

Artist Call-Out: Neel Akash



About the Project

Neel Akash is an upcoming two-phase R&D project exploring the impact of the climate emergency on communities in Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi diaspora in Birmingham, UK.

Neel Akash is an artistic collaboration between Sampad and Bangladeshi dancer/choreographer **Anandita Khan**.

We are seeking an experienced artist with a **specialism in theatre, spoken-word, or creative writing** to work collaboratively to co-create an impactful artistic work that raises awareness of climate change and inspire action.

Funded by



Aims & Objectives

- Inspire understanding and action on climate change through bilingual (English and Bangla) and non-verbal artistic expressions.
- Support and platform Bangladeshi artists.

- Lay the groundwork for a longer-term touring production in schools and communities across Bangladesh and Birmingham

Fee & Timeline

Fee: £601 per week, contract will be for 3 weeks work – 1 week Research where you are based and 2 weeks in Birmingham.

Duration: 1 week: mid May – early June

2 weeks between 23rd June – 11th July (exact dates tbc)

The Project

Phase 1: Research

Working remotely in each country, Sampad and both artists will develop the initial ideas for the production, gathering and sharing first hand stories in Dhaka & Britain of the effect of how the climate emergency is impacting local communities. Both artists will be combining facts, statistics, news stories and personal stories.

Phase 2: Residency, Birmingham UK

This will be followed by a 2 week residency in Birmingham in June - July 2025, where the artists will work together in studio at our base Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham to begin to create the narrative and short performance elements for the new work. This period will involve

- Working with dramaturg, environmental specialists, singer/musician as needed.
- Visit schools to run R&D workshops with teachers and students
- Sharing with local Bangladeshi community, arts community and potential funders to gather feedback
- Review and exploring the next stage

Who We're Looking For

We strongly encourage applicants from artists of Bangladeshi heritage due to the nature of this project.

Essential Requirements:

- Proven experience in their artistic field – creative writing, theatre/drama and/or spoken word
- Experience of working collaboratively with artists and arts organisations
- Experience of working in community and education settings
- Availability during the project timeline outlined above

Desirable

- West Midlands based or have a base in the West Midlands
- Bilingual in English and Bangla

Neel Akash - Ambition

Following on from this R&D, our ambition is to create a community and schools touring production over the next 3 years.

- Develop a full touring production for schools and community centres in Birmingham (2026-27)
- Explore a Bangladesh tour (2027-8)

This project not only seeks to create **meaningful, socially engaged art** but also to foster **long-term artistic collaborations** and support the growth of **underrepresented artists**.

How to Apply:

Please submit your CV and a cover letter detailing your experience and interest including examples of past projects & two referees to james@sampad.org.uk by **27th April 2025 midnight**.

If you would prefer to make your application by video or audio please ensure this is no more than 3 minutes and sent to us by the above date by WeTransfer. *Please also ensure that you have sent us examples of past projects.*

We will acknowledge all applications, if you do not receive an acknowledgement please contact us to ensure that your application has been received.

Interviews: Wednesday 30th April 2025.

If you have any questions or would like an informal conversation please contact Sabra Khan, Executive Director of Sampad by email sabra@sampad.org.uk to arrange this.



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