

G. A.

S. GUEST. ARTISTS.
SPACE.
FOUNDATION

Y. S.

F. YINKA
SHONIBARE
FOUNDATION

G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2026

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terra

Foundation for
American Art

In partnership with
Deutsche Bank



Background

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation, established in 2019 by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE, 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.



About the G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2026

The G.A.S. Fellowship Award was launched in February 2022 as a platform for nurturing artistic talent across the African continent, offering opportunities for creative development and knowledge exchange. Since its inception, we have awarded 12 fully-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 fourth edition of the prestigious fully funded G.A.S. Fellowship Award. This year's call, the largest to date, offers five residencies for Nigerian artists and writers, as well as African-based and diaspora artists, and three residencies for artists based in the United States. These opportunities are open to outstanding emerging to mid-career arts professionals.



G.A.S. Fellowship Awards 2026

Deutsche Bank – Funded Residencies (G.A.S. Lagos)

- A) **Emerging Nigerian Visual Fine Artists** – 4 weeks each
- 16th February – 13th March, 2026
 - 4th May – 29th May, 2026
- B) **Mid-Career Contemporary Art Writer** – any 4 weeks between these dates
- 24th August – 2nd October, 2026

Yinka Shonibare Foundation – Funded Residencies (G.A.S. Farm House, Ikise)

- C) **African Based & Diaspora Creatives** – 8 weeks each
- 27th April – 19th June, 2026
 - 24th August – 15th October, 2026

Terra Foundation for American Art – Funded Residencies (G.A.S. Farm House, Ikise)

- D) **U.S. Based Artists** – 8 weeks each
- 27th April – 19th June, 2026
 - 24th August – 15th October, 2026
 - 22nd October – 16th December, 2026



About the G.A.S. Fellowship Award 2026 (Funders)

The Deutsche Bank 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.

The Terra Foundation for American Art residencies form part of **CULTIVATION: Art, Environment & Materiality**, a two-year initiative supporting 10 residencies for U.S. based artists, particularly those of Indigenous, African, or multicultural heritage, fostering interdisciplinary exploration across the arts, ecology, agriculture, and sustainable material practices while promoting meaningful exchanges with local communities.





Application Guidelines

*Residency (A & B): Nigerian Emerging Visual Artists
and Mid-Career Contemporary Arts Writer*

Location: G.A.S. Lagos

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Application Guidelines

A) Nigerian Emerging Visual Artists

We invite applications from **emerging visual artists** whose work relates in some way to two of our main strands of inquiry: **Materiality, Craft and Identity, and Archives & Publishing**. We are seeking artists practicing across a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, video art, new media, or other interdisciplinary practices.

Applicants should demonstrate a willingness to engage thoughtfully with the local environment and communities surrounding G.A.S. Lagos. We are interested in proposals that foreground experimentation, research, and highlight opportunities for meaningful community exchange, this could be with your peers, other artists and or wider public. Do look at past residents on our website and further information about past events to support your thinking.

Materiality, Craft and Identity: This strand encourages the research and investigation into material making practices, using Nigeria's rich craft heritage as a foundation for experimentation.

Archives and Publishing: This strand foregrounds research, interpretation and the circulation of cultural knowledge, encouraging new ways of engaging with archives as living, generative spaces. It supports visual practitioners in using the library and archive to contextualise and inform their practice—drawing on rare materials, histories and narratives to shape new artistic responses and experimental forms of making.



Application Guidelines

A) Nigerian Emerging Visual Artists

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 fellows will be expected to host a community engagement event in the final weeks of their residency. This can range from **workshops, artist talks, masterclasses, open studios, participatory installations, or site-specific interventions**. Fellows are encouraged to design sessions that **actively involve local participants, foster dialogue, and reflect the themes of their residency**.

As part of the application, applicants must submit a **brief proposal (maximum 400 words)** outlining their planned contribution to the **local creative ecosystem**.



Eligibility

A) Nigerian Emerging Visual Artists

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- A national of AND currently residing in Nigeria.
- A visual fine 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.
- An emerging practitioner is defined as an individual who has been actively producing and publicly presenting work for a minimum of 3 - 6 years. They should have an emerging reputation in the art world (on a global or local level), regularly exhibit within their region, and have begun to develop a substantial body of work.
- Seeking to develop their practice within the specific context of Lagos.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they meet the application guidelines.
- Available to participate in a residency during one of the following periods:
February 16th - March 13th and or **May 4th - May 29th.**
- 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 Curator or Gallerist who has shown your work.



