technician or event planner is available if needed.
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Pop-up performances

Pop-up performances are dynamic performances divided between main stages, smaller stages, and pop-ups throughout the festival venue. These performances include a diverse array of art forms and actively engage the audience.

[View a highlight video of previous pop-up performances [here](#)].

Components:

- **Scheduled performances:** Performances are scheduled but divided between the main stage and smaller stages. Depending on the curator's vision, some artists may also perform as buskers in various locations within the festival venue. Performances can feature diverse art forms including music, dance, theatre, spoken word, and other artistic expressions.
- **Audience interaction:** Performances that encourage audience participation and engagement.

Curator's role:

- **Artist selection:** Identify and recruit diverse mix of performers who can deliver engaging pop-up performances.
- **Scheduling:** Schedule the performances in coordination with the organizing team and other curators to ensure a smooth and well-timed program.
- **Audience engagement:** Ensure sessions are interactive and engaging for the audience.

Production requirements:

- Curators must develop a plan containing technical details, including stage setup, sound, and lighting requirements. The plan should outline the performance schedule, locations, and any special needs for artists.
-

Talks and Big Ideas

This strand features keynote speeches and panel discussions by inspiring individuals from various fields, addressing significant issues and ideas. These sessions aim to spark meaningful conversations and drive change.

[View a video of previous Talks [here](#) and Big Ideas [here](#)].

Components:

- **Keynote speeches:** Inspiring speeches by individuals from various fields addressing significant issues and ideas.
- **Panel discussions:** Moderated discussions featuring experts and thought leaders exploring critical topics.
- **Big Ideas:** Speakers share their big ideas that inspire a more equal world

Curator's role:

- **Speaker Selection:** Identify and invite speakers and panellists from diverse backgrounds.
- **Themes development:** Develop themes and topics that are relevant and stimulating
- **Coordination:** Coordinate the logistics of the talks, ensuring smooth transitions and effective audience interaction.

Production requirements:

- Curators should provide a detailed plan for the talks and panel discussions. Include requirements for seating, audio-visual equipment, and stage setup.
-

Speed mentoring

Speed mentoring sessions provide brief, focused mentoring opportunities where participants can receive advice and guidance from expert mentors. These sessions aim to foster networking and professional development.

[View a highlight video of previous speed mentoring sessions [here](#)].

Components:

- One-on-one sessions: Brief, focused mentoring sessions where participants can receive advice and guidance.
- Expert mentors: A diverse group of mentors from various fields offering their expertise.
- Networking: Opportunities for mentees to connect with mentors and other participants.

Curator's role:

- Mentor finalisation: Identify and onboard experienced and knowledgeable mentors.
- Session coordination: Organise and schedule the speed mentoring sessions.
- Participant engagement: Ensure mentees are matched with mentors and facilitate productive interactions.

Production requirements:

- Curators need to create a schedule and layout for the mentoring sessions. Include requirements for seating arrangements, private spaces, and any necessary materials.
-

Marketplace

The marketplace is a vibrant space to showcase and sell products and services created by women and non-binary artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs. It provides networking opportunities, raises awareness, and promotes economic empowerment.

[View album of previous marketplace [here](#)].

Components:

- Stalls and booths: Spaces for vendors to showcase and sell products and services made by women and non-binary artists, craftspeople, entrepreneurs, campaigners, etc.
- Networking: Opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect with potential customers, partners, and investors.

Curator's role:

- Vendor selection: Curate a diverse range of vendors and participants that align with the festival's values.
- Layout planning: Organise the marketplace layout for optimal flow and accessibility.
- Logistical support: Provide logistical support and guidance to vendors in coordination with the event management team.

Production requirements:

- Curators must work with the event management team to design a layout plan for the marketplace, including vendor booth arrangements and any additional facilities. Include requirements for tables, displays, and other logistical needs.

Film screening

The film screening strand features a line-up of relevant, inspiring, and thought-provoking films that address key issues related to women and girls. These screenings aim to educate, inspire, and spark conversations.

Components:

- Films: Curated selection of films that align with the festival's themes and goals.

Curator's role:

- Film selection: Curate a lineup of films that are relevant, inspiring, and thought-provoking.
- Logistics: Obtain screening approvals, coordinate with film owners, and manage invitations for film participants.

Production requirements:

- Curators need to develop a plan for the film screenings, including scheduling, venue setup, and technical requirements for projection and sound.

Young feminist corner

The young feminist corner is a creative, fun, and resourceful space designed for under-18 attendees to learn, share, and play. This strand offers activities and workshops focused on gender equality, feminism, and empowerment.

Components:

- Creative activities: Offer interactive arts, crafts, and DIY projects, games, discussions, and other creative activities that allow young attendees to learn and express themselves.
- Workshops: Conduct workshops on gender equality, feminism, and empowerment tailored for under-18 participants.

Curator's role:

- Programme development: Design a diverse and engaging program of activities, workshops, and sessions for young attendees.
- Facilitator coordination: Identify, recruit, and coordinate facilitators who can lead creative and educational activities.
- Resource management: Ensure the availability and organization of materials and resources needed for the corner.
- Youth engagement: Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages participation and engagement from young attendees.

Production requirements:

- Curators should create a plan for activities, workshops, and resource areas. Include requirements for materials, seating, and interactive elements.

Develop your own strand

Curators can propose and develop an innovative idea that aligns with the WOW Festival's objectives and goals, creating a unique and impactful project or experience. Curators must submit a detailed proposal outlining their innovative idea, implementation plan and resource requirements. If the proposal is selected, curators will be asked to provide a plan for scheduling, venue setup, and any technical or logistical needs.

Application

You can put in your expression of interest by:

- Filling out this [online form](#)
- Filling out the offline form available for download on our website. You can print and submit your proposal to the British Council office in Lainchaur, Kathmandu, or you can email it to us at arts@britishcouncil.org.np
- Sending us a video of you answering the application questions below. Videos will not be assessed on quality, but we ask that we can clearly see and hear the speaker.

Applications can be made in English, Nepali, or National Sign Language.

Access

If you identify as disabled, you can also apply for additional access costs to help you complete this application. This will be processed separately, and you can avail for this even if you do not get selected as a curator.