

Fellowship in Residence

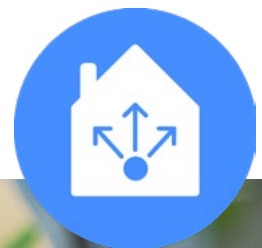
Tech Futures: What's next?

An opportunity to spend 6 months in residence with [Knowle West Media Centre](#) (KWMC) in Bristol, Knowle West.

This is a Fellowship for an established creative technologist or artist/ researcher.

You will be immersed in a socially engaged arts and tech organisation who have been working in and with communities to make, critique and creatively use cutting edge tech for almost 30 years. For KWMC it has always been essential to ensure that communities, especially those most marginalised, are able to access, hack and creatively engage with the latest digital trends and new technologies.

KWMC are looking for a Fellow who would be excited to deep dive into KWMC's past digital arts and tech practices and use that lens to explore what matters now for community tech...



Overview

Our MyWorld Fellowships are aimed at freelancers, practitioners, industry folk, and academics based in the West of England. They offer paid experimentation and research time, with an emphasis on collaboration and interdisciplinary working. Unlike more traditional Fellowships, we are encouraging people to make things and be part of an active network of people with extraordinary skills and expertise.

You will be bringing an existing practice, expertise or other relevant experience and are looking to apply that in an organisational setting with the view to share learnings more publicly with peers.

You will be contracted and paid via the University of Bristol but supported by Watershed. Day-to-day the Fellow will be an integral part of the KWMC team with support and guidance from the core team. You will also have access to a network of creative and technical experts to ensure meaningful outcomes.

You can also benefit from a temporary residency at the Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol.

This document contains information about the opportunity and the application process. If you have any access requirements that mean this document does not work for you, please contact Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk.



Image: Ania Shrimpton: 'The Factory Open Day 2022'



The Fellowship

Tech Futures: What's Next?

This is a Fellowship for an established creative technologist or artist/researcher, who is used to working independently and proactively to deliver accessible research outcomes in a non-Academic setting.

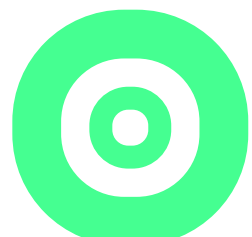
You will be immersed in KWMC, a socially engaged arts and tech organisation who have worked in and with communities to make, critique and creatively use cutting edge tech for almost 30 years.

The focus of this Fellowship will be to horizon scan, map, imagine and share what's next for tech and its potential in a community context, in particular communities surrounding KWMC. However, we are keen to make sure that findings and recommendations can be translated to and shared within other community contexts in the West of England and beyond.

KWMC recently launched their 'Foundations for the Future' exhibition charting 29 years of community tech and digital arts practices. From placing camera tech in the hands of young people in the late 90s, to address story-making power inequities to communities leading the way in citizen sensing and people being empowered with digital fabrication know-how. For KWMC it has always been essential to ensure that communities are able to access, hack and creatively engage with the latest digital trends and new technologies.

In a world where we freely give our data to corporations and governments, social platforms are dominated by big tech giants, AI tools are becoming accessible to most, fact-checking is increasingly more challenging, and high-end production kit is often inaccessible: what's next for everyday innovation? KWMC are looking for a Fellow who would be excited to deep dive into KWMC's past digital arts practices, explore what matters now and highlight what is on the tech horizon.

This Fellowship sits in the broader context of KWMC's place-based mission to 'Shape Fairer futures together, with arts, tech and care.' The team at KWMC will support you to delve into our past practices, as a springboard for futures thinking. We can support public activities around your research, but the key outcome is a thorough and shareable mapping of future tech trends that KWMC and other organisations could apply in a community context.





The Fellowship (continued)

The award: £12,000 for 6 months at 2.5 days/week

For a payment schedule breakdown please check the [FAQs](#).

Key Responsibilities (outputs):

- Use KWMC's past practice as a springboard for future tech horizon scanning.
- Share knowledge and understanding of future digital arts and tech innovations and trends (with KWMC staff, participants and communities.)
- Create an accessible document mapping findings that can help KWMC support ongoing work and unlock funding.
- Document and share your learnings and skills across KWMC teams, with peers and the wider sector as appropriate.
- Share your learning via a blog post and/or public talks at KWMC or Pervasive Media Studio (if appropriate).

