



Who is PLATFORM for?

PLATFORM is Spread the Word's new artist development scheme open to London-based creatives who are actively looking to develop a fantastic idea into a piece of work. At the end of the five-month development scheme the work will be shared with a live audience at the PLATFORM Showcase.

Why are you running this scheme?

Spread the Word conducted a strategic review last year which revealed that there are few support opportunities available for new and emerging writers to invest time in producing work – to try something out, to experiment and take a risk as well as very few opportunities to showcase work in progress that will help to build audiences and readers for the writer. PLATFORM is a response to our findings and one in which we hope to offer seven applicants the opportunity to expand upon a creative idea they have and develop their writing practice.

What does PLATFORM offer?

Successful applicants will be offered the space, seed funding, peer support and audience engagement opportunities to develop their idea, including:

- Three mentoring sessions over three months with an experienced writer to support you in developing your idea;
- A micro-bursary of £500;
- A free space at the Writer Development Lab;
- The opportunity to present your work to an audience at the Platform Showcase, which will take place in March 2018.

Who will be leading the mentoring sessions?

The mentoring sessions will be led by Spread the Word's Associate Writers – Jasmine Ann Cooray, Ruby Cowling, Nick Field, Jarred McGinnis, Simon Mole, Laila Sumpton and Sabo Kpade. These seven writers were selected as Associate Writers in recognition of their creative talent and commitment to their craft. The seven selected mentees for this scheme will be matched with an Associate Writer whose practice will support the mentee's own development.

What is the Writer Development Lab?

The Writer Development Lab is an event for London based writers due to take place in March 2018. It will be hosted by the mentors of PLATFORM who will facilitate a day filled with a range of workshops, talks and activities. The mentees selected for PLATFORM will be guaranteed a place at this open event.

Am I eligible to apply?

To apply for the scheme you must be over 18 years of age, living in London, currently un-agented and without a publishing contract. You must also be available to commit to the five-month long scheme, which will run from November 2017 - March 2018.

Do I have to be a fiction writer to apply?

No – PLATFORM is open to writers working in any genre. We want to open the call out as widely as possible across all writing forms and reach out to London's writers who have an idea that would benefit from the support package that PLATFORM offers.

I'm not a new writer – can I still be involved?

Yes you can – PLATFORM is all about supporting new ideas. If you're already writing and would like to experiment with a new genre or style of writing that differs from your usual practice, then we would love to hear from you.

What do I need to submit?

Applicants must submit a complete application form, a sample of your writing (see the next Q for more details on this) and an up-to-date writer's CV. A writer's CV is a record of your writing – you can include publications, courses you've participated in, competitions you've entered, and awards that you've won. Do not worry if your CV is not very extensive, we're not looking for experienced writers as this scheme is for new and emerging writers.

Why do I need to send in a sample of my writing?

Seeing you writing helps us to understand you as a writer. The writing you submit does not have to be related to the idea you would like to develop. The word limits are as follows: 1,000 words from the beginning of the work for prose, up to 40 lines for poetry and up to 5 pages from the beginning of the work for all scripts.

My idea isn't fully developed – can I still enter the scheme?

Yes you can! PLATFORM is an artist development scheme. What we want to see from applicants is an idea with strong potential, a creative mind and a willingness to learn and develop your writing practice throughout the scheme.

How do I submit my entry?

Entries can be submitted by e-mail to aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk with the subject heading 'PLATFORM application' or via post to:

Spread the Word (Platform)
The Albany
Douglas Way
London, SE8 4AG

The deadline is 5pm on Monday 2 October. Entries submitted after the closing date will not be accepted.

What happens after I submit my application?

Spread the Word will respond to all applicants regarding the status of their application in the week commencing Monday 30 October. Please note that due to the high number of applications we expect for this scheme, we are unable to give individual feedback.

My question isn't listed here – what do I do?

For any questions not listed here or any queries please email Aliya at aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk. Good luck with your application!

PLATFORM has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation.