

Press Release

## SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

£100,000 fellowship to support artists announced to mark 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Serpentine Pavilion

8 June 2021



Image Credit: Bedfellows with Youth Forum, *The Making Of...* 2015  
Photograph: Mark Blower

*Support Structures for Support Structures* is a fellowship programme initiated by Serpentine, that supports up to ten artists and collectives working at the intersection of art, spatial politics and community practice. The fellowship consists of an unrestricted grant of £10,000 or more to develop creative ideas as well as providing a network of support, development workshops and mentoring at a timely moment in the recipients' careers.



## **Support Structures for Support Structures – FAQ**

### **Why are you doing this now?**

*Support Structures for Support Structures* recognises that practitioners that work across art, spatial politics and community practice are often not supported by grant programmes or institutions in a sustainable way. It aims to offer that support financially and via resources for learning, exchange and contemplation within the fellowship cohort.

*Support Structures for Support Structures* is announced on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Pavilion, creating a legacy for this unique commission and signaling a new chapter in the commission's history.

The programme has been developed in close collaboration with Pavilion architect Sumayya Vally, and is grounded in the work of Serpentine's Civic Projects programme over the last decade, supporting artists to work with people and communities across London to respond to the complexities of social change, focusing on practices that sit at the intersection of art, spatial politics and community practice.

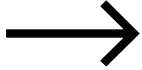
### **How are the Pavilion and SS4SS connected?**

*Support Structures for Support Structures* is announced on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Pavilion, creating a legacy for this unique commission and signalling a new chapter in the commission's history.

The fellowship is developed with Sumayya Vally of architects Counterspace, alongside Serpentine's Civic Projects team.

During the two years of the Pavilion development, Vally and Serpentine's Civic team have been listening and looking closely at spaces of belonging in London, to understand the precarity of these sites of social and cultural production, and the people, artists and organisers who have been resisting their erasure.

Sumayya Vally of Counterspace said: *“My practice and this Pavilion is centred around amplifying and collaborating with multiple and diverse voices from many different histories; with an interest in themes of identity, community, belonging and gathering. The past year has drawn these themes sharply into focus. Through Support Structures for Support Structures, we are working to deepen the Pavilion's intent and focus through a fellowship that helps nurture the practice of individuals and collectives that hold space for communities to gather across London. I am excited to work with Serpentine's Civic Projects team to make this fellowship Support Structures for Support Structures a lasting legacy for the 20th Serpentine Pavilion– to seed, support, grow and imagine different networks, structures, and bodies of knowledge in the arts. One of the most integral parts of this commission has been to extend the ethos of the Pavilion at different scales and in different realms – extending the commission by dispersing parts of the Pavilion and its various commissions over the summer and beyond. This fellowship truly gives us the opportunity to expand the reach of the Pavilion beyond its physical lifespan; and points directly to our collective role and the responsibility that architects have in working toward systemic change.”*



Amal Khalaf, Civic Curator, Serpentine said:

*For over eleven years I have been working with collectives and artists whose work is based in community centres, markets, with migrant labour unions and with activists as well as civic organisations from councils to care homes across London. Through the long term commissions of our Civic projects programme, we have witnessed how artists working collaboratively with people can have an impact on our city, from making injustices more visible, as well as demonstrating how art can play a role in movement spaces and community organising. Often this work is not so visible, and the labour and care that comes with the commitment to this way of working is not always accounted for or made possible by existing structures in the art world. We hope Support Structures for Support Structures can provide a space to support artists who have been committed to doing the work of navigating informal and formal structures that hold our city together, whilst holding a radical politics of working collectively. We hope the fellowship can create a space to think together about how an art system can support these practices better. Through the workshops and conversations that will be held over the period of the fellowship we will look at how we can untangle systems of oppression in the art system and think about building new futures grounded in care and understanding of complex and interdisciplinary ways of working.*

#### **Who is funding this project?**

Support Structures for Support Structures is made possible through the generous support of Agnes Gund, Sarah Arison, Suzanne Deal Booth, Aditya Mittal, Nicoletta Fiorucci Russo, Felicity Waley-Cohen, Barry and Laura Townsley and Andrew Cohen.

#### **How will grantees be selected?**

15 visual arts professionals and community leaders have been invited to each nominate **two** individuals or collectives whose work they believe has been making a significant contribution to their communities or groups that they work with through their artistic practice/projects.

The final selection of up to **ten fellows** will be made by a **Selection Panel** of respected practitioners and leaders.

The process is confidential. Artists/collectives will not be informed of their nomination and nominators are asked not to share details of the artists they nominated, either with the artist themselves or with anyone else.

#### **Who is on the selection panel?**

Sepake Angiama, Director, Iniva

Pooja Agrawal, CEO, Public Practice

Leopold Lambert, Editor in Chief, The Funambulist

Rita Keegan, Artist

Sumayya Vally, Counterspace

The panel will be chaired by Amal Khalaf, Civic Curator Serpentine, who will not take part in the selecting.

**How are the fellows supported throughout the period of the fellowship**

Serpentine Civic Projects team will manage the programme and support fellows. Each fellow will be paired with a mentor of their choice.

**What is the period of the fellowship? When does it start/end?**

It will begin in July 2020 and end in January 2021.

**What is the future of the fellowship/Serpentine's commitment to it?**

We hope that this cohort of fellows will inform the next round of the fellowship. We hope this is the first year of a long term initiative and will be working with an evaluator to monitor the process.

**Is this an open call?**

This is not an open call. 15 visual arts professionals and community leaders have been invited to each nominate **two** individuals or collectives whose work they believe is making a significant contribution to their communities or groups that they work with through their artistic practice/projects.

The final selection of **up to ten fellows** will be made by the Selection Panel of respected practitioners and leaders.

**Who is eligible for the fellowship?**

Support Structures for Support Structures is a programme that supports artists and collectives who have demonstrated a commitment to experimenting with and producing projects, structures and frameworks that have had an impact on their communities and address urgent social issues.

The programme will support individuals or collectives based in Greater London. They do not need to be UK citizens, but should have demonstrated a commitment to working in London. We are particularly interested in supporting artists and collectives from diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Will the work be exhibited at the Serpentine?**

The fellowship consists of an unrestricted grant to develop creative ideas as well as providing a network of support, development workshops and mentoring at a timely moment in the recipients' careers.

It is not primarily focused on the production of artwork. There are no current plans to exhibit any resulting work in the galleries and there is no stipulation about what form the work should take.

**For press information please contact:**

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