
G. A.

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FOUNDATION

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G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2025

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Background

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation, established in 2019 by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, is a non-profit organisation that operates residencies and public programmes across two sites: one in the vibrant city of Lagos and another on a rural working farm in Ijebu, Ogun State. G.A.S. Foundation offers multidisciplinary artists, researchers, cultural workers, and curators from around the world residencies of up to three months in its live/work spaces.

Yinka's vision for the foundation is to foster the development of new work and ideas, promote cultural understanding, and dismantle traditional barriers of privilege. This is achieved by creating access to education, building networks, and developing a resilient cultural infrastructure that supports the next generation. The foundation achieves this through residencies, educational programmes, and professional development opportunities in Nigeria.

Since launching its residencies in May 2022 G.A.S. Foundation has hosted a diverse array of residents, including emerging to established artists, architects, curators, archivists, and researchers amongst others. In the UK, the Yinka Shonibare Foundation fundraises, establishes international partnerships, and provides strategic oversight to G.A.S. Foundation. Both entities are governed by a board of trustees chaired by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA.



About the G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2025

The G.A.S. Fellowship Award was launched in February 2022 as a vehicle for nurturing artistic talent on the African continent and offering opportunities for creative development and knowledge exchange. Since its inception we have awarded 10 funded residencies to practitioners working across a broad range of disciplines.

Guest Artists Space Foundation (G.A.S.) in partnership with the **Yinka Shonibare Foundation (Y.S.F.)** is thrilled to announce the **third edition** of the prestigious **G.A.S. Fellowship Award**. This year, two fully-funded **six-week residencies** at **G.A.S. Lagos** are being offered to outstanding mid-career professionals based and actively working on the African continent: **one residency for a mid-career fine art visual artist** and **one residency for a mid-career curator**.

The residencies will take place strictly between the following dates:

- **Residency 1 (Mid-Career Fine Art Visual Artist):** 5th May - 14th June 2025 (6 weeks)
- **Residency 2 (Mid-Career Curator) :** 16th June - 25th July 2025 (6 weeks)

The residencies fall under the wider scope of Project Nexus, an ambitious residency and education programme designed to nurture and empower artists, art educators, art historians, and curators through a series of residencies, professional development workshops, and educational initiatives over three years. The project embodies the spirit of collaboration and cultural exchange that lies at the heart of both Foundations' missions, aiming to encourage and cultivate artistic excellence and curatorial innovation.

Project Nexus is generously supported by Deutsche Bank.





Application Guidelines

Residency 1: Fine Art Visual Artist

Application Guidelines

Residency 1: Fine Art Visual Artist

For this edition of the G.A.S. Fellowship Award, we invite applications from **mid-career fine artists** whose work fosters meaningful dialogue between diverse communities and cultural perspectives. We are seeking artists who actively engage others in their practice, building relationships that transcend individual or geographic boundaries.

We encourage proposals that emphasise **collaboration, co-creation and shared learning**, as the residency is designed to cultivate a vibrant space for creative and intellectual exchange. Whether through partnerships, cross-disciplinary approaches, or cross-cultural interactions, your ability to work collaboratively and harness the transformative potential of cultural exchange will play a central role in the selection process.

As part of the application, you will be asked to reflect on the following:

- How does your practice explore **collaborative co-creation**?
- In what ways have you contributed to **community building** and **knowledge sharing** in your career?
- Have you offered **mentorship or peer support** as part of your professional journey?
- Why are you interested in a residency within the **cultural context and local environment of Lagos**?



Application Guidelines

Residency 1: Fine Art Visual Artist (cont.)

OUTCOMES

Applicants are not required to produce specific artworks during their residency but this can be their choice. Given the limitations of the shared studio space at G.A.S. Lagos, we warmly welcome applications from practitioners who may wish to use the residency as a period for practice-related research and exploration.

As part of the residency, selected fellow will be expected to contribute a session to our **Ìmòra Arts Intensive**, an initiative dedicated to supporting emerging local talent set to take place between the 9th and 13th June 2025. The programme takes its name from the Yoruba words “*Ìmòra*” (support, guidance, mentorship) and “*Ìmò ẹ̀kọ*” (acquisition of knowledge or skill-building). This one-week intensive professional development programme, hosted at G.A.S. Lagos, will focus on providing mentorship and skill-building opportunities for **ten** rising local creative practitioners and will be **available through a separate open call early in 2025**.

As part of the application process, applicants will be required to submit a brief proposal (400 words max) detailing their planned contribution to the **Ìmòra Arts Intensive**. This could take the form of a **masterclass, workshop, artist talk**, or any other activity designed to actively engage and inspire the intensive cohort.



