

I Am Network 2025-26

CPD Brief

Overview

We are looking for expressions of interest from artists and organisations interested in delivering practical CPD sessions for the I Am Network. We will be commissioning 3 artists/organisations to deliver these over the 2025-2026 academic year.

The commissioned artists/organisations will deliver a half day CPD for up to 25 teachers working with Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in a variety of education settings across London. They will share their practice, provide take away ideas that can easily be implemented in the classroom and refresh and inspire the teachers.

We are particularly interested in hearing from those who identify as Deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent, and from disabled-led arts organisations.

Budget: Up to £1,200 including VAT (to include all resources, facilitator costs, catering and venue cost)

Please note if you do not have your own venue, A New Direction's space in Hackney Wick can be used.

About the I Am Network

A New Direction's I Am Network is a free professional development programme for educators working with Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in London's schools and specialist settings. The Network meets twice a term over the academic year, working together to improve creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people who are Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent.

I Am Network members are supported to share good practice with other teachers working across a huge range of settings in London. The network also provides an opportunity to meet and share strategies and ideas for bringing the curriculum to life in ways that meet students' needs as well as connecting with various cultural organisations across the city. In the 2024/2025 academic year we were fortunate enough to be hosted by V&A Kensington, Studio Voltaire and ActionSpace.

Details

Art form	<p>We are looking for three artists/ cultural organisations who have a practice which may be rooted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immersive/interactive arts - Music - Dance/movement - Theatre/performance - Visual Art - Story telling - Digital arts /animation <p>We would also be interested in hearing from organisations/artists whose practice may not be defined by the above.</p>
Dates	<p>There will be one CPD session per term, within the following months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October (after half term) – December 2025 - February (after half term) – March 2026 - June – July 2026* <p>Regardless of the month of delivery an Eventbrite with information about the CPD will be published in September 2025</p> <p>*As delivery for the Summer Term workshop takes place in the next financial year, the contract and fee for this session will be split, with payments for planning issued in the summer term 2025 and payment for delivery issued in April 2026.</p>
Times	<p>The CPD session should be between 2.5 - 4 hours long</p> <p>We suggest CPD sessions start at 1pm and are concluded by 5pm</p>
Location	<p>Visiting different cultural venues is a key part of the I Am Network, therefore we envisage the CPD being held in a venue that the artist/organisation has a connection to. If the artist/organisation doesn't have a venue, A New Direction's space in Hackney Wick can be used.</p> <p>The venue will need to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large enough for approximately 25 attendees - Fully accessible - Have facilities for providing light refreshments (teas, coffees, biscuits) - Easily accessible via public transport <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The venue will offer attendees the opportunity to visit or engage with a cultural event or space as part of the CPD e.g. access to a gallery, archive, rehearsal, experience etc
Attendees	<p>Attendees will be teachers and support staff working with Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in specialist and mainstream education settings.</p>

	There will be a maximum of 25 attendees
Content	<p>The CPD should be a practical, hands-on session and could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short talk or presentation by a creative expert relevant to the art form being explored • A practical / workshop element to explore materials and approaches • A 'next steps/reflection' moment supporting participants to plan for how to use what they have learned in the classroom. This might include take away resources and/or materials <p>Teachers attending the CPD will work with students from a wide range of age groups, with different learning styles and access requirements and therefore the CPD content needs to be adaptable. Delivery partners don't need to provide all the answers but need to have a flexible approach.</p>

Expression of Interest

To express your interest in working with us to deliver a CPD session, please send us an expression of interest (EOI) outlining the following:

- A brief idea for the focus of a CPD session
- An indication of available dates to deliver (if known)
- An estimated, outline budget (e.g. practitioner fees, materials and catering etc)
- Any anticipated additional access costs (we have a separate budget for this across the wider programme, and this will need to be looked at on an individual basis)

EOIs can be sent in any format, e.g. a Word document, video, audio, to iam@anewdirection.org.uk.

Deadline: Wednesday 4th June at 5pm

If you have questions about this brief or would like to have an informal conversation about our work, please email iam@anewdirection.org.uk to arrange a time.

Access

It is really important to us that there are no barriers to anyone applying for opportunities at A New Direction. Please let us know if you have any access requirements and/or would like to submit your application in a different format by contacting iam@anewdirection.org.uk.