**Terms of Reference – Specialist Contractor**

**Purpose**

The specialist contractor terms of reference (ToR) is a document that sets out the specialist contractor’s contribution to the task. The template is designed to set out the aims of the task and what the contractor is responsible for in order to achieve those aims.

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**Curator for SUSTAINABLE FASHION SYMPOSIUM**

**Location: Pakistan**

**Apply by: 14 May 2025**

* 1. **Background**

In 2023, the British Council launched a programme to advocate for a more sustainable, regenerative, equitable and transparent fashion and textile industry in Pakistan. The programme aimed to enable knowledge-sharing and strengthen policy and practice, positioning the British Council as a thought leader for the Creative Economy in the country. It also sought to grow opportunities for the sector by convening, connecting and showcasing sustainable fashion innovation.

The first phase of the programme centred on extensive research, engaging a diverse cross-section of stakeholders through surveys, interviews, focus groups, field visits, workshops and in-depth secondary research. The research culminated in a comprehensive [country report](https://www.britishcouncil.pk/sites/default/files/textile_legacies_report.pdf) which highlighted key findings and outlined a path forward that prioritises sustainability through the revival of indigenous practices, support for local businesses and strategic shifts in the industry’s production and consumption models.

Guided by the report’s recommendations, the British Council issued an open call in November 2024 for projects proposing fresh ideas around sustainable materials, ethical production, waste reduction and circular design. Five projects were awarded funding and are set to be delivered in 2025:

1. **Beyond the Landfill: Recycled Wool and the Power of Natural Dyes**

**Partner: Datini Fibres**

Exploring the sustainable potential of discarded wool garments by reclaiming post-consumer textiles, diverting them from landfills and giving them new life through natural dyes.

1. **Ecologies of Making: Green Practices for a Sustainable Craft Ecosystem**

**Partner: Indus Arte**

A collaboration with regional artisanal networks within a three-hour radius of Islamabad, providing training and education on slow-making processes and facilitated knowledge exchange with UK-based textile craft makers.

1. **Threads of Impact**

**Partner: Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA)**

Integrating traditional hand embroidery with Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) calculations to measure and minimise environmental impact, to create eco-friendly denim products that celebrate craftsmanship while reducing carbon footprints.

1. **Shop Smart, Live Green: The Power of Thrifting**

**Partner: Secret Stash**

Raising awareness among young Pakistanis about the benefits of second-hand fashion through a digital campaign and live events.

1. **Conscious Fashion: A Call for Environmental and Social Sustainability**

**Partner: Aangan x Lok Sujag**

Developing a curriculum to equip fashion and textile students with the knowledge to embed sustainability in their practices. Hosting community workshops and documenting traditional textile and fashion knowledge to help revive overlooked cultural and ecological wisdom.

* 1. **Event Details**

Building on this momentum, the British Council will host a first-of-its-kind **Sustainable Fashion Symposium in Lahore in September 2025** — a gathering for the future of fashion in Pakistan and beyond.

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Curator to join us in planning and delivering this symposium. If you have a vision for sustainability in fashion and its potential in Pakistan, we invite you to apply to help build this transformative platform.

The two-day SF Symposium will bring together a community of policymakers, designers, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, educators, craftspeople, students and industry leaders from across the country. Joining them will be prominent sustainability advocates and thought leaders from South Asia and the UK.

The SF Symposium will feature a multi-layered programme, including:

* Workshops and demonstrations showcasing sustainable techniques, materials and innovations.
* Conversations and presentations offering critical insights, emerging research and new trends.
* An exhibition celebrating heritage textiles alongside textile innovations.
* Networking opportunities for participants to connect, collaborate and share best practice.
* Content that would interest and engage diverse audiences.

**Location and Date**

The SF Symposium will take place in Lahore, Pakistan in September 2025. The exact date(s) and venue(s) will be determined later.

**Target Audience**

We aim to attract a diverse audience including students, academics, professionals, activists, policymakers, craftspeople, artists and members of the public who are interested in the fashion and textile industry. Attendance will be via a mix of invites and registration.

* 1. **How to Apply**

We invite experienced and passionate individuals to submit applications to curate the SF Symposium. The selected Curator will be responsible for co-designing and co-delivering the symposium with the British Council. Applications should include:

* **CV -** detailing relevant experience and qualifications of the applicant.
* **Statement of Interest (max 500 words)** – sharing your approach and methodology towards curating the SF Symposium, and demonstrating your relevant qualifications, experience and track record. You can share links to past works.

