

Accelerator 2022 Call Out Guidelines



Accelerator is currently open for applications so we would like to hear from you if you are based in Scotland and have a theatre and/or dance performance idea for young audiences that you would like to develop to a work in progress stage in 2022. Accelerator is aimed at performance makers who have experience of making and touring performances already (for adults or young audiences).

Accelerator offers producing and artistic support to develop new performance ideas for young audiences and will include the chance to present a work in progress at Edinburgh International Children's Festival in May 2022 and/or at an Imagine sharing event in autumn 2022.

Selected artists will receive:

- A budget to create a new work in progress including bringing in additional people to work with.
- Artistic feedback when needed.
- Opportunities to see productions for young audiences and to be connected with other artists and companies in Scotland and internationally.
- Options to share the work in progress as part of the Children's Festival in May 2022 and/or at a sharing event in Autumn 2022.
- Producing support from Imagine including creating the project budget, contracting and paying the creative team, scheduling, booking spaces, advising on Covid guidelines and protocols and arranging production advice where needed.
- Ongoing support from Imagine beyond the work in progress including help with funding applications for the full production, connections with potential partners and touring advice.

You can read about our recent and current Accelerator artists here - <https://www.imagine.org.uk/artists/projects/accelerator>

The selection criteria are:

- *the quality and potential of the idea as a young audiences performance*
- *the relevance of the idea for children and/or young people*
- *the need for the work (is the work platforming underrepresented artists or ideas, and/or is the intended audience underserved by the sector?)*
- *the potential impact of this opportunity for the artist(s)*

How to apply

We would like you to tell us about your idea, ensuring that the panel understand why this would be an excellent piece of work for young audiences and what development it might need. Accelerator is production/performance-focussed so really paint a picture of what your intention for the production is and why it is important for your chosen audience. You can include images and video links of your own work and/or things that inspire you for this idea as this helps the panel to understand your style and aesthetic and what your ambition for the work is.

If it helps to think of questions to structure your application, here are some of the things we are interested in, if helpful:

- What is your idea and why does it interest you?
- What makes this idea relevant and interesting for young audiences?
- Are there development/topic/age group questions you have that you want to explore?
- Do you have any images or links to film/content that will help the panel understand your idea, or your style in previous work?
- What is your experience in making performance work and leading a creative process?
- Is this work, or you as an artist, underrepresented in the young audiences sector?

You can apply in writing, or by film, making sure everything is in one document with **no CVs or other additional attachments**. If you are applying by film, upload it to Vimeo or YouTube with a password and send us the link in a document with anything else you want to say including images and hyperlinks.

You should send your application to applications@imagine.org.uk with **Accelerator 2022** as the subject title by the deadline of **Wednesday 1 December**.

Information on the selection process

The panel for this call out is:

Niroshini Thambar	Freelance Artist/Accelerator Artist 2018
Noel Jordan	Festival Director, Imagineate
Pamela Walker	Senior Producer, Imagineate
Fiona Ferguson	Creative Development Director, Imagineate

The panel will talk through each application focussing on the four criteria:

- *the quality and potential of the idea as a young audiences performance*
- *the relevance of the idea for children and/or young people*
- *the need for the work (is the work platforming underrepresented artists or ideas, and/or is the intended audience underserved by the sector?)*
- *the potential impact of this opportunity for the artist(s)*

Each panel member will provide written feedback for each application within two weeks of the panel which will be offered to applicants so they can chose if they would like to receive it.

Deadline:	Wednesday 1 December
Panel meeting:	Monday 6 December
You will hear by:	Monday 13 December

FAQs

What kind of artists are we looking for?

We are looking for theatre and dance artists living in Scotland who have experience in leading the development of new performance work. You don't need to have made work for young audiences before as long as you are excited about the artistic potential of creating theatre and dance for young audiences.

If you haven't made and toured work before then Launchpad might be a better fit- <https://www.imaginate.org.uk/artists/projects/launchpad>.

We are keen to see a more diverse range of artists making work for young people with theatre and dance that is relevant to audiences. Applications can come from individuals, collectives or companies.

What kind of ideas are we looking for?

Your performance idea might be a new piece of writing, devised theatre, dance, circus, visual theatre, interdisciplinary performance or one of the many brilliant production ideas that sit inbetween artforms.

Your idea could be for any age group of young audiences from babies up to teenagers, ideally not older than 13+.

We want to keep this as open as possible so if you are unsure if your idea is right for this opportunity, do contact us before you apply so you know if this is worth spending time on or not.

How will the panel assess applications?

The panel will include Imagine staff and one paid freelance artists. They will talk through each application thinking about these selection criteria:

- *the quality and potential of the idea as a young audiences performance*
- *the relevance of the idea for children and/or young people*
- *the need for the work (is the work platforming underrepresented artists and/or ideas, and/or is the intended audience underserved by the sector?)*
- *the potential impact of this opportunity for the artist(s)*

All applicants will be offered written feedback from each person on the panel.

- **Is there a word count/time limit?**

While there isn't a word count limit for written applications we would ask you to consider the panel and think about concise answers. Think about the key things that you want the panel to know and how to make that clear.

For filmed applications, keep the film to 5 minutes maximum. It's even more important to think about how to get your key information over in a clear manner as the panel will not have written information to refer back to.

- **Can I apply if I have no existing connection with Imagine or the young audiences sector?**

Yes, we would encourage applications from any artists based in Scotland who are interested in making theatre and dance for young audiences. If you would like to make contact before applying, please do get in touch with us.

- **When would the Accelerator development take place?**

The funding that we have for Accelerator 2022 means that the project would finish around October 2022. The development of the work in progress could take place any time between January – September 2022. There are two opportunities to share the work in progress (neither of which are mandatory if not helpful for the development of the work) – as part of the Delegate Programme at the Children's Festival (early May 22) or at an Imagine event in Autumn 2022.

This opportunity is only open to artists based in Scotland; additional budgets are available if there are any access requirements for the application process or the project itself. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss this prior to application.

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straightforward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the project in general, please email Fiona Ferguson (Creative Development Director, Imagine) at fiona@imagine.org.uk