Experience and Skill Set

- Established practice as a creative technologist or artist/researcher working with creative technology.
- Working knowledge of 'Community tech,' Tech innovation & Digital arts.
- Experience of working with mixed media archives.
- Ability to work independently and proactively.
- Experience of collaborating in interdisciplinary teams.
- Able to capture, reflect upon and share learnings.

Desirable experience

- Experience of group facilitation and running accessible creative technology workshops. Confident experimenting with hardware and software.
- Experience of working in a community context.

Where applicants for this opportunity score equally against the above criteria we will seek to prioritise those who are underrepresented in the UK creative technology sector.

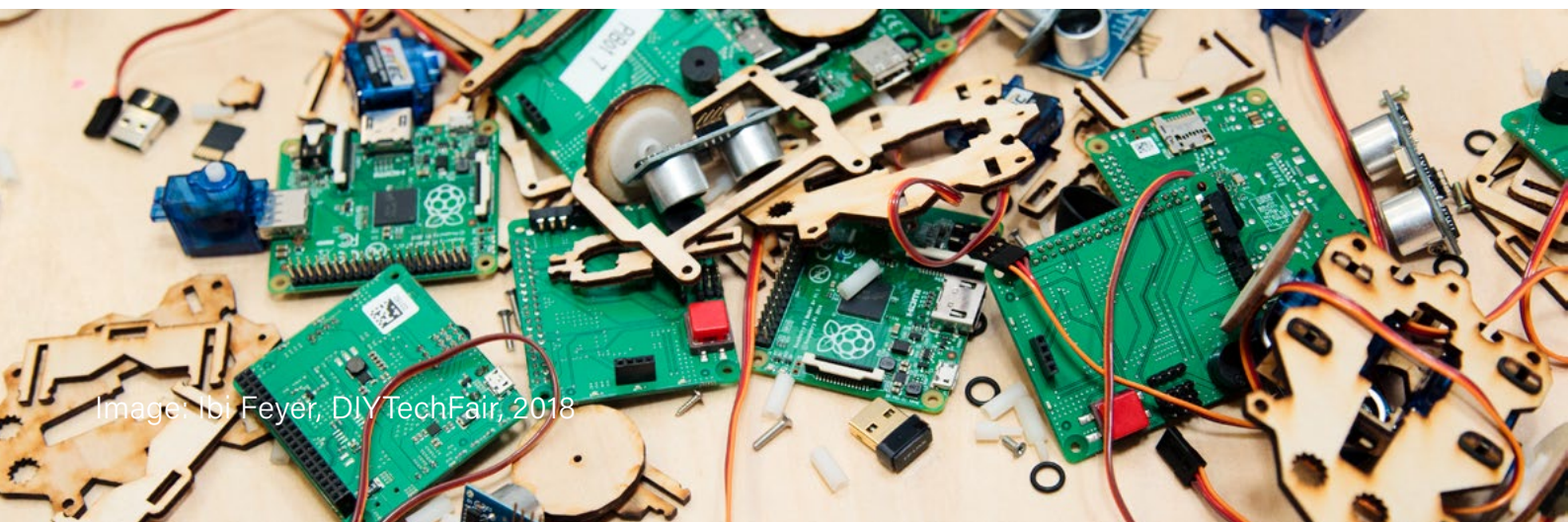


Image: Ibi Feyer, DIY TechFair, 2018

What do we expect from you?

- You will join as a MyWorld Fellow, embedding yourself within the KWMC teams.
- Most of your time is spent at KWMC, working alongside KWMC producers, Knowle West community members and researchers. KWMC is a place-based organisation and so in-person presence is required. Some remote/hybrid working is also possible, but we would expect you to be in the building at least half of the time per week.
- You will produce an outcome that is useable for KWMC community context and can be shared for wider learning.
- We value open, collaborative processes. We encourage you to share progress with peer networks and be receptive to new ideas, approaches, and feedback.

What do you get?

