



**Statens  
Kunstfond**

## **OPEN CALL: DESIGNER IN THE SHED PLACEMENT, YOUNG V&A**

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

February 19, 2024

### **WHO MAY APPLY?**

The Young V&A and the Danish Arts Foundation are inviting applications from an early to mid-career designer, a design studio or design collective to work on a project inspired by Young V&A's collections while giving the audiences at Young V&A a rare insight into a designer's studio, their designs and process. Their practice must have a sustainable and inclusive approach, be highly visual, playful and tactile, and appeal to a young audience.

### **You cannot receive funding for:**

- Projects that the committee have previously supported

### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM**

Designer in The Shed, a six-month placement from 2 September 2024 to 3 March 2025 at Young V&A in Bethnal Green London, is an opportunity for an early to mid-career designer to work on a research project inspired by [Young V&A's collections](#). The designer is provided with an onsite workspace within The Shed in the Museum's Design Gallery.

The Shed is a working studio space. It is a highly visible space that has been woven into the fabric of this free permanent gallery. Some of the walls include windows to display work of the designer working and give the feel of a 'live' exhibit. This visible presence brings the Design Gallery to life, inspiring our audiences by giving them a rare insight into a busy and active design studio and a contemporary designer at work.

This opportunity intends to support and nurture an early to mid-career designer while giving our audiences a rare insight into a designer's studio to experience their designs and process. Their practice must have a sustainable and inclusive approach, be highly visual, playful and tactile, and appeal to a young audience.

The designer is expected to invest their full-time practice into The Shed and to commit to creating a visual representation of their design values and processes, which will deepen our audience's

understanding of design. Because of on-gallery conservation, no heat or wet processes are allowed in this space.

The placement offers the opportunity to conduct research into Young V&A's collections. The designer must be committed to working two days per week on their research project. During this time, the designer is expected to open their studio-doors for a minimum of two hours, two days a week to actively engage the museum's audiences. This could be in the shape of a workshop, research or Show and Tell. One of these days will be during the weekend.

There will be regular opportunities within the six-month placement to engage with Young V&A audiences and develop a more in-depth project with the Young V&A Design Club, and after school club for 11-14 years olds. This will be with supported from the learning department and will contribute to the designer's research as well as their portfolio of workshops.

The collaboration between the V&A and the Danish Arts Foundation intends to support and nurture an early to mid-career designer or design group, while strengthening the ties between the Danish and the UK design scene.

#### **We are looking for:**

- an early to mid-career solo designer, design studio or design collective
- inclusive and sustainable design processes to be at the centre of the designer's practice
- playful and tactile design that would appeal to a young audience
- a visually engaging practice that is understandable for a young audience
- a participatory, collaborative, or socially engaged practice that uses play as a way to invite participation
- someone with an investigative or research driven approach to their design practice
- someone who responds to contemporary and/or historical collections
- someone with experience or who has expressed willingness to learn about engaging children and young people creatively, especially between the ages of 11-14
- someone who will work in The Shed full time, working on their other creative projects when not engaged in their research project
- someone who is willing to fully move their studio into The Shed

[Learn more about Young V&A.](#)

#### **Vision for Young V&A**

The Young V&A's vision is to build creative confidence in young people from birth to early teens, harnessing the potential of the full V&A Collection and the expertise of creative practitioners, through a collection-centred and audience-led approach. The museum's transformation takes place in the context of its heritage as a key cultural resource and place of learning in East London since 1872.

The vision is driven by the desire to offer dynamic, meaningful, relevant content for young people and their families. Young V&A is underpinned by leading research in early childhood development and cognitive science on the critical role of learning through play. Finally, in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, there is growing global recognition of the importance of creative skills – a focus that will be supported by the museum's focus on applied creativity as a critical skill for the future.