Application Guidelines

B) Nigerian Mid-Career Arts Writer

For this edition of the G.A.S. Fellowship Award, we invite applications from arts writers whose practice positions writing as a tool for **reflection, dialogue, and critical engagement** within the arts. This is an opportunity to explore pedagogical and research-driven methodologies that connect audiences, expand access to cultural knowledge, and foster meaningful conversations around artistic practices and outputs.

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to submit an outline for a three-day **critical writing workshop** to be realised at G.A.S. Lagos. While we understand that proposals may evolve during the residency, they should demonstrate a thoughtful approach to **criticism, knowledge sharing, and audience participation**.

OUTCOMES

The selected art writer will use their residency to further their own research and develop their workshop proposal through **on-site research, engagement with local practitioners, and interaction with the broader Lagos creative community**. The residency will culminate in the delivery of a three-day critical writing workshop at G.A.S. Lagos during the final week of the residency.

As part of the award, the fellow will receive support from the G.A.S. team in workshop planning and execution, including access to event spaces, logistical coordination, documentation, and communications.



Eligibility

B) Nigerian Mid-Career Arts Writer

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- **A Nigerian national** either living on the continent or abroad.
- **An arts writer**, defined as a professional practitioner engaged in the production of original critical, reflective, or research-based writing on contemporary art and culture. This may include criticism, essays, reviews, interviews, editorial projects, zine-making, publishing initiatives, or other text-driven forms that shape artistic discourse.
- **A mid-career practitioner**, defined in this context as an individual with at least seven years of active writing practice who has publicly shared their work through publications, exhibitions, or critical forums. They should demonstrate a growing reputation within local or global art ecosystems and have developed a substantial body of written work.
- Seeking to develop their writing practice within the specific cultural and artistic context of Lagos, Nigeria.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they meet the application guidelines outlined above.
- Available to participate in a 4 week residency between **August 24th - October 2nd 2026**.
- **Proficient in spoken and written English**, as limited proficiency may make it challenging to navigate the residency and engage effectively with the Lagos arts community.
- Able to supply a reference letter from an institution, editor, publisher, or cultural practitioner familiar with their work.



Residency Award (A & B)

Emerging Visual Fine Artists and Mid-Career Arts Writer

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

- **N1,900,000 Stipend, Travel & Materials Allowance:** This contributes to basic food and living expenses, materials, economy flights or other required transportation to Lagos. We recommend that residents bring any specialist materials with them. Any trips or excursions outside of Lagos during the residency will incur costs payable by the resident with the exception of the G.A.S. Farm House. *(For those writers in the Diaspora we encourage seeking additional mobility funding).*
- **N760,000 Residency Award / Honorarium (+additional funding for Writers workshop delivery to be disbursed by G.A.S.)**
- **Shared Workspace, Library and Accommodation:** In Lagos residents are allocated a private bedroom with desk and ensuite bathroom. 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, shared kitchen/diner as well as the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive. One cooked meal a day is provided during weekdays.
- **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.





Application Guidelines

C: African Based & Diaspora Creatives Farm Residencies

Location: G.A.S. Farm House

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Application Guidelines

C: African Artists Farm Residencies

For this edition of the G.A.S. Fellowship Award, we invite applications from **African arts practitioners** whose work engages with themes of **social and environmental sustainability**. We are interested in practices that pay close attention to land, material, and community, whether through **ecological research, sustainable making, culinary knowledge**, or other forms of creative inquiry rooted in place. Proposals that reflect thoughtful engagement with the rural environment, and that embrace observation, collaboration, and exchange with local knowledge systems, are especially encouraged.

OUTCOMES

Selected fellows will be expected to contribute a reflective film or written contribution such as an article, essay, or short research piece, capturing their residency experience and work. These films and texts will form part of a growing catalogue documenting residencies on the Farm.