Eligibility

Residency 1: Fine Art Visual Artist

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- A **national of AND currently residing** in one of the 54 **African countries**.
- A **fine art visual artist** which for the purposes of this open call is defined as a professional practitioner engaged in the creation of original works that explore conceptual, aesthetic, and material concerns through mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, performance, video, new media, or other interdisciplinary practices.
- A **mid-career practitioner**, defined as an individual who has been actively producing and publicly presenting work through exhibitions or projects for at least seven years. They should have an established reputation in the art world (on a global or local level), regularly exhibit within their region, and have developed a substantial body of work.
- Seeking to **develop their practice** within the specific **context of Lagos**, Nigeria.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they **meet the application guidelines** outlined in the previous slide.
- Available **to participate in a residency** between **5th May - 14th June 2025** (6 weeks)
- **Proficient in spoken and written English**. Applicants with limited proficiency in English may find it difficult to navigate the local context of Lagos effectively.
- Able to **supply a reference letter** from a Senior Curator, Senior Gallerist or Director of a cultural institution.



Residency Award

Residency 1: Fine Art Visual Artist

The G.A.S. Fellowship residency award encompasses the following elements:

- **A £1,750 Travel Allowance:** This covers economy flights or other transportation to Lagos, any necessary visas, travel medication, and travel insurance.
- **A £1,000 Honorarium.**
- **A £1,000 Stipend:** This covers basic living expenses. Any trips or excursions outside of Lagos will incur an additional cost with the exception of the G.A.S. Farm House.
- **A £250 Materials Budget:** This should cover the purchase of any residency specific materials. We recommend that residents bring any specialist materials with them.
- **Accommodation and Cleaning:** In Lagos residents are allocated a private bedroom with ensuite. The building is serviced by cleaners and room cleans can be booked on a weekly basis. Lagos residents have access to a shared studio/event space as well as the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive on site.
- **Pastoral Care and Residency Support:** The G.A.S. team are on site Monday to Friday to support the needs of residents and help with booking trips and visits, organising meetings, accessing the library.
- **Driver and Security:** Residents have access to the G.A.S. Driver and Security on weekdays. This service also includes airport transfers.
- **Event Production Support:** The G.A.S. team provide production support to help with the successful delivery of your planned contribution to the Ìmòrà Arts Intensive.





Application Guidelines

Residency 2: Curator

Application Guidelines

Residency 2: Curator

For this edition of the G.A.S. Fellowship Award, we invite applications from curators whose practices consider **pedagogical methodologies** as tools for **connecting with audiences, expanding access to exhibition spaces, and fostering meaningful community dialogue** around artistic practices and outputs. This is an opportunity to explore curatorial strategies that not only respond to but also have the potential to actively shape local cultural contexts and conversations.

As part of the application process, curators will be asked to submit an initial proposal for an exhibition or intervention to be realised at G.A.S. Lagos. Whilst we understand that proposals will evolve and change in response to the residency experience, they should demonstrate a thoughtful approach to **local engagement, and reimagining curatorial possibilities** within the unique cultural and creative ecosystem of Lagos. Applicants are encouraged to consider the city's cultural diversity, its dynamic creative networks, and opportunities for **rethinking the role of access, and participation**.

OUTCOMES

The selected curator will use their residency to further refine and develop their proposal through on-the-ground research, culminating in the realisation of an **exhibition or intervention at G.A.S. Lagos**. The exhibition is scheduled to run from **21st July to 15th August (4 weeks)**, with its opening week coinciding with the final week of the residency.

As part of this award, the curator will receive an exhibition production budget and comprehensive support from the G.A.S. team. This includes assistance with exhibition planning and installation, photography and documentation, marketing and communications, and logistical coordination to ensure the successful delivery of the project.



Eligibility

Residency 2: Curator

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- A **national** of **AND** **currently residing** in one of the 54 **African countries**.
- A **curator** which for the purposes of this open call is defined as a professional practitioner dedicated to the conceptualisation, organisation, and presentation of exhibitions, interventions, or artistic programmes.
- Have a **mid-career curatorial practice**, referring in this instance to the professional stage of a curator who has established a significant body of work and demonstrated a sustained commitment to curatorial development over at least seven years. Mid-career curators typically have a proven track record of organising exhibitions, projects, or programmes that reflect a mature and evolving curatorial voice.
- Seeking to **develop their practice** within the specific **context of Lagos, Nigeria**.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they **meet the application guidelines** outlined in the previous slide.
- Available to **participate in a residency** between **16th June - 25th July 2025** (6 weeks)
- **Proficient in spoken and written English**. Applicants with limited proficiency in English may find it difficult to navigate the local context of Lagos effectively.
- Able to **supply a reference letter** from a Director of a cultural institution.



Residency Award

Residency 2: Curator

The G.A.S. Fellowship residency award encompasses the following elements:

- **A £1,750 Travel Allowance:** This covers economy flights or other transportation to Lagos, any necessary visas, travel medication, and travel insurance.
- **A £1,000 Honorarium.**
- **A £1,000 Stipend:** This covers basic living expenses and the purchase of any residency specific materials. We recommend that residents bring any specialist materials with them. Any trips or excursions outside of Lagos will incur an additional cost with the exception of the G.A.S. Farm House.
- **A £1,000 Exhibition Production Budget:** This should cover loan fees, artwork transportation, specialist install equipment (some equipment available on site), install labour, display materials (some available on site), equipment hire, printing etc. G.A.S. will cover exhibition marketing and documentation.
- **Accommodation and Cleaning:** In Lagos residents are allocated a private bedroom with ensuite. The building is serviced by cleaners and room cleans can be booked on a weekly basis. Lagos residents have access to a shared studio/event space as well as the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive on site.
- **Pastoral Care and Residency Support:** The G.A.S. team are on site Monday to Friday to support the needs of residents and help with booking trips and visits, organising meetings, accessing the library.
- **Driver and Security:** Residents have access to the G.A.S. Driver and Security on weekdays. This service also includes airport transfers.
- **Exhibition Production Support:** The G.A.S. team provide production support to help with the successful delivery of your exhibition.



