DELFINA FOUNDATION

OPEN CALL
DELFINA X LITHUANIA CULTURE INSTITUTE

Collecting as Practice

GUIDANCE NOTES

Delfina Foundation is pleased to announce an international open call in partnership with the Lithuanian Culture Institute for its upcoming spring 2027 residency season (29 March - 18 June) under its recurring thematic programme *Collecting as Practice*.

On this occasion, Delfina Foundation welcomes applications from artists living and working in Lithuania, or who hold Lithuanian citizenship and are living and working abroad, and whose practice and research seeks to explore some of the fundamental questions concerned with the act of collecting: what is kept, preserved and remembered - and what might be the consequences of those decisions?

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY THEME

For this thematic season, we will be celebrating the ten-year anniversary of *Collecting as Practice* (CAP), one of Delfina Foundation's seasonal thematic programmes. Initiated in 2017, CAP explores the philosophy, psychology and politics of collecting through exhibitions, events and residencies for artists, curators and, for the first time, collectors. More information on the programme and its previous iterations can be found here.

Across previous iterations, CAP has explored questions around collections, archives, preservation and value. For its ten-year anniversary, the programme shifts its focus slightly away from the collection or object itself and towards the decisions that shape what is kept, preserved and remembered - and the consequences of those decisions.

This opens up questions including: How do we decide what is worth keeping? What does it mean to preserve something? Who gets to decide what enters a collection or becomes part of a history? And what happens when preservation becomes a form of control?

DELFINA FOUNDATION'S THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Delfina Foundation's residency programme is structured around the four seasons of the year. Within this, occasional twelve-week seasons bring together groups of practitioners under a specific theme to collectively engage in a shared area of interest. Current recurring themes include: *Performance as Process*, *Collecting as Practice*, *The Politics of Food*, *Making and Materiality*, and *science_technology_society*. The ambition of the thematic seasons is to create a focused environment

that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange among practitioners from around the world, who can offer different approaches and insights. These ongoing programmes build on each other, creating an ever-evolving hub for incubating ideas and an international network of practitioners.

Delfina Foundation's spring residency season 2027 (29 March - 18 June) sees the fifth iteration of *Collecting as Practice.*

RESIDENCY ACTITIVIES

Delfina residencies support peer-to-peer conversations between participants through programmed activities together, as well as providing an encouraging environment for informal exchange to take place.

In addition, Delfina can propose and facilitate workshops, meetings, and connections for residents with relevant practitioners and professionals — including artists, curators, academics, researchers, funders. and institutions.

Moreover, the internal residency activities are complemented with external public programme events — including talks, workshops, screenings, and panel discussions — which is brought together in dialogue with residents who may wish to contribute.

ABOUT DELFINA FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, Delfina Foundation hosts artists and creative practitioners from around the world in its home in central London: providing essential space and support for experimentation, research, and development; facilitating vital networks and dialogue across the art world and society; presenting new artists, art, and ideas to local and global audiences; and nurturing long-standing global communities of artists and creative practitioners.

ELIGIBILITY

Thanks to the support of the Lithuanian Culture Institute, this opportunity is open to artists living and working in Lithuania, or who hold Lithuanian citizenship and are living and working abroad. Candidates are expected to have been active in the Lithuanian art scene and collaborating with Lithuanian cultural organisations for at least three years. As part of their application, candidates will need to demonstrate their motivation and how their practice addresses issues to do with collecting, preservation, conservation and archiving, make strong proposals for how they will use this opportunity to explore ideas within the stated theme.

APPLICANTS

The selected artist will be offered a fully-funded twelve-week residency, including:

— A return economy-class flight
— Airport transfers in the UK
— Reimbursement of visa fees (if required)
— Per diems of £40 per day
— A materials and research budget of £1,000
— A travel pass for London's public transport network
— A single bedroom with a desk at Delfina Foundation, a house which hosts up to 8 residents with shared facilities, including: bathrooms, laundry rooms, a kitchen, library and dining room

Please note that travel insurance is not covered. Selected residents are required to obtain travel insurance at their own initiative and expense, and to send a copy of the insurance documents to Delfina Foundation prior to travelling to the residency.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply please complete and submit the online form.

The deadline for applications is 23:59 GMT on 4 January 2027. Received applications will be reviewed by members of the Delfina team and invited relevant experts. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online interview. Applicants who have not made the shortlist will be notified at this time. All interviewees will be notified as to the success of their application by the end of January 2027.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I apply in order to develop a project that is already in progress?
Yes. We are happy for the programme to support and help move forward ideas in progress if we see where the residency can add value to this.

Your project could be at an early stage of research, seeking collaborators, or underway and close to the production stage.

What kind of outcomes are you expecting?
We do not expect or require any specific outcomes. In terms of the programme, we want to create a support system for new ideas to take shape at a pace that is comfortable for all parties involved.

What level of applicants are you accepting?
This programme is open to professionals in the arts, science, mental health, technology or closely related fields with

proven experience. We will judge candidates based on their track record and previous, completed projects.

What level of English is required of residents?
Applicants are required to be proficient in English in order to be best placed to benefit from the type of residency programme at Delfina Foundation. Interviews for the residency will be conducted in English, and candidates will need to be able to effectively explain their ideas and research.

I have previously applied to an open call. Is it worthwhile applying again?
We encourage applications from practitioners who have applied to previous calls, be it a country-based open call or a previous thematic programme open call. We always receive more strong applications to our calls than we have opportunities available, so we are always happy to consider updated or new applications from previous applicants.

Can duos or collectives apply?
Generally, it is difficult for us to host residencies with international collectives, given the resources and space required to host them. Our accommodation comprises of eight single rooms. We recommend that collectives or duos who wish to apply put forth one member to represent them in-residence if they are prepared to work in such a way.

Can the partners, children, dependents, or pets of international residents be accommodated?

Delfina Foundation is a communal residence with limited space. Over the years we have discovered that the nature of our accommodation, as well as our intensive programmes, does not suit non-participants or pets/ESAs being resident on-site. If it is essential that a selected international programme participant be accompanied for part or all of the residency they will need to organise their own accommodation during this time. If you have specific questions, please email opencall@delfinafoundation.

How can specific access support be attained?

Delfina Foundation has always welcomed applicants from all backgrounds, including D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists and others who have specific needs. We are open to discussing how our residencies can be adapted to meet the needs of the applicants that have been selected for a residency. If you have specific questions in advance of applying, regarding your access requirements with respect to the application process itself, the residency programme, and/or the Delfina House, where residents live and work, please email our Director of Operations Gillean Dickie on gillean@delfinafoundation.com, with the subject line: ‘Open call: Access’.