As part of the residency, selected fellows will also be expected to host a community engagement event in the final weeks of their residency. This can range from **workshops, artist talks, masterclasses, open studios, participatory installations, or site-specific interventions**. Fellows are encouraged to design sessions that **actively involve local participants, foster dialogue, and reflect the themes of their residency**.

As part of the application, applicants must submit a **brief proposal (maximum 400 words)** outlining their planned contribution to the **local creative ecosystem**.



Eligibility

C: African Artists Farm Residencies

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- **A African national either living on the continent or abroad.**
- **An Artist:** Defined for this open call as a person creating original work through mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, performance, film, new media, or other interdisciplinary forms.
- **Have a minimum of five years of active practice**, evidenced through consistent public presentations of work including exhibitions, performances, screenings, publications, or commissioned projects. They should regularly exhibit within their region, and have developed a substantial body of work.
- Seeking to **develop their practice** within the specific **context of rural Nigeria**.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they meet the application guidelines.
- Available to participate in a residency during one of the following periods: **April 27th - June 19th 2026** (8 weeks) and **August 24th - October 15th 2026** (8 weeks).
- **Proficient in spoken and written English.** While Yoruba is commonly spoken in the surrounding community at the Farm House, residents are *not* required to speak it, as translation support will be available when needed.
- Able to supply a reference letter from a **Curator, Gallerist or Cultural Institution**.



Residency Award

C: African Artists Farm Residencies

The G.A.S. Fellowship 8 week Farm residency award encompasses the following elements:

- **N3,800,000 Stipend, Travel & Materials Allowance:** This contributes to basic food and living expenses, materials, economy flights or other required transportation to Lagos. We recommend that residents bring any specialist materials with them. Any trips or excursions outside of Lagos during the residency will incur costs payable by the resident. *(For those in the Diaspora we encourage seeking additional mobility funding).*
- **N1,520,000 Residency Award / Honorarium**
- **Shared Workspace, Library and Accommodation:** On the farm residents are allocated a private bedroom with a shared bathroom (between two). The building is serviced by a cleaner on a weekly basis. Lagos residents have access to two shared studio spaces, shared kitchen/diner as well as the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive. Fresh produce is available in season.
- **Pastoral Care and Residency Support:** The Farm Manager is on-site Monday to Friday, and available on weekends to support residents, including assisting with trips and visits, organizing meetings, and accessing the library in Lagos.
- **Driver and Security:** Residents have the G.A.S. Driver for airport transfers to and from the farm. *There is limited transport options off the farm.*
- **Event Production Support:** The G.A.S. team provide production support to help with the successful delivery of your planned contribution.



A man wearing a hat and a patterned shirt is standing and presenting to an audience. He is holding a microphone. The audience is seen from behind, with some people having long dreadlocks. A large screen in the background displays a cornucopia of corn. The room has a rustic, industrial feel with concrete walls and a large doorway.

Application Guidelines

D: U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies

Location: G.A.S. Farm House

Application Guidelines

D: U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies

For this edition of the G.A.S. Fellowship Award, we invite applications from U.S. based visual arts practitioners. The Fellowship takes place at the G.A.S. Farm House in Ikise, offering immersion in the rural landscape of southwestern Nigeria. We welcome proposals that demonstrate close engagement with the environment, through ecological research, material experimentation, plant or culinary practices, and encourage approaches that are observational, collaborative, and informed by exchange with local communities and knowledge systems.

We are particularly interested in practitioners whose work responds to two strands of inquiry:

Ecology, Farming, and Food - This strand encourages critical engagement with environmental and agricultural systems. Residents explore ecological sustainability, regenerative farming and food sovereignty through research-driven practice and collaboration with local communities. Projects often connect land-based practices and culinary traditions with creative production, generating interdisciplinary approaches to environmental stewardship.

Materiality, Craft and Identity: This strand encourages the research and investigation into material making practices, using Nigeria's rich craft heritage as a foundation for experimentation.



Application Guidelines

D: U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies

OUTCOMES

Selected fellows will be expected to contribute a reflective film or written contribution such as an article, essay, or short research piece, capturing their residency experience and work. These films and texts will form part of a growing catalogue documenting residencies on the Farm.

As part of the residency, selected fellows will also be expected to host a community engagement event in the final weeks of their residency. This can range from **workshops, artist talks, masterclasses, open studios, participatory installations, or site-specific interventions**. Fellows are encouraged to design sessions that **actively involve local participants, foster dialogue, and reflect the themes of their residency**.

