

!!! call for activists, community organisers and artists

OPEN CALL:

SENSING LOSS

Sensing Loss is a collaboration between Cement Fields, Floating University Berlin, and Three Rivers exploring ecological loss in three sites across the UK and Germany.

- programme of five online workshops with all participants from collaboration
- and five days of in-person workshop in Berlin
- compensation for participation
- open for five participants who can participate in meetings between June-December

Floating University is seeking 5 participants to join the Sensing Loss project from June to December 2026. This is an open call for activists, community organisers and artists who are directly engaged with - and affected by - processes of ecological loss and environmental degradation in their local contexts.



Deadline: 15 June >>> apply through the form >>>

Cement Fields x Floating University Berlin x Three Rivers

Open Call: Sensing Loss

The programme includes artist-lead workshops (five online and five days in-person in Berlin). The workshops will create space for participants to share their experiences, reflect collectively, and connect with artists and practitioners across different fields. Participation will be compensated by the programme; travel costs to and with-in Berlin will not be compensated.

To express your interest in joining the project, complete the form by 15 June 2026.



Floating University, Rainwater Day, 2025
by Sebastian Díaz de León

Overview

The project draws connections between locations in Berlin, Bexley, and North Kent, liminal spaces on the edges of urban expansion, where nature and industry intertwine. Infrastructure developments in these contested post-industrial landscapes are often presented as 'green' or sustainable, but commonly threaten the rich biodiversity and vast ecological, social, and cultural significance held in these sites.

An international community exchange, the project brings together artists, activists, and communities to share lived experiences of environmental degradation caused by infrastructure and building projects in their local contexts through a hybrid programme of in-person and online events. In-person workshops will be held at the Floating University site and will include one excursion in Brandenburg.

Exploring how artistic practice can provide tools and strategies for processing and challenging the loss of access and agency that arises in the face of sweeping changes, the programme opens up new perspectives grounded in international understanding and solidarity. By providing space to acknowledge, explore, and learn from loss, it seeks to imagine new methods of resistance for communities, activists and artists facing similar challenges, and re-centre contested sites as places to nurture resistance, care, and learning.

Sensing Loss is funded by Cultural Bridge, which celebrates bilateral artistic partnerships between the UK and Germany through the collaboration between Arts Council England, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, British Council, Creative Scotland, Fonds Soziokultur, Goethe-Institut London, and Wales Arts International / Arts Council of Wales

Who are we looking for?

We are establishing a cohort of five participants based in Berlin, who are directly engaged with and/or affected by processes of ecological change, degradation, or loss in their local environments.

This call is open to activists, community organisers, artists, and individuals who hold knowledge, not only through formal research or professional practice, but through lived, embodied, and long-term relationships with specific sites, species, or ecologies.



Floating University during workshops with Cementfields, 2025
by Samuel Taylor

This call particularly directed to people who:

Are locally based

You are based in Berlin and connected to a specific site, landscape, or species, or engaged in collective or activist work around places and environments under threat.

Hold a connection to a life form or site

This could be a river, park, sidewalk path, woodland, marsh, urban edge, garden, or a particular plant or animal species. What matters is that this relationship has developed over time and is meaningful to you.

Are aware of ecological change or loss

You have observed shifts in this place or life form – due to development, climate change, neglect, or other pressures – and can reflect on what is at stake, both ecologically and culturally.

Are willing to share and reflect

You are open to contributing your experiences and perspectives within a group setting, including engaging with the emotional dimensions of care, attachment, and possible loss, while also learning from others.

Bring some form of knowledge or engagement

You may have carried out research, documentation, or creative work, or developed informal but sustained knowledge through lived experience. We value different ways of knowing.

Can commit to the programme

You can attend at least 75% of the sessions (please see the timeline below for dates).



