

CRIPtic Arts 2024: Breakthrough FAQs

What are the key dates & deadlines for the programme?

- Application portal closes: 5pm on 5 January 2024.
- Interviews: 10-17 January 2024
- Artist Welcome Session: 11am-12pm, 24 January 2024
- Programme Start Date: February 2024
- Programme End Date: January 2025
- Fee: £6,000.00

What work are you looking for?

We are looking for people who are making work at a level where they could be achieving mainstream industry success, and are facing barriers as disabled people that are preventing them from achieving this. The work can be in any creative field, but it should be clear from your track record that you are ready to *break through* into the mainstream.

The proposal should be to create a very small sample of work at a very high quality - instead of trying to make the budget stretch as far as possible. We are looking for proposals that utilise the budget for excellence over quantity, and recommend that you plan to create no more than five minutes of audio or visual content, or a small sample of written content.

Your proposal should be clearly designed as a 'calling card' demonstrating your talent and expertise to the wider industry, and should be self-contained within the timelines and funding of the Breakthrough grant.

Who can apply?

We're looking for 2 disabled creatives or companies who have had major showcasing opportunities, and are looking to break into the mainstream industry, but are facing disableist barriers which are preventing them from achieving a level of success equivalent to the quality of their work.

CRIPtic's work is for disabled people - by which we mean "people who face disableist [including audist] barriers", or "people who identify themselves as deaf or disabled – or are identified by others as deaf or disabled in society".

There is no limit on the artform - we are accepting applications from everyone from theatremakers to singers, comedians to lighting designers.

What are you looking for - and what aren't you looking for?

We are looking for:

- People whose track records show that they are on the brink of breaking through into the mainstream arts sector - and who can show that this commission would challenge the disableist barriers currently limiting their opportunities
- Proposals for commissions that function as an independent 'calling card' to the industry, rather than a smaller part, or partial development of, a wider project
- Proposals that rely entirely on Breakthrough funding and are not seeking or relying on other funding or partnerships
- Small ideas that focus on using the full budget to create excellent work, rather than on creating as much work as possible with the budget
- Proposals whose budget is feasible - including paying yourself and all partners fairly, and with enough funding budgeted to ensure you can use high-quality services

We aren't looking for:

- Proposals focusing primarily on your personal development (e.g. proposals designed for Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice funding)
- Proposals for Breakthrough to fund part of a wider project (e.g. the script for a TV episode), unless it is clear that you are applying to create the work that you will use to demonstrate your talent and ability to the wider industry
- Proposals for Breakthrough to fund part of a project alongside other funding streams
- Proposals that focus on external work (e.g. community outreach) instead of producing an item of excellence
- Proposals for projects that would take longer to complete than the Breakthrough timeline (completion by January 2025).

How do we assess applications?

Breakthrough exists to support disabled creatives who are at the top of their careers, but who are struggling to progress further due to disablist barriers, to break into the mainstream. When we're assessing applications, we will often ask ourselves questions like:

- Is this person at the right stage in their career for this project? They should be excelling, but not quite getting the highest profile opportunities they're reaching for.
- Will this commission help this person break into the mainstream?
- Is their proposal clearly marketable within the trends and expectations of mainstream work in that genre and field?
- Do the applicants have enough experience for us to be confident that they can deliver this project?
- Are the samples of work submitted of a quality and level that demonstrate clear potential for mainstream success?
- How many opportunities have the applicants had previously, and to what extent do they need Breakthrough specifically, as opposed to other programmes and commissions?
- Is it clear to us what disablist barriers the applicants are facing, and how the Breakthrough commission would support them in challenging those?

What support is available to me when I apply?

We accept applications by Google Form, word document, or audio or video file (in spoken English or BSL). We are able to support applicants with transcribing answers, but cannot provide or fund individualised access support for applications beyond this, except if exceptional circumstances apply. Our application process is designed to be simple, and we're focused on the quality of the idea not the quality of your writing. To find out more about our approach to access provision, [click here](#).