**Please email your application to** [**pk.arts@britishcouncil.org.pk**](mailto:pk.arts@britishcouncil.org.pk)

**Application deadline: 14 May 2025**

Clarification questions can be submitted in writing to the same email address by 10 May 2025.

Submissions after 14 May 2025 11:59pm PST will not be considered.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an **interview on 19 May 2025.**

Selected applicants will be notified within 14 working days of the application deadline.

* 1. **Timeline**

This is a 4-month Curator engagement.

SF Symposium report due: October 2025

* 1. **Required Qualifications and Experience**

* Minimum 5 years of experience in a related field.
* Sector knowledge and networks.
* Evidence of strong programme development skills with relevance to sustainable fashion in Pakistan and internationally.
* Ability to develop a clear approach and methodology for delivery.
* Strong organisational and management skills to ensure timely completion of deliverables.
* Strong communications skills to manage vendors and engage stakeholders.
  1. **Terms of Reference for Curator**

**Programme Curation**

The Curator will co-design the SF Symposium programme with the British Council, aligning it with the overarching objectives of the symposium. Responsibilities include:

* Identifying and sourcing individuals and organisations to participate as speakers, trainers or facilitators. This includes conducting due diligence, ongoing coordination and relationship management.
* Ensuring the programme reflects a broad spectrum of themes relevant to sustainable fashion in Pakistan.
* Embedding diversity, accessibility and inclusivity throughout, representing a wide range of voices, experiences, and audience needs.
* Exploring innovative, creative and experimental approaches to content and format to enhance audience engagement.

**Symposium Management and Delivery**

The Curator will oversee the planning, coordination and execution of the SF Symposium in close collaboration with the British Council and relevant delivery partners. Key responsibilities include:

* Creating and managing a 4-month delivery timeline, including milestones for programming, budgeting, marketing, invites and guest lists, and M&E.
* Working closely with all production teams to meet technical and operational requirements and ensure successful delivery.
* Supporting the design and implementation of a marketing and communications campaign to promote the symposium.
* Supporting the design and distribution of invites, maintaining guest lists and managing audience attendance, including RSVPs and on-site registration.
* On-site coordination, acting as one of the main points of contact for contributors, and managing any issues that arise during delivery.
* Providing support on participant logistics, including travel, accommodation and general wellbeing during the symposium.
* Ensuring the symposium is delivered in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, underpinned by sustainable and environmentally conscious practices.
* Supporting evaluation efforts by integrating data collection into the work plan.
* Submitting a comprehensive report in October 2025, reflecting on the curation and delivery process.
* Contributing to post-event evaluation and documentation.

**Reporting and Communication**

The Curator will collaborate closely with an appointed British Council Arts Manager, through weekly meetings and ongoing check-ins, to co-design and deliver the symposium.

* 1. **Additional Information**

**British Council Values**

**Open and Committed**

Our belief in what we do translates into a deep and long-term commitment to the people we work with. We tackle challenges and take responsibility with openness and honesty to bring about positive change.

**Expert and Inclusive**

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. By involving everyone in the conversation we learn from each other and bring together all of our experience, knowledge and expertise to do the best work that we can.

**Optimistic and Bold**

We believe in the potential of young people to create a better world. Inspired by this optimism, we are positive and creative and we focus on what works. We are not afraid to make bold choices to shape a better future for everyone.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Equality, diversity and inclusion runs through much of our work whether in the arts, society, inclusive education, teaching English or offering exams. Our goal is to develop inclusive programmes and projects that bring together people with different experiences and backgrounds. We hope this will make everyone's experiences richer. The British Council commits to taking action to support disabled people to increase their voice, skills and agency to influence others to transform their lives and to shape a better world. We strive to make reasonable arrangements for participants’ accessibility needs such as sign language, captioning, large font and provision of material availability in Braille and others.

**Commitment to the Environment**

We recognise that our activities impact the environment and are committed to minimising this by improving our environmental performance across all areas of our work. We encourage partners to join us in reducing our carbon footprint and to use creative skills and strengths to promote sustainability and incorporate sustainable development themes.