



**BOM Fellows 2018 - 2019**  
**Open Call for Expressions of Interest**  
**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2017, 5PM**

## **Background**

BOM is inviting proposals for new Fellows from April 2018 – March 2019.

With access to a Fellows Incubator programme of tailored professional development, paid opportunities and 24 hour access to production and co-working space, this is an invaluable opportunity for creative practitioners working across art, technology and science.

BOM Fellows are outstanding creative practitioners with a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach. They demonstrate clear commitment to social impact and / or outstanding potential for research impact at the intersection of art, technology and science.

BOM Fellows contribute to a thriving collaborative culture through peer-to-peer support and skills sharing within a creative community. As such, they are expected to contribute at least one day a week to being physically based at BOM (or equivalent), and actively contribute to a positive, supportive and inspiring ecology.

In early 2018, BOM will be undergoing a major building refurbishment to upgrade and extend our gallery, café, co-working and studio spaces. We'll be re-launching as an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation in April 2018, ready to welcome a new cohort of Fellows, and continuing major partnerships including British Council South East Asia and the University of Birmingham.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be working with BOM, and we're looking for high quality proposals to build on our existing Fellows community and support experimental and impactful new practice.

## **BOM Vision**

Established in Birmingham city centre in 2014, BOM is forging a new model of radical practice at the intersection of art, technology and science with measurable social impact.

By making sustained investment in a community of Fellows and developing strategic projects and partnerships, we test pioneering ideas that investigate the transformative value of the arts across education, health and society.

BOM is born from hacker culture. Because diversity matters to us personally, we take an activist role in proactively addressing barriers to cultural participation through creative programs, particularly for those at risk of exclusion.

We believe that the arts should value participation over all else, and that investing in the right people with the right support is key to developing transformational practices that enable society to fully participate in culture.

We ground our unique vision on an assertion of people, practice and participation:

Invest in **People**

Create **Practice**

Re-think **Participation**

Our community of Fellows is a group of artists, technologists, scientists, producers and researchers who all fuel (and are fuelled by) BOM's ethos, and help us to deliver our vision.

## **Fellows Incubator**

Fellows work with BOM for a minimum of 12 months with access to an Incubator Programme of mentoring and creative development support. This includes free access to space and professional networks, legal, professional and business expertise and a range of paid opportunities.

In contrast to the popular 'tech accelerator' model, the BOM Fellows Incubator is a decelerator, providing opportunities to focus in on a key area of work, playtest and collaborate with a range of communities with paid opportunities. This enables practitioners to consider value of their work across education, health and society.

Fellows do this at the same time as developing their business model and exploring the commercial potential of their ideas. This is a highly personalised experience for those taking part, and requires Fellows to approach the year with an open mind and commitment to pushing their practice into new and uncertain directions.

Unlike other business support programmes, the BOM Fellow Incubator has an onus on *practice and participation over product*. BOM's approach enables practitioners to develop their work in meaningful ways, stay inspired and develop sustainable practices.

The BOM Fellows Incubator model gives practitioners a tailored package of support and opportunities with access to:

- Paid commissions, exhibitions, engagement and outreach work
- Mentoring, curatorial and production support
- Business support when developing new business models
- Access to legal expertise and introductions from BOM's Board and affiliated networks
- Tailored sessions on financial planning and input to funding applications
- Tailored sessions on IP and partnership agreements
- Engagement and outreach training, support and DBS checks
- BOM's professional and curatorial networks
- Advocacy and promotion
- Internal and external collaboration opportunities
- 24hr access to BOM's studios and co-working spaces
- A research expenses budget to cover costs or travel and participation in key events to support your practice

## Proposals

Expressions of interest should be a simple written statement (no more than two sides of A4) outlining your planned work from April 2018 – March 2019, and how you feel this aligns with BOM's values.

Your expression of interest should include the following:

- A single 'ready to publish' statement (1 – 2 paragraphs) that summarises your work and how this relates to BOM's vision
- An overview of your aims and what you want to achieve in your work during 2018 – 2019, and how BOM can help you achieve this
- Your collaborative approach, including previous examples of collaboration, and what you would bring to the BOM Fellows community
- Details of partnerships or groups you would like to work with
- A link to your website and / or other links where we can find examples of the quality of your previous works

## Timescales

Please send expressions of interest to [kate@bom.org.uk](mailto:kate@bom.org.uk) by Friday 15 December 2017, 5pm.

Applicants will be notified by Friday 22 December 2017.

Fellowships will run from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.