

**Arts
Bangladesh**

Applicant FAQs WOW Bangladesh 2025/26

13 November 2025

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A. Grant for Individuals and Collaboratives (WOW Bangladesh Commissions)

Q1. If an artist proposes a new work, would the artist be responsible for identifying and coordinating the specific location and managing all related logistics, including outreach and marketing?

Answer:

Yes, the proposal should include a confirmed pathway to the public presentation of their work, for example: the artist may have a clear plan in place to come to Dhaka, Bangladesh and organise the exhibition personally by renting a venue or through other means, or the artist may have a confirmed plan to work with an institution, a creative producer or a curator, etc. The WOW Bangladesh Commissions for 2025 should be self-contained, fully realised, stand-alone projects.

Q2. May we add links to other material, or supporting material to the application form?

Answer:

Yes, you may include links, images and other supplementary information with the application form, provided that:

- If they are provided via links, the links are publicly accessible (no login required), and
- The material supports your written responses (for example: previous work, portfolios, or profiles).

For example:

- In Section 3, Question 18, you may include links to examples of your previous or relevant work.
- In Section 4 (Methodology and Approach), you may include links to profiles or websites of collaborators, if this helps illustrate their experience and contribution.

However, please make sure that your written answers remain clear and self-contained; links and additional material are considered supporting references, and not substitutes for the written content.

Q3. Will it be OK for me to be part of two applications?

Answer:

In certain circumstances, applications that include participants who are included in more than one application may be eligible for consideration as long as the roles and responsibilities are clearly distinct in each proposal. For example, you can apply as an individual artist with your own project and also be collaborating or featured in another organisation's application — provided the projects are separate and manageable within the given timeline.

If both applications are shortlisted, the British Council may seek clarification to ensure there is no duplication of funding or activity and that you have the capacity to deliver both projects successfully.

We encourage you to clearly outline your involvement in each application to avoid any confusion during assessment.

Q4. We participate in a collective that has some members in Bangladesh and some members overseas. Would we still be eligible to apply for this grant?

Answer:

Event concepts that centre artistic and/or cultural work and practices that connect to the diverse people, movements, and ideas in the arenas of arts, culture and media that are engaged with the urgent global challenge of gender inequality are welcomed from registered organisations based in the cities of Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet. In the case of registered collectives with members based in different locations, the assessment panel will review whether the project lead, key organisers, planners and curators are mostly based in one of the four, listed cities Bangladesh.

Q5. What format can the final exhibition/presentation take?

Answer:

The WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025 grants are open with regard to the formats that artists and cultural practitioners will propose for their projects and there is no preconceived expectation for the format.

Q6. As a registered business entity, are we eligible to apply for a WOW Bangladesh Commission 2025 grant?

Answer:

No, the WOW Bangladesh Commission 2025 grant is not open to registered business entities.

Q7. If I apply as an individual, can I collaborate with a UK based artist /organisation?

Answer:

Although partnerships and collaborations between Bangladesh- and UK-based artists/organisations are not essential, proposals for collaborations are eligible for consideration for the WOW Bangladesh Commissions 2025 grants.

B. Grant for Organisations (WOW Bangladesh Chapters)

Q1. Is there specific guideline for the type of event to be organized and for the number of participants?

Answer:

The available grants for WOW Bangladesh Chapters 2026 will support arts organisations based in Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet to host, curate, produce and present a day-long WOW Bangladesh Chapter event between 1 January to 30 August 2026.

WOW Chapters are community events organised as a precursor to a full-fledged WOW festival and should aim to accommodate at least 2,000 unique, in-person visitors throughout the day.

WOW Chapters provide a platform to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women and girls and explore the obstacles that prevent them from achieving their full potential. This year, British Council invites proposals for WOW Chapters that engage with gender equality through artistic, or cultural work that connects with one or more of the following themes:

- Film, moving image and media aesthetics
- Hyperobject meets hyperobject: Gender and the climate emergency
- STE(A)M: Science, Technology, (Arts), Engineering & Maths

For more information and inspiration for WOW Chapter events, please visit:

<https://thewowfoundation.com/latest>

WOW Foundation has designed some convenient 'building blocks' that can be put together to design a WOW Chapter event, or a full-scale WOW Festival. As explained during the briefing webinar on 6 November 2025, for the WOW Chapter events, the British Council will look for at least these 4 of the available WOW formats to be incorporated into the event planning:

1. **WOW – Think Ins**
A key element of WOW's annual programming. Using a methodology developed by WOW, facilitate participant-led discussions which identify common ground around gender-based themes.
2. **Talks, Panels and 'In Conversations'**
Discussions on a diverse range of issues and perspectives.
3. **WOW Bites**
15-minute stories and experiences that spotlight different subjects
4. **WOW Pop Ups**
Providing surprising and unexpected moments for audiences.

Additional WOW building blocks can be included, as well as further formats that your team may wish to propose.

A full list of the different available building blocks is included in the next page:

WOW

Building Blocks



Each WOW Festival is to include the following Building Blocks. WOW provides guidelines for them, which can be adapted to your local content. It is essential that some of these elements are free to access.

WOW Think Ins A gathering of deliberately diverse groups for discussion on WOW in their area, in the lead up to the festival.	✓
Talks, Panels & In Conversations Discussions on a diverse range of issues	✓
WOW Speed Mentoring Fast paced, one-on-one sessions for women sharing experience and insight	✓
WOW Bites / WOW Big Ideas 15 minute stories on a whole range of subjects	✓
Under 10's Feminist Corner Playful workshops for children exploring gender equality	✓
WOW Marketplace A space to support women led businesses promote services, information & organisations	✓
WOW Pop Ups Providing surprising and unexpected moments	✓
Physical Activity Sessions for audiences to have fun and to jump, dance, run, move and stretch	✓
WOWsers An eight week participation programme for young people aged 15-19	OPTIONAL
How To's Practical workshops and skills development	OPTIONAL
Performances Performances from up and coming and world renowned performers	OPTIONAL
WOW Sounds An intersectional soundtrack to the movement	OPTIONAL

Q2. Can youth-led organisations that work in policy literacy, research and advocacy apply?

Answer:

Event concepts that centre artistic and/or cultural work and practices that connect to the diverse people, movements, and ideas in the arenas of arts, culture and media that are engaged with the urgent global challenge of gender inequality are welcomed from youth-led organisations working in policy literacy, research and advocacy that are based in the cities of Chattogram, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

Interested institutions, organisations and groups are encouraged to engage in their EOIs with the intricacies, counterarguments, and active questions of the local, discursive traditions of how experiences of society are, should, or should not be determined by gender in Bangladesh through one or more of the following perspectives.

- Film, moving image and media aesthetics
- Hyperobject meets hyperobject: Gender and the climate emergency
- STE(A)M: Science, Technology, (Arts), Engineering & Maths

Proposals that engage with the work of recent British Council grantees and partners in either Bangladesh or the UK who demonstrate a track record of engagement with these themes are of particular interest.

Q3. Should the WOW Chapter be only a one-day event?

Answer:

The minimum duration of a WOW Bangladesh Chapter 2026 event should be one day. Proposing organisations are welcome to propose WOW Chapter events that will be scheduled for longer than one day.