Application Form & Timeline

Eligible individuals wishing to apply for this opportunity should complete the application form:

[\(link here\)](#)

Deadline for Applications: 12th January 2025.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- 9th December 2024 Applications open.
- 19th December 2024 Online Information Session. This is a valuable opportunity for prospective applicants to learn more about the G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2025 and ask any questions they may have.
- 12th January 2025 Applications close.
- 4th and 5th February 2025 Shortlisted applicants interviewed.
- 12th February 2025 Final selection



About the Buildings: G.A.S. Lagos

The first G.A.S. residency building located in Oniru, Lagos is a modern, brutalist-inspired structure that wraps around a central courtyard. In 2022, G.A.S. began populating its library archive after receiving a donation from Professor John Picton and Sue Picton of a lifelong personal collection, consisting of around 1500 volumes. The donated books cover topics including Sub-Saharan African art, history, and archaeology, as well as African American and Black British arts. Collected over several decades, they are an invaluable resource for scholars, artists, and researchers interested in the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Africa.

On the ground floor residents will find an open plan shared studio/event/exhibition space, a portion of the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive, the G.A.S. staff office, an event kitchen and a small staff studio apartment. The first floor includes a shared kitchen and utilities room, three double en-suite residency bedrooms, the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive and a small outdoor terrace. G.A.S. staff are on-site Monday to Friday to support residents' needs, the building includes 24/7 security and residents have access to shared use of the G.A.S. driver and security on weekdays.



About the Buildings: G.A.S. Farm House

The second residency building sits on the lush 54-acre Ecology Green Farm in the village of Ikise, Ijebu Ode. The farm produces crops ranging from cassava and cashew to peppers and maize. The building includes one ensuite double bedroom and two double bedrooms with a shared bathroom, studio/work space, and an open plan kitchen/living room. A walled garden surrounds the building and an exterior 'wet' workshop was constructed in 2023 to support residents wanting to undertake larger scale projects.

The G.A.S. Farm House supports residencies with a focus on the arts, science, ecology, agriculture, and research and was created with sustainable infrastructure and food security for the local community in mind. The build stayed true to the farm's guiding 'sustainability first' ethos by only using local materials for construction including 40,000 bricks made from soil dug up for the foundations.



G.A.S. Team and Board



Moni Aisida
Executive Director



Adekunle Adeboye
Residency Manager



Catherine Bardi
Communications and
Events Coordinator



Tomiwa Adegbola
Library and Projects
Coordinator

The G.A.S. team are on site Monday to Friday to support the needs of residents and help with booking trips and visits, organising meetings, accessing the library and delivering events and activations.



Yinka Shonibare CBE RA
Founder and Chair



Bimpe Nkontchou
Trustee



Temitayo Ogunbiyi
Trustee



Tokini Peterside-Schwebig
Trustee



Niyi Adenubi
Trustee



Ugoma Ebilah
Trustee

FAQs

How many people are in residence at any one time?

Each G.A.S. residency building can accommodate up to three residents at one time.

How long is the residency?

This residency is 6 weeks long. The visual arts fellowship takes place between 5th May - 14th June 2025 and the curatorial fellowship takes place between 16th June - 26th July 2025. These dates are not flexible, and applicant should ensure they are able to commit to these dates before submitting their application.

Can Lagos based residents visit the G.A.S. Farm House and vice versa?

Yes. This is actively supported and most residents will have the opportunity to experience both locations.

Will I need a visa for Nigeria?

As of 2024, regular passport holders from 17 countries visiting Nigeria for tourism purposes including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire do not require a visa and will be granted permission for short-term stay on arrival. All other passport holders can apply for a pre approved visa or visa on arrival. G.A.S. can provide some support with the visa application process.

How are selected candidates prepared for the residency?

In the lead up to the residency three onboarding sessions are scheduled to prepare candidates. Each session has a specific focus and covers topics including travel, health and safety, building and facilities, residency use, networking and itinerary, and community engagement.

Will I need any vaccinations or medication?

We recommend that all residents receive a vaccination for Yellow Fever at least 10 days before travel. Nigeria is located within a Malaria zone therefore Malaria tablets should form an essential part of each residents travel kit.

Are you able to support residents and applicants with access needs?

G.A.S. Foundation's Accessibility Policy can be viewed here: https://bit.ly/gas_access. Applicants requiring further access information or assistance relating to both the residency and application process should contact magda@yinkashonibarefoundation.com.