



Slate (2017 – 2019)

Slate: Black. Arts. World. was a three-year project, that ran 2017 - 2019, led by Eclipse that supported Black artists in the North to work regionally, nationally and internationally, building sustainable models for careers in the independent sector.

[Report: How to plant magic beans AND build rockets to the moon...](#)

Published in collaboration with Indigo Ltd.

For many years Black artists, and fellow artists also marginalised for their race, have been forced to operate almost entirely outside of the established 'cultural sector' with their skills, knowledge, informal networks, funding opportunities and leadership potential remaining undervalued – the project sought to identify the challenges these artists faced and tackle them head on.

The work was even more timely, relevant and important. At the time of writing the publication, the British theatre industry's future course was changing. Under the umbrella of COVID-19, we had witnessed the murder of George Floyd in the USA. This led to a deeper and continual exposing of systematic racism in the UK and our world. As the arts sector re-emerged and made its tentative first steps to a "new normal", Eclipse shared this report to be used by Black-led companies and artists to make the case for funding and support for change. It also acted as a reminder to the wider sector of the work already done, the lessons learnt and a call to action then, and for our all our futures.

There has never been a time in the history of our lives like the one we are facing now and we hope that the ground-breaking work already done can be built upon and given fresh impetus and focus.



The Enablers

Slate was delivered by a team of Black arts leaders, based across the region.

The Enablers supported Black artists to access the range of opportunities available from exciting roundtable events, workshops, inspiring residencies, retreats, production support, 'go-see' bursaries as well as commissions.

Slate Commissioned Artists

There were 12 commissions available in total across three rounds of commissioning for Black artists based in the North of England, working across any art form (including, but not limited to, visual arts, theatre, dance, circus, music, literature and film).

First Round Commissioned Artists (2018)

Naomi Sumner Chan | Nwando Ebizie | Dorcas Sebuyange | Shanaz Gulzar

Second Round Commissioned Artists (2018/2019)

Malika Booker | Lwimbo Kunda | Ryan Harston | Chanje Kunda

Third Round Commissioned Artists (2019/2020)

Houmi Miura | Olivia Hannah | Dorcas Sebuyange | Keisha Thompson



Slate Partners

Slate was a consortia of 10 organisations: Hull Truck, Oxford Playhouse, British Council, Bradford City Council, York Theatre Royal, Pilot Theatre, Live Theatre, Unity Theatre, HOME MCR, Forced Entertainment and East Street Arts.

With our partners Creative Europe, we led on Slate World a programme of work shared in Amsterdam and Portugal