Floating University during workshops with Cementfields, 2025
by Samuel Taylor

Timetable:

8 July 2026 6-8 pm

Online Session
with all participants in the UK and Germany

22 July 2026 6-8 pm

Online Session
with all participants in the UK and Germany
(led by guest artist)

30 July 2026 Time TBC

In-person Workshop
at Floating University, Berlin

9 September 2026 6-8 pm

Online Session
with all participants in the UK and Germany

30 September - 4 October 2026

3-Day Workshop
at the Floating University, Berlin

31 October 2026

In-person workshop and excursion to the
countryside (Brandenburg)

11 November 2026 6-8 pm

Online Session
with all participants in the UK and Germany
(led by guest artist)

3 February 2027 6-8 pm

Online Session with all participants in the
UK and Germany

Access and care:

We are committed to making this programme as accessible and supportive as possible. We recognise that conversations around ecological loss can be emotional and personal, and we aim to create a space of mutual respect and care. Please let us know any access needs when applying, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Please note that the programme will be held in English – you don't need to be a native speaker, but you should have a basic level that allows you to communicate comfortably with the group. We can support on-site translation in German, as well as Polish and Italian.



Floating University, 2025 by Samuel Taylor

How to apply:

To apply, please complete the Google Form. The questions are intended to get a sense of who you are, your connection to a place or life form, and your interest in taking part.

You do not need to have “perfect” answers – we are interested in honest and thoughtful responses.

Link to the google form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-PxLJIX2aavzRUf6XttY1NbmUQ8VCvVzwZeg-PSojuFEqAR0Q/viewform>

Deadline: 15 June 2026, 11 pm

You will hear from us by 26 June 2026

If you have any questions about the programme or the application process, please feel free to get in touch at:

sensingloss@floating-berlin.org

Who are we?

About Floating e.V.

In 2018, [Floating University](#) Berlin was initiated by raumlaborberlin as a temporary inner-city laboratory for collective, experiential learning and transdisciplinary exchange. The founding year of the Floating University saw a diverse breadth of visitors involved to varying degrees with the activity on site, creating a unique ecosystem. The program consolidated a network of practitioners, who towards the end of 2018 decided to continue the experiment by transitioning from a 'temporary' project into an association: Floating e.V.

It is in solidarity with the history of the site and with the lineage of alternative narratives for urban development that the Floating e.V. situates its mission: to open, maintain, and take care of this unique site while bringing non-disciplinary, radical, and collaborative programs to the public. In other words, it is a place to learn to engage, to embrace the complexity and navigate the entanglements of the world, to imagine and create different forms of living.

In the last years the site has hosted numerous programmes and workshops and multiple universities, as well as self-organised student groups and offered the possibility for local citizens as well as international visitors and urban practitioners to enter this space and make common use of it. Since then Floating University continues to grow into a site where heterogeneous interests translate into projects, interventions, events and installations.



Floating University, Rainwater Day, 2025
by Sebastian Díaz de León

About Cement Fields

[Cement Fields](#) is a visual art organisation working collaboratively with artists and communities to create ambitious new art along the Thames Estuary in North Kent. Our programme is an exploration of place and process, defined by the multiple shifting landscapes that stretch along the Thames from Dartford to Whitstable. It's a place where boundaries blur, where busy urban centres sit alongside industrial sites, where waters slow in marshes and wetlands, and the major arteries of rivers and roads connect rural areas and seaside Towns. We invite artists, participants and audiences to use North Kent's unique contexts to ask radical questions and explore new ideas. Through this interaction we create experimental new art and develop imagination, skills and pathways into creative Careers.



Wetland in North Kent, 2025 by Samuel Taylor

About Three Rivers

[Three Rivers](#) is a community-led arts organisation exploring culture, class and climate in the London Borough of Bexley and a member of Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme. Since 2021 it has supported thousands of people to become 'mates with their place' by imagining community and friendship beyond the human through long-term projects including Tump 39; where it is working with Thamesmead residents to reimagine a disused Victorian ammunitions dump as a new space for arts and ecology, and Beneath the Pavement, The Marshes; which brought artists and activists together with local environmental groups to campaign on behalf of Bexley's threatened marshlands. In 2025 Three Rivers became the first organisation in the UK to become a Zoöp and pioneer a groundbreaking model of collaboration between human and other-than-human-life.