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**Fellowship in Residence**

***Community Tech infrastructure: Creative uses, community access and innovation***

An opportunity to spend 10 months in residence with [Knowle West Media Centre](https://kwmc.org.uk/) in Bristol. This is a practical Fellowship where you will explore, test and develop creative, accessible ways of utilising the growing KWMC community tech infrastructure. The infrastructure includes an R&D network, LoRaWAN, cloud platforms and an extensive library of creative tech (from digital fabrication to production kit). We are looking for a creative technologist / artist with a passion for experimenting and tinkering, who has a proactive attitude and loves working in interdisciplinary teams.

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**Overview**

Our MyWorld Fellowships are aimed at freelancers, practitioners, industry, and academics. We invite people to think about these Fellowships as a period of collaborative thinking and experimentation, applying practice, expertise or relevant experience.

The Fellow will be contracted and paid via the University of Bristol (UoB) and supported by Watershed. Day-to-day the Fellow will become a valued member of the KWMC project team and be supported primarily by KWMC producers, including Lucas Sweeny Digital Innovation Producer and Martha King Arts lead; with additional support from Dr Rebecca Coleman, researcher in residence at KWMC from Bristol Digital Futures Institute (BDFI, University of 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.

This Fellowship is part of the the MyWorld IDEAS programme, funded by UKRI.

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**The Fellowship**

**Community Tech infrastructure: Creative uses, community access and innovation**

A practical fellowship where you will explore, test and develop creative, accessible ways of utilising the growing KWMC community tech infrastructure. The infrastructure includes an R&D network, LoRaWAN, cloud platforms and an extensive library of creative tech (from digital fabrication to media production kit).

KWMC are part of a national community of practice working in and with ‘Community tech’ and are currently developing ways to increase access and better communicate the potential and capabilities of KWMC community tech infrastructure. To do this, we need to develop more tangible examples of how our infrastructure can allow creative experimentation and be of direct benefit to the community.

We would like to work with you to develop creative examples and powerful stories of how more people can use and benefit from a community tech infrastructure at neighbourhood level. This might include creative play with sensors, designing AI experiments on the R&D network or developing ways to make MyWorld production kit, such as 360 cameras, open and available as community tech.

The Fellowship will sit in the broader context of KWMC's place-based mission to 'Create more thriving neighbourhoods together, with art, tech and care'. KWMC will support the fellow to align creative experiments with KWMC's priorities and a range of community tech programmes, including ‘Makers & Maintainers’. More info about the Makers and Maintainers programme and KWMC community infrastructure can be found [here](https://www.powertochange.org.uk/case_study/knowle-west-media-centre/).

**The award: £20,000 for 10 months at roughly 2.5 days/week**

For a payment schedule breakdown please check the [FAQs.](https://wshd.to/kwmcfaqs)

**Key Responsibilities (outputs):**

* Explore KWMC existing community tech infrastructure and map the main capabilities, challenges and barriers to access
* Research best practice examples of other accessible community tech programmes and projects in UK and beyond
* Experiment with creative ways to make the community tech infrastructure more accessible.
* Test what the R&D and LoRAWAN networks can be used for, to create tangible case studies and develop better understandings of its capabilities
* Be part of developing a co-designed programme of accessible activities that open KMWC community tech infrastructure to local people
* Share learnings and skills across KWMC teams, with peers and the wider sector as appropriate.
* Write a blog post about your learnings and deliver public talks, e.g Pervasive Media Studio lunchtime talk (if appropriate).

**Experience and Skill Set**

* Open and collaborative approach, comfortable sharing early ideas and giving/receiving constructive feedback with care.
* Ability to experiment, test, tinker and quickly prototype new ideas.
* Knowledge of, or interest in the Community Tech sector (e.g. localised networks, open-source ethos and community owned data).
* Experience of working in interdisciplinary teams.
* Knowledge of or interest in accessible, inclusive, user-centred design.
* Able to capture, reflect upon and share learnings in accessible language.

**Desirable experience**

* Experience of running accessible workshops with multiple participants from different backgrounds and levels of ability.

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**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. Some remote/hybrid working is also possible.
* Your Fellowship will enable you to develop your practice through a combination of research into what exists, practical experimentation, interdisciplinary conversation and sharing.
* You will produce work that is appropriate for a community context, can be tested in the public domain and outcomes that are documented and shared for wider learning.
* An open and collaborative approach towards peer networks and sharing.

**What do you get?**

* A grant of £20,000 for 10 months embedded exploration at 2.5 days/week (incl. expenses).
* Access to an interdisciplinary community across MyWorld and the partner universities.
* Producer, facilitation, and co-design 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 community residents and the KWMC community of makers and creatives.
* Access support if relevant.
* 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.

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**How to apply**

You are invited to answer five 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 Fellowship:**

https://wshd.to/kwmcapplication

Please check the eligibility criteria in the [FAQs](https://wshd.to/kwmcfaqs) 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

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**Timeline**

* Closing Date for applications: Monday 11 September at 10.00a.m. (BST!)
* All applicants will hear from us by end of: Wednesday 20 September 2023
* Interviews: Wednesday 26 September 2023
* Fellowship start date: w/c 13 November 2023
* Fellowship end date: w/c 19 August 2024

**Talk to Us**

We have shared some [FAQs](https://wshd.to/kwmcfaqs) here. If your question has not been answered please contact Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk

**Application form for Fellowship at KWMC**

<https://wshd.to/streamapplication>

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**About KWMC**

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.

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**About Pervasive Media Studio and Watershed**

The Pervasive Media Studio hosts a brilliant community of over 180 residents exploring creativity and technology.

The Pervasive Media Studio is based within Watershed in Bristol, a cultural organisation championing engagement, imagination and ingenuity. 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 screen-based media, forge dynamic collaborations to progress technological innovation, deliver creative excellence, establish and operate state of the art facilities, offer skills training and drive inward investment, raising the region’s profile on the global stage.

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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.