- A grant of £12,000 for 6 months embedded exploration at 2.5 days/week (incl. expenses).
- Access to an interdisciplinary community across MyWorld and the partner universities.
- Producer support from KWMC.
- Support from a Watershed producer (relationship management, contracts, networking, signposting to opportunities, etc.)
- For the duration of MyWorld's programme: Desk space and access to facilities at the Pervasive Media Studio as well as KWMC and KWMC The Factory (digital fabrication space), connecting you with the Knowle West communities.
- Access support where relevant and upon prior agreement.
- Opportunity to apply your community arts and tech research skills in a community context.
- Sharing opportunities for any work made, via KWMC networks and Pervasive Media Studio Lunchtime Talks and/or blogs, Watershed First Friday programme, and other opportunities.



Image: Pervasive Media Studio

How to apply

You are invited to answer four questions in an online questionnaire focusing on how you meet the skills and experience for the Fellowship and how you can build care into the process.

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to interview.

Apply here for the MyWorld Fellowship in Residence:

<https://wshd.to/kwmc2application>

Please check the eligibility criteria in the [FAQs](#) before applying.

We understand that online forms do not work for everyone. If you would like to apply by alternative means please email Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk.

Assessment Criteria

We will assess applications for the Fellowship with the following criteria:

- You will meet all the eligibility criteria outlined in the [FAQs](#).
- How you demonstrate the Experience and Skills set outlined on page 4.
- How you demonstrate the Desirable Experience outlined on page 4.





Timeline

- Closing date for applications:
Monday 5 May 2025 **at 09.00a.m.** (BST!)
- Applicants will hear from us by end of:
Wednesday 14 May
- Interviews
Wednesday 21 May
- Contracting:
May/June
- Fellowship start date:
w/c 23 June
- Fellowship end date:
w/c 22 December 2025



Talk to Us

We have shared some [FAQs](#) here. If your question has not been answered please contact Martha King on myworld@watershed.co.uk

Application form for Fellowship in residence:
<https://wshd.to/kwmc2application>



Image: Ibi Feyer, 'Nature as a Tool for Rest' by Emma Blake Morsi

About Knowle West Media Centre

[Knowle West Media Centre](#) (KWMC) is a place-based arts and digital organisation who've worked in and with their local community, Knowle West Bristol, since 1996.

KWMC's mission is to 'Create more thriving neighbourhoods together, with art, tech and care.' KWMC are an active part of the European Network of Living Labs and work at a hyper local level to create innovative models/tools that can be adapted and adopted globally.

KWMC's community tech approach focuses on demystifying technologies, creating equitable access and taking an experimental approach to co-designing the tech tools and systems people want to make, to affect change at a community level. KWMC have a digital fabrication space ([The Factory](#)) and a studio with music recording, edit suites and performance/exhibition space.



Image: KWMC, 2024

About Pervasive Media Studio and Watershed

[Watershed](#) is a cultural organisation focussed on togetherness. We produce accessible and inclusive experiences that fire up the imagination in our venue, online and across the world. We are recognised internationally as a leading centre for film culture, art and technology practice, and talent development programmes. Our values sit at the heart of everything we do, both creative and operational. With an ethos of responsibility and kindness, we produce and deliver support which is more than the sum of its parts.

[The Pervasive Media Studio](#) hosts a brilliant community of over 200 artists, creative companies, technologists and academics exploring experience design and creative technology. We have an open plan studio with a culture of generosity, curiosity and interruptability. We believe that by clustering together people from a broad range of backgrounds, with differing skills, experiences and opinions, all of our ideas get better.

It is a collaboration between Watershed, University of Bristol and UWE Bristol.

About MyWorld

Watershed and the Pervasive Media Studio are part of a programme called [MyWorld](#) which will showcase the latest advances in digital production and research.

Led by the University of Bristol, the aim of MyWorld is to position the West of England as an international trailblazer in creative media production and technology, through forging dynamic collaborations between academia and industry to progress technological innovation, deliver creative excellence, establish and operate state of the art facilities, offer skills training and drive inward investment, in order to raise the region's profile on the global stage.

MyWorld is funded through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) 'Strength in Places fund'

Main Delivery partners: University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, Bath Spa University, Watershed, Digital Catapult, Aardman Animations, Lux Aeterna, Esprit Film and Television, Bristol Old Vic and Opposable Games.

Front page image credit: KWMC, Making It, Animatronics, 2019

