2015 Festival Call for Participation

12-22 November 2015

1 ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, Being Human is the UK’s only national festival of the humanities. It engages the public with innovative research taking place across the humanities and in collaboration with other disciplines. Demonstrating the role the humanities play in our everyday lives, Being Human aims to make humanities research accessible to the public.

The Being Human festival 2015 follows the success of the inaugural festival held in 2014, which drew the participation of over 60 universities and Independent Research Organisations. Between them, these institutions, along with over 100 cultural and community partners, organised over 160 events across the country. It is estimated that visitor numbers to festival events in 2014 were between 10,000 and 15,000. Our reach via social media platforms was in excess of 2 million.

2 FESTIVAL AIMS

The 2015 festival aims to deliver, as last year, a high-profile, cohesive series of events across the country. The richness and diversity of contemporary humanities research will be highlighted, showcasing innovation and engaging the public by providing them with a sense of what goes on in the humanities and why it is relevant to their lives. The festival will foster connections between university research, the cultural sector and the general public. The festival will

- Demonstrate the value of humanities research to society and culture in the UK and globally;
- Demonstrate the vitality of research in the humanities across the UK;
- Encourage, support and create the opportunity for humanities researchers to engage with non-academic audiences;
- Promote the humanities as accessible and relevant to people’s everyday lives;
- Enhance public visibility and understanding of the humanities;
- Facilitate collaborations between researchers in the humanities and cultural and community partners.
3 EVENT FUNDING

3.1 The School of Advanced Study, University of London, supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, has made available funding to allow universities and Independent Research Organisations to bid for support to stage events during the Festival week.

3.2 Although it is anticipated that the majority of awards available will be for under £2,000, applications for funding of up to £5,000 may also be considered if of exceptional quality or if institutions are willing to coordinate more than one event.

3.3 The Being Human festival increases public engagement with, and understanding of, the humanities in the broadest sense. It offers funding to activity which showcase innovative research in the humanities and which reach out actively to the public and engage their imagination and interest. In 2015 we welcome particularly applications that are interdisciplinary, that demonstrate participation with local, national or international cultural organisations, which encourage innovation in public engagement and which engage with diverse audiences (specifically younger and ethnically diverse audiences). We also encourage applications which will showcase new and innovative research in the humanities by, for example, disseminating outputs from research projects during the festival itself, or crowd-sourcing research during the festival.

3.4 Examples of supportable events might include (but are not limited to):

- Workshops
- Exhibitions and installations
- Performances
- Film screenings
- Virtual [digital] activities
- Hands on activities
- Research busking
- Hackathons
- Tagathons
- Debates
- Pecha Kucha or Ignite sessions
- Walks and tours
- Public talks, lectures and debates

Applicants are advised to look through the 2014 programme of events to get a sense of potentially fundable activities: http://beinghumanfestival.org/events/

3.5 To be eligible to apply for funding, events should

- Be led by a UK HEI or Independent Research Organisation, or cultural organisations in partnership with a HEI or IRO
- Be held in the UK
- Be held during the Festival period (though applications which include pre-festival ‘warm up’ events will also be considered)
- Fit with the aims of the festival
- Be free to attend
- Engage with at least one cultural or community partner (e.g. galleries, museums, charities)
- Be targeted at a primarily non-academic audience.

3.6 Applications are particularly welcomed which promise to:

- Unveil or disseminate new and exciting research in the humanities;
- Engage with diverse audiences (specifically ethnically diverse audiences and young people between 15-19 years of age);
- Explore imaginative and unusual venues for festival activities;
- engage well known speakers and figures associated with the humanities, and which
- demonstrate capacity to maximise media impact and provide legacy beyond the festival;
- present evidence of ‘in kind’ or match funding.

3.7 Sample eligible costs are: venue and equipment hire; consumables (excluding catering for audience members); travel. Although requests for professional fees will be considered, we will not make any contribution to existing staff members’ costs.

4 APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 The School of Advanced Study will coordinate the application and selection process. Applications will be considered by the Steering Group, which includes representatives from the British Academy, the AHRC, and the School.

4.2 Applications should be made on the prescribed form. The timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 April 2015</td>
<td>2015 Deadline for applications for funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1 May 2015</td>
<td>Notification of outcome of applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 June</td>
<td>Deadline for unfunded event applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24 July</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of final event details</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Launch of the online programme of events</td>
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</tbody>
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4.3 Applications will be judged against the following criteria:

- fit with the Festival’s aims and objectives
- topicality and capacity to engage with public debates
- potential for engaging diverse, non-academic audiences
- potential for media interest
- accessibility and impact
- innovativeness and creativity
- feasibility and cost-effectiveness
- potential for legacy beyond the duration of the Festival
- capacity to properly document and evaluate the proposed activity.
  Cultural partner (see above)

4.4 Applicants should note that, as well as using the above criteria, the Steering Group will when considering applications have regard for geographical and disciplinary spread, as well as thematic cohesion. It is strongly recommended that applicants therefore consult with their Research Office, public engagement unit or equivalent before submission, as multiple applications from the same institution are unlikely to be successful. Multiple events hosted by one institution are welcomed, but should be presented as a centrally coordinated programme via one application. The panel will assume that any application submitted has the support of its host institution.

4.5 Acceptance of any award implies acceptance of the terms and conditions. The panel will assume that any necessary safety, staffing and other institutional matters have been properly considered. Due acknowledgement will be required in any promotional or other information; and institutions will be required to evaluate the success of their events using the evaluation methods specified by the Being Human festival team.
4.6 Activities that are funded solely by the host institution/s, but which ROs would like to be considered for inclusion in the Being Human programme are also welcomed. Details should be submitted to the festival steering committee by 26 June 2015. Guidance will follow in due course.

5. TRAINING IN ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

As part of our preparations for Being Human 2015 we will be arranging offering training in public engagement skills for researchers. Workshops will be free to attend and open to all, with first refusal given to institutions participating in the festival. Details will follow.