As part of the application, applicants must submit a **brief proposal (maximum 400 words)** outlining their planned contribution to the **local creative ecosystem**.



Eligibility

D: U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- A **national** of or **currently residing** in the U.S.
- An **art practitioner**, including visual artists, interdisciplinary makers, cultural researchers, or artists working at the intersection of ecology, materiality, agriculture, and environment.
- Able to demonstrate a **clear research interest or material connection** to the themes of the residency and place.
- Willing to spend
- A practitioner who has been actively producing and publicly presenting work for at least **five years**, with a growing reputation locally or internationally and a strong body of work.
- Willing to engage with local communities, natural environments, and collaborative contexts in Nigeria.
- Available to participate in a residency during one of the following periods:
 - **April 27th - June 19th 2026 (8 weeks)**
 - **August 24th - October 15th 2026 (8 weeks)**
 - **October 22nd - Dec 16th 2026 (8 weeks)**
- **Proficient in spoken and written English.** While Yoruba is commonly spoken in the surrounding community at the Farm House, residents are *not* required to speak it, as translation support will be available when needed.
- Able to provide a **reference letter** from a curator, gallerists, academic, or cultural institution.



Residency Award

D: U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies

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

- **\$2,500 Travel Allowance:** This contributes towards economy flights or other transportation to Lagos, any necessary visas, travel medication, and travel insurance. Any trips or excursions outside of Lagos during the residency will incur additional costs payable by the resident.
- **\$3,900 Honorarium and Stipend award:** This covers basic living expenses, Any materials. We recommend that residents bring any specialist materials with them.
- **Shared Workspace, Library and Accommodation:** On the farm residents are allocated a private bedroom with a shared bathroom (between two). The building is serviced by a cleaner on a weekly basis. Lagos residents have access to two shared studio spaces, shared kitchen/diner as well as the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive. Fresh produce is available in season.
- **Pastoral Care and Residency Support:** The Farm Manager is on-site Monday to Friday, and available on weekends to support residents, including assisting with trips and visits, organizing meetings, and accessing the library in Lagos.
- **Driver and Security:** Residents have the G.A.S. Driver for airport transfers to and from the farm. *There is limited transport options off the farm.*
- **Event Production Support:** The G.A.S. team provide production support to help with the successful delivery of your planned contribution.



Application Form & Timeline

Eligible individuals wishing to apply should complete the application form:

- A:** Nigerian Emerging Visual Artist: <https://bit.ly/4a5nvm1>
Deadline for Applications: 18th January 2026
- B:** Nigerian Mid-Career Art Writer: <https://bit.ly/4q3BJbR>
- C:** African Artists Farm Residencies: <https://bit.ly/4q8Ad8p>
Deadline for Applications: 25th January 2026
- D:** U.S. Based Artists Farm Residencies: <https://bit.ly/4rSIW10>
Deadline for Applications: 19th February 2026

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ■ 16th December 2025 | Applications open |
| ■ 7th January 2026 | Online Information Session for applicants |
| ■ 18th January 2026 GMT | Application closes for A) Emerging Artists |
| ■ 25th January 2026 GMT | Application closes for B & C |
| ■ 19th February 2026 EST | Application closes for D) U.S. Based Artists |
| ■ 2nd February - 16 March 2026 | Shortlisted applicants may be contacted |
| ■ 16th February - 20th March 2026 | Final selection announced |



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 and Operations
Manager



Tomiwa Adegbola
Finance Officer



Catherine Bardi
Communications and Events
Coordinator



Funmilola Ogunshina
Farm Residency 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
Founder and Chair



Bimpe Nkontchou
Trustee



Tokini Peterside-Schwebig
Trustee



Niyi Adenubi
Trustee



Temitayo Ogunbiyi
Trustee



Ugoma Ebilah
Trustee

FAQs

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 visa online. G.A.S. will provide guidance on type of visa to apply for and supply a letter of invitation.

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?

All residents must have or 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 info@guestartistsspace.com.

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.

Can I come at a different time of year?

These dates are not flexible, and applicants should ensure they are able to commit to these dates before submitting their application.