Young V&A will respond to this context with four aims:

- To INSPIRE children and young people's creative agency through engagement with art, performance and design;

- To EMPOWER educators to drive forward creative education in art, performance and design from early years to secondary school, becoming a national museum resource for creative education;
- To CONNECT children and young people with the ingenuity of designers, entrepreneurs, innovators and inventors, and;
- To INFLUENCE the sector in building creative confidence through inclusive museum practice for children and young people.

### **Designer benefits in The Shed Placement**

- Designer in The Shed is a six-month placement from 2 September 2024 to 3 March 2025 (the candidate moves their studio into The Shed on August 26, 2024)
- Time to develop their practice through the V&A collections and audience research.
- Opportunities to conduct research within Young V&A and other V&A sites with curatorial and gallery access.
- Mentoring and support with developing workshops and activities.
- A workspace with guaranteed access from 9.00 - 18.00 seven days a week with additional access with prior arrangement.
- Continuous design and practice visibility, including exhibition space within the walls of The Shed.
- Regular mentoring/crits with the Learning team and Senior Producer.
- Mentoring opportunities with Young V&A curators.
- Network sharing research and practice with V&A Residents and previous Designers in The Shed.
- Press and social media exposure.
- A Design Placement bursary of DKK 73.500 (£8,500)
- An accommodation and transportation stipend of DKK 103.800 (£12,000) to cover housing costs, flights to/from the UK, and moving costs
- A production budget to be arranged in dialogue with the V&A to cover the appropriate costs relating to The Shed studio set up (furniture and equipment), research project materials (workshops and final project outcome), and legacy (e.g. Learning Resource, film, publication, etc.)

### **Practical information**

- The chosen designer or designers are responsible for arranging their accommodation and make their travel plans to London. Young V&A team will support the accommodation process.
- The Danish Arts Foundation will pay the Design Placement bursary, accommodation and transportation stipend directly to the chosen designer or design group.
- The production budget will be paid out by The Danish Arts Foundation and managed by Young V&A.
- The Danish Arts Foundation's Craft and Design Project Funding Committee processes the applications and makes a short-list of up to 10 candidates to Young V&A. Young V&A will then review the short-list and invite potential Design Placement candidates to an online interview on May 13, 2024. The interviews will take place on May 22, 2024. Following the interviews, V&A will make the final placement decision.

## **HOW YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE EVALUATED?**

When the Danish Arts Foundation reviews applications, the overall criteria of assessment is artistic quality. The Committee evaluates artistic quality in craft and design by considering whether the proposed project demonstrates:

- **Professionalism**

The project develops and challenges practices, ideas, traditions and materials

- **Coherence**

The project is well-thought-out from the initial idea to method applied

- **Significance**

The project demonstrates a high level of reflection in respect to its aims to create a significant mark in a relevant contexts

In your English application, please describe:

- your profession and experience in relation to Young V&A's wishes for Designer in The Shed placement
- the research into the V&A Collection that you wish to conduct during the six-month placement along with how it will be advantageous to your professional development
- how you might actively engage the Young V&A's audiences e.g. in the form of a workshop, research or Show and Tell etc.
- please include information about your website and/or links to social media presence

**Please be aware of the following:**

A complete application must meet the mentioned formal criteria and argue concisely for why the project is important and relevant to the applicant, the craft, and society in general.

It will be taken to consideration in the evaluation of your application if you have applied for grants from the Danish Arts Foundation within the past three years.

## **WHAT MUST THE APPLICATION CONTAIN?**

You must submit your application using our Grant Portal. We do not accept paper forms. We recommend you to use the browsers Chrome or Firefox.

The Grant Portal requires that you log in using MitID (the secure digital login used in Denmark).

**You MUST attach the following:**

- The application: The application must be in English. It must be no more than one page of 2,400 keystrokes (PDF or Word).
- Images: No more than two A4 sheets featuring relevant images that visualize the project, e.g. photographs, sketches or other images may be included (PDF or Word). Where relevant, include no more than five A4 sheets of images documenting previous work (PDF or Word).
- A short CV in English: CVs must be no more than one page. For applications involving several participants, enclose only shortened CVs of no more than half an A4 page each. (Word or PDF).

