

CVAN EM Bursaries: Round 4

for artists & arts workers living or based in Northamptonshire

Deadline: Wednesday 4 December 2024, 11pm

Responses: Wednesday 18 December 2024, 5pm

[Contemporary Visual Arts Network East Midlands](#) (CVAN EM) is the free-to-access Contemporary Visual Arts Network for the East Midlands, encompassing Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland. We celebrate and support arts and culture in the region, fostering an inclusive long-term future for the sector, emphasising equity and access for all arts workers. CVAN EM is hosted by [New Art Exchange](#), Nottingham.

Project Overview

In December 2024 CVAN EM will award one bursary of **£1500** to an artist or arts worker living or professionally based in **Northamptonshire**. This opportunity is part of CVAN EM's Bursaries scheme.

For each round of the CVAN EM Bursaries Scheme we will award £1500 to a creative living or based in a different county in the East Midlands. The breakdown of when the CVAN EM Bursaries scheme will open to creatives in your area is shared below:

- **Round 1:** Derbyshire, 13 March – 15 May 2024 (deadline)
- **Round 2:** Leicestershire & Rutland, 22 May – 17 July 2024 (deadline)
- **Round 3:** Lincolnshire, 25 July – 25 September 2024 (deadline)
- **Round 4:** Northamptonshire, 3 October – 4 December 2024 (deadline)
- **Round 5:** Nottinghamshire, 12 December 2024 – 12 February 2025 (deadline)

CVAN EM Bursaries will support the development of ambitious activity with a focus on the visual arts¹. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to contemporary art² and can be artists or arts workers wanting to develop their practice.

¹ CVAN EM considers the visual arts to focus on **contemporary artistic practice** and include fine arts, crafts, photography, moving image, live art and performance, socially engaged art, new media and digital art, and any **crossover** with design, architecture or other creative disciplines.

² **Contemporary art:** reflects the complex issues that shape our changing world. Through their work contemporary artists might explore personal or cultural identity or offer critiques of social and institutional structures. In the process, they often raise difficult or thought-provoking questions.

Bursary recipients will be offered 1-2-1 mentoring with CVAN EM's Regional Director.

What can CVAN EM Bursaries Support?

Bursaries can contribute to or fund the following:

- R&D (your time)
- Production
- Fabrication
- Mentoring
- Skill development
- Seed funding
- Acquisition of equipment
- Access support
- Event delivery
- Workshop delivery
- Collaboration
- Studio rent
- Community engagement
- Professional training
- Or a combination of the above

Who can apply?

- Applicants applying to Round 4 must be living or professionally based in **Northamptonshire**.
- Applicants who demonstrate a commitment to contemporary art.
- Applicants wanting to fund ambitious activity with a focus on the visual arts.
- Applicants can apply as an individual or collective.
- Applicants can be PhD candidates.
- Applicants can only apply to one round, e.g., if you are living in Leicestershire but professionally based in Nottinghamshire you must choose which round you wish to apply for.

Who cannot apply?

- Applicants currently completing an undergraduate or postgraduate course are ineligible.
- Organisations are ineligible.

We encourage applications from creatives who are from backgrounds currently under-represented in the visual arts sector, including individuals of the global majority those who are disabled, D/Deaf, neurodivergent, LGBTQIA+, working class or facing intersecting cultural or socio-economic barriers.

Selection

The selection panel will comprise of 2-3 members of CVAN EM's [Steering Group](#). Members act as advisors and advocates who use their knowledges, experience, and skills to inform and champion CVAN EM's work. Our Steering Group is dynamic and diverse, passionate about the arts and active within the creative sector in the region.

Your application

When applying for this opportunity please include:

- **A completed application form** (.doc, .docx or PDF). We accept alternative means of application e.g., in the body of an email, via Google Drive, video or audio recording. All applications must still respond to the criteria above and address all sections of the application form in their responses.
- **Up to 5 images** (jpeg, max 2MB each, or PDF) or website link(s) (e.g., for video, audio, text based, performance or socially engaged work).
- **A simple budget** demonstrating you have considered and researched how funds will be spent. This should be provided in a list or spreadsheet format (e.g., .doc, .docx, PDF, .xlsx, Google Sheets). Please consider the limitations of the modest budget available.
- **A completed [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#)**. Completed forms will be reviewed by the CVAN EM Bursaries administrator but will not be shared with the selection panel. Forms will be compiled and data shared with the CVAN EM Steering Group at the point of project evaluation.

Applications should be returned via email to colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk. The email subject line should read **CVAN EM Bursaries_Northamptonshire**.

If you have any questions or would like to require this information in a different format, please email colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk.

Application Form

Personal Details	
Name:	Address:
Email:	
Telephone:	
Website & / or Social Media:	

Application
An introduction to your practice and details of current projects (200 words / 1 minute max.)

- We want to know what ideas and interests underpin the work you make.
- Any achievements, projects, or commissions you would like to share.
- What are you working on?

How would you use a CVAN EM Bursary? (200 words / 1 minute max.)

- Refer to the application pack to confirm development activity you are planning is eligible for this bursary scheme.
- You might want to use subheadings or bullet points to outline activity clearly and concisely, particularly where funds will support more than one area of development e.g., R&D, mentoring and production.
- Please consider the limitations of the modest budget available.

How will a CVAN EM Bursary support the development of your practice? (200 words / 1 minute max.)

- Please consider and share why you are applying and how the funds will support you at this time.

Evaluation

Bursary recipients will be asked to share images/documentation demonstrating how funds have been used to support the promotion of the CVAN EM Bursaries scheme.

Finally, bursary recipients will be asked to submit a short report outlining how funds were used. The report will include a survey supporting us to evaluate and develop the CVAN EM Bursaries scheme and future activity focused on celebrating and supporting arts and culture in the region.

Glossary

- 1) **Visual arts:** CVAN EM considers the visual arts to focus on contemporary artistic practice and include fine arts, crafts, photography, moving image, live art and performance, socially engaged art, new media and digital art, and any crossover with design, architecture or other creative disciplines.
- 2) **Contemporary art:** reflects the complex issues that shape our changing world. Through their work contemporary artists might explore personal or cultural identity or offer critiques of social and institutional structures. In the process, they often raise difficult or thought-provoking questions.
- 3) **Contemporary art practice:** Artistic practice goes beyond the physical activities of making art 'products' and refers to the ways in which an artist goes about their work.
- 4) **Fine art:** Creative arts practice focused on the development and production of work that is primarily focused on the exploration of aesthetic and/or intellectual content over design, purpose and usability.