

British Council Arts

WOW Bangladesh 2025/26

6 November 2025

Housekeeping

- **General**

- We expect the session to be about **1 hour**– dependent on the number of questions from you.
- There will be a presentation for about **40 minutes**, followed by Q&A.
- So that everyone can see and hear the speakers clearly, MS Teams has automatically muted mics and turned off cameras for all attendees.

- **Questions**

- During the presentation, if you have any questions, you can submit them using the Q&A function and we will address them after the presentation.
- During Q&A, if you want to ask a question, please use the “raise hand” function. We will unmute you before you ask your question.

- **Privacy**

- This session will be recorded. If you do **not** wish to be recorded, please do keep your video off and microphone muted.

- **After the webinar**

- A recording will be shared with you via email and on the **British Council channels after this session**.
- If you are interested in applying for this grant – you must have a **working level of English** or have support from someone with a working level of English (a translator or interpreter) when needed, to ensure smooth communication, particularly regarding British Council guidelines and reporting requirements.

What is WOW – Women of the World?

The WOW Foundation exists to build, convene and sustain a global movement that believes a gender equal world is desirable, possible and urgently required.

"If you are a woman or know a woman, WOW is for you"

-- Jude Kelly



What are the WOW Bangladesh grants?

Two different types of grant available:

1. *WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025*
2. *WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026*

Artistic and cultural projects that engage with gender equality by connecting with one or more of the **following themes:**

- *Film, Moving Image and Media Aesthetics*
- *Hyperobject¹ meets hyperobject: Gender and the climate emergency*
- *STE(A)M: Science, Technology, (Arts), Engineering & Maths*

¹ Timothy Morton coined the term *hyperobjects* to refer to things that are massively distributed in time and space relative to humans.



What are the WOW Bangladesh grants?

Grant type	Eligible applicants	Project outcomes	Expected audience	Grant value
WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025	Artists and cultural practitioners based in Bangladesh or in the UK	Develop, produce and present public art events in Bangladesh in 2026.	Min. 500-700 attendees	Up to £12,000 in relevant local currency
WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026	Arts organisations based in Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet	Host, curate, produce and present a 1-day WOW Bangladesh Chapter event before 30 Aug 2026.	Min. 2,000 attendees	Up to £23,000 in relevant local currency

Both calls are open to all cultural disciplines, encouraging bold, collaborative, and publicly engaging proposals through exhibitions, performances, screenings, and discussions that explore the intersections of gender and society.

Eligible cultural disciplines/artforms for both grants



- Cross-art form projects, and
- Cross-disciplinary projects (e.g. art+robotics, art+geology, art+botany)

In addition to:

- Architecture
- Design & fashion
- Creative technology (incl. games extended reality, immersive, mixed, augmented and virtual reality, artificial intelligence)
- Film (production proposals are not eligible)
- Literature
- Music (album production proposals are not eligible)
- Theatre & dance
- Visual arts

Eligibility Criteria for both grants

WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025 & WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026

Applicants

- We expect individuals and organisations to have the necessary registration/s needed to comply with **legal and/or tax provisions** in the country in which they are based, whether Bangladesh or the UK.
- We welcome applications from both **new and returning** applicants.
- The capacity and capability to **produce and present work in Bangladesh** on gender in society **before 30 Aug 2026** is central to this grant.

Proposals

- Proposals to produce music albums or films are **not eligible**.
- Proposals to conduct research visits or develop ideas that will not be produced and presented in Bangladesh are **not eligible**.
- Proposal timeline should end no later than 30 August 2026.



Grant type: WOW Bangladesh **Commissions** 2025

Who is this grant for?

- **Individual Artists** (from any art form) ...
- **Individual Cultural Practitioners** (from any art form) ...
- **Unregistered duos, collaborators, collectives and groups** ...

... based **either** in Bangladesh or the UK

... who can **demonstrate a track-record** of engaging with the subject of gender/gender equality through arts and culture.

What kind of projects are eligible?

- **Exhibitions** (from any art form) ...
- **Performances** (from any art form) ...
- **Cross-art form events** (from any art form) ...
- **Artist's books and creative publication projects** ...
- Innovative propositions - we are **open to ideas from you** ...

... in your application, please take care to **demonstrate your track-record** of delivering your chosen type of project.

Grant type: WOW Bangladesh **Chapters** 2026

Who is this grant for?

- **Registered Organisations and Groups** that work in **Arts** or **Culture** (from any art form) ...
- Based in the cities of **Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi, or Sylhet** in Bangladesh.

... who **demonstrate a track-record** of delivering large-scale arts events effectively and safely.

... who **demonstrate an understanding** of gender/gender equality through arts and culture.

What kind of projects are eligible?

- One-day WOW Bangladesh Chapter events in **Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi, or Sylhet** in Bangladesh.
- WOW Bangladesh Chapter event concepts that **centre artistic** and/or **cultural work** and practices through this year's **themes**.

... in your application, please take care to **demonstrate your track-record** of delivering your chosen type of project.

... proposals including work by recent British Council grantees in Bangladesh/the UK are welcomed.

Assessment criteria for both grants

WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025

Evaluation criteria	Weighting
Quality and artistic/ creative approach	25%
Feasibility and project management	25%
Audience/ participant engagement and impact	15%
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	25%
Environmental Sustainability	10%

WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026

Evaluation criteria	Weighting
Quality and artistic/ creative approach	20%
Feasibility and project management	20%
Audience/ participant engagement and impact	20%
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Safeguarding	20%
Environmental sustainability	20%

WOW Bangladesh grants calendar 2025-26

Milestone	Date
Applications close	16 November 2025 (23:59:59 Bangladesh Time)
Notification of decisions	First week of December 2025
Grantees complete and sign contracts	Before 11 December 2025
Grantees' projects begin	After 1 January 2026
Orientation and Safeguarding briefings	January 2026
Interim Reports due	1 May 2026
Grantees' projects/events completed	Before 30 August 2026
Evaluation and Final Reports due	Before 30 September 2026

How to apply



Read Guidelines

Download and read the guideline document applicable to the grant that you are applying for.



Complete Forms

Download and complete the applicable Application/EOI Form and the Budget and Activity template



Save as PDF

Save your completed Application/EOI Forms and Budget and Activity template as a PDF file



Email us

Email the PDF copies to us at [Arts.Bangladesh \[.\] org](mailto:Arts.Bangladesh@britishcouncil.org) with the correct subject line



Subject lines

Identify which grant you have applied for:

- EOI: *WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026*

OR

- Application: *WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025*

Further information

<https://www.britishcouncil.org.bd/en/programmes/arts>

Q&A

- Type your questions into the “Q&A” box
- To ask a question verbally, please use the “raise hand” function. We will unmute you.
- This session is being recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please do keep your video off and microphone muted.
- These questions will be added to the FAQs on our website.

6 November 2025

More questions?

Review the online Guidance and FAQs documents:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org.bd/en/programmes/arts>

Email us at:

Arts.Bangladesh@britishcouncil.org