Do not attach images of other people's work, e.g., inspirational images and mood boards. If there are particular reasons for attaching pictures of other people's work, you must clearly state that they are not yours. Similarly, you must state whether the artistic work submitted was collaborative or not.

## **PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- The total size of the attached files may not exceed 25 MB.
- We accept the document formats PDF and Word.

- We do not accept Pages or ZIP files.
- You can edit your application until the deadline. Remember to re-attach all the files when you are editing, otherwise they will not be included
- The committee will only process the most recently submitted application.
- Your application must include all the required attachments in order to be processed by the committee.
- You are responsible for ensuring that your application has been filled out correctly and that all the required documents are attached. You can always check your receipt in the Grant Portal.

## HOW MUCH MAY YOU APPLY FOR?

The Design Placement is awarded a fixed bursary of DKK 73.500 and an accommodation and transportation stipend of DKK 103.800. This totals to DKK 177.300, which will be payed directly to the chosen designer or designers by the Danish Arts Foundation. Young V&A have an additional production budget to be worked out in dialogue with the Young V&A for the appropriate costs relating to the placement's work.

If you live in London, the accommodation and transportation stipend will consists of DKK 10.000, which is intended to moving costs.

If you are a Danish citizen, organisation, or business and you receive a grant, you must have a NemKonto available for the payment transfer. We transfer all grants to the NemKonto linked to the Danish CPR/CVR number stated in the application. If you, for example, apply with a new CVR number, you have to make sure that you have linked it to a NemKonto. You have to do this before a potential grant is awarded.

If you have moved away from Denmark i.e., emigrated according to the Danish Customs and Tax Administration's definition, or if you are a foreign applicant, you are able to have a potential grant transferred to a foreign bank account. For applicants with foreign bank accounts, a completed bank information form must be attached to the application. You can find [the form for wire transfers to countries using IBAN](#) or [the form for wire transfers to countries NOT using IBAN](#) here.

### If you receive a grant of:

More than DKK 100,000, we pay the grant in two instalments. The first instalment will be disbursed as soon as possible.

The Danish Arts Foundation reports all awarded grants to the Danish Tax Agency. Please note that the tax has not been deducted from the payment.

## WHEN

You will receive a response no later than May 31, 2024.

Throughout these weeks, the committee and V&A will read and process all submitted applications. Once all the applicants have received answers from the committees regarding their decisions, we will publish all the awarded grants on our website (in Danish).

You will receive an email notification when your answer is available on your profile in the Grant Portal.

The names of all applicants are publicized on our website in the committees' minutes (in Danish).

## WHEN YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an on-screen receipt, which you can download if desired. Please note that you can see your application and its status in the Grant Portal under "My Applications" at any time.

You will not receive an email receipt confirming your application submission.

On your case in the Grant Portal, you can see your application attachments. It is your responsibility that the required documents have been attached and sent, so remember to look through your application with care.

As long as it is before the deadline, you can edit in an application, even if you have already submitted it. If you edit in a submitted application, keep in mind that you must verify that all the required documents are included. The committee deals exclusively with the most recently submitted application.

If you need to contact a case officer in the secretariat, you can send a message via the contact form on your case in the Grant Portal.

## **LAW BASIS**

Decisions are made in accordance with section 3(1), cf. (2) and (3) of the Danish Act on the Danish Arts Foundation's Activities (Act no. 458 of 8 May 2013).

## **COMMITMENT**

When the Danish Arts Foundation awards grants, it is important, and not least legally required, that the money is used for the purpose described in your application. Therefore, you must report on your project to the Agency for Culture and Palaces. How you must report depends on the grant amount you have received. Read more about how to report on your project.

## **WHO WILL EVALUATE YOUR APPLICATION?**

The Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Craft and Design Project Funding processes the applications and makes a short-list of up to 10 candidates. Young V&A will then review the short-list and invite potential fellowship candidates to an online interview. Following the interviews, Young V&A will make the final placement decision.