

Ode to the Midlands: Easy Read Summary

What is Ode to the Midlands?

Ode to the Midlands (OttM) is an 18-month programme supporting artists in the **East and West Midlands** to create **new digital artworks**.

It's run by **CVAN East Midlands** and **CVAN West Midlands**, with funding from **Arts Council England**.

The project focuses on:

- Supporting **artists from marginalised backgrounds**
- Building connections across the Midlands
- Helping artists develop **digital skills**
- Sharing Midlands stories, places, and identities

Who is this for?

You can apply if you are:

- A **mid-career visual artist**
- Living or professionally based in the **East or West Midlands**
- From one or more of these groups:
 - **Global Majority**
 - **Disabled**
 - **Deaf**
 - **Neurodivergent**
- Aged **18 or over**
- **Not studying** at BA or MA level (PhD students are welcome)

- ✓ You **do not** need to already work digitally
- ✓ Artist collectives and duos can apply
- ✓ You just need an interest in developing digital work

What's on offer?

6 artists will be selected.

Each artist receives:

- **£10,000** total fee (artist fee + production + presentation)
- Extra **access support funding** if needed
- Travel and accommodation budget
- **Mentoring and professional development**
- Peer support with other artists
- **Technical support** (2.5 days with a technician)
- Promotion and documentation
- A **written review** of your work published by *Corridor8*

What kind of work will you make?

You'll create **one new digital artwork** that reflects the **culture, place, or geography of the Midlands**.

“Digital” can mean many things, including:

- Video or moving image
- Sound or music
- Web-based or interactive work
- Creative coding or AI
- AR / VR
- Projections or installations
- Mixing digital and physical elements

Your idea **does not need to be fully formed** when you apply.

How does the partnership work?

- Each artist is paired with **one arts organisation** from the *other* Midlands region (East ↔ West)
- You **don't choose** the organisation
- Pairings are made carefully to support learning, access, and collaboration

What's expected from artists?

You'll be asked to:

- Develop and deliver your artwork between **April 2026 – March 2027**
- Work with a partner organisation
- Take part in mentoring and peer sessions
- Engage with audiences
- Share learning and help build a project legacy

How do you apply?

Your application includes:

- A short description of your practice
- Why you want to take part
- Your interest in making a digital work about the Midlands
- How this will support your development
- How you think about **access, inclusion, and equity**
- Examples of your work (images, links, or a short PDF)

You can apply by:

- **Written** (up to 800 words total), or
- **Audio or video** (up to 6 minutes total)

Important dates

- **Deadline:** Wednesday **25 March 2026**, 10am
- **Decisions shared:** Friday **24 April 2026**, 5pm
- **Info session (Zoom):** Wednesday **18 February**, 2pm

Applications are sent to: colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk

You can also request:

- A 1-to-1 chat
- Access support
- Alternative formats