



Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre

WELCOME PACK

The Project

Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre is a self-organising study site. BOARC focuses on providing individual users and groups with a low cost, temporary place to dictate their own methods of work. We are a not-for-profit organisation. Our aim is to allow practitioners to come and stay together, to develop projects that require time and space in a flexible, non-pressured environment.

This is a site for research and experimentation, which is primarily directed towards cultural production and supporting the development of communities. BOARC is a space where those invested in culture, social justice and welfare can come together to share ideas, experiment and mutually support each other.

We also host seminars, events and workshops and is open to a range of academic and non-academic discourses; from politics and social sciences to philosophy, music, bodywork, collective choreography or chat. The Observatory welcomes a diversity of fields and is a forum where different types of knowledge can be tested, shared and extended.

Onsite facilities and work space support practical experimentation - encouraging reflective conversation to flow from kitchen to sound recording studio, and aiding co-created ideas to bounce between the domes and basements.

There is no formal application to use BOARC, and we do not look to lay claim to work produced here. In this sense, this is not a typical artists' residency site. The centre is not focused on public presentation as such, but we do run a lively events programme.

At its core, Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre is an independent project that supports other projects. It is an experiment in process and we welcome your input!



Staying at BOARC

Accommodation

The Observatory has beds for 22+ people. These are mainly in shared rooms from 2 to 4 people per room. There is also a family room with a cot, a dormitory that sleeps 8 people, and a couple of single bedrooms available. We also have an accessible bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor. Bedrooms are shared and non-gendered. However, we communally take different awarenesses into account - so if you have other preferences, let's work out arrangements together. Sheets and towels are provided and there are two washing machines and a dryer on the ground floor so stayers can do their laundry on leaving.

Self-catering

BOARC is self-catering, and users will need to provide their own food. There is a large, 24-hour supermarket within close walking distance or within a 5-minute car ride.

Often, mealtimes are group gatherings and - if many people would like to cook together - this can be accommodated as we have a large semi commercial kitchen. There is also a second back kitchen for use in those moments when less cooking-communality is required.

Accountability

Because this is a communal study site with multiple different users, we ask that everyone read the values page on the website - <http://www.bidstonobservatory.org/accountability> – before they come, to check that they are happy to align with the intersectional feminist values of the site.

Access

The ground floor is fully accessible, but we currently do not have wheelchair access to the first floor, roof or basement. For anybody who has specific access requirements, please get in touch and we can send further text, audio and image-based information regarding access to and around the Observatory.



Dependants

We welcome groups that include smaller members of your family and kin. Likewise, if you have other dependants, please ask how we can plan to accommodate for different access requirements.

BOARC is proudly kid-friendly and children are welcome, however guardians must take full responsibility. This is primarily a research site, and so many facilities are not specifically catered for children. Please ask questions about what works for the other stayers, and ask stewards about safety for kids whilst onsite.

Caring for the space

To make the space available at low cost, Bidston Observatory has minimal staff. Stayers are therefore expected to help look after the resource and contribute a minimum of 20 minutes of cleaning per day, or more if they have the time/energy to do so. We also ask that stayers leave all spaces as they found them.

Bookings

Individual Bookings

Usually, individuals come to take the time to work on their own projects. To book, simply send an email with a few short lines of what you intend to work on/study whilst you are at BOARC.

Group Bookings

We welcome group bookings. If you are a group of 8 people or more, we ask you pay the middle sliding scale rate, as we may need more than one Steward present to look after the building, and to welcome and orientate your group arriving. There is a 50% deposit required to secure your booking. Please let us know names and a contact for each person in your group. If you need documents such as risk assessments or fire plans, please ask as we can supply you with these.

Whole Space Bookings

Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre is a communal study site for individuals and groups. If you are looking to hire the whole space, bookings dependant, we can schedule your group's stay. To block-book the site, we ask for all the beds to be covered - please send us an email to enquire about rates and availability.

External Funding to Support Your Stay

Some stayers apply for external funding to support their stay, to do a group research project or work session here. BOARC is happy to provide a letter of support if needed. In your funding budget, please do allocate for the top sliding scale rate to support this project's continuation.





Payment / Sliding Scale

The cost per person, per night is on a sliding scale.

People pay either:

£30 - Standard

Paying this rate covers the cost of your stay and sustains the resource.

£40 - Funded

Paying this rate covers the cost of your stay, supports the resource and helps to make a subsidised stayer rate possible. This is the rate for those coming with a funded project or if an organisation is paying for your stay.

£20 - Subsidised

This subsidised rate supports access to the resource.

For younger people, the cost per night is:

£7.50

For those between 5 - 16 years of age

Free

Children under 5

There are discounted prices for longer stays:

In Week Three, there is a 10% discount on all nights.

In Week Four, there is a 15% discount on all nights.

This applies to all stayer rates in the sliding scale.

GROUND FLOOR

- 2 single bed spaces
- 1 double bed space (wheelchair accessible room)
- 4 extra single bed spaces (request in advance)

FIRST FLOOR

- 15 single bed spaces
- 5 double bed spaces
- 2 extra single bed spaces (request in advance)

SECOND FLOOR*

- 4 + extra single bed spaces (request in advance)

* This floor is only used in summer, for large groups, in prior discussion with BOARC team

TOTAL BED SPACES

Usual accomodation at BOARC:

23 single people
29 people, incl. 6 couples

Extra beds for large groups:

33 single people
39 people incl. 6 couples

OTHER RESOURCES

- Large basement space & sub-basements
- Movement / body-based practices room
- Radio room / studio
- Woodwork & wet studio
- Domes
- Roof & weather cabin
- Library
- Main kitchen & back kitchen
- Work spaces

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