



Living
Waters
Museum

CALL FOR FELLOWSHIPS

A DIGITAL EXHIBITION ON WATER IN
THE DECCAN PLATEAU

3-MONTH DIGITAL FELLOWSHIPS
WITH THE LIVING WATERS MUSEUM

DEADLINE: 15TH SEPTEMBER, 11:59 PM
(INDIA TIME IST) VIA [THIS FORM](#)

AIMED AT ARTISTS AND CULTURAL
PRACTITIONERS

ABOUT US

Launched in 2017, the [Living Waters Museum](#) (LWM) began as a digital repository dedicated to archiving our water heritage, encompassing built, intangible, and natural elements. Today, it has become a hybrid museum that engages with local communities through place-based approaches, incorporating art, storytelling, multimedia strategies, and transdisciplinary knowledge production.

Our digital exhibitions, or chapters, such as [Mumbai](#), [Pune](#), [Kolkata](#), and [Goa](#), were specifically designed to connect young people with their water heritage, involving them in research and storytelling through fellowship opportunities. Globally, our approach to decolonising museums has allowed us to develop [AQUAMUSE](#), partnering with water museums, academic institutes, and civil society in three river basins, supported by the Water Development and Partnership Programme at the Institute of Hydrology Education, Delft.





THE DECCAN WATER CHAPTER

[A DIGITAL WATER
EXHIBITION]

As the next phase of LWM's place-based exhibitions, the Deccan chapter will explore the rich stories of water waiting to be discovered in the Deccan Plateau, focusing particularly on regions within Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. It will also disseminate stories that extend beyond urban centers to embrace a geographical region with a unique composition and even more distinctive history.

The exhibition will be designed to connect people from the region and around the world through a series of multi- and mixed-media digital exhibition 'displays' developed within an inclusive framework rooted in principles of equity, sustainability, and water justice. This dynamic space will allow stakeholders to connect and contribute to the documentation of traditional practices, art, and research with the potential for scalability (a physical exhibition). The goal is to feature historiographies of water in its many forms and interpretations through a repository of interactive, multi-lingual, and visually rich narratives.

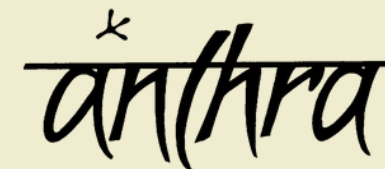


PARTNERS

As with all our chapters, LWM will be supported by a range of knowledge partners who will help us and the selected fellows during the exhibition year with mentoring, research, design ideation, and providing critical insights.

Our knowledge partners for this exhibition include, but are not confined to:

- Center for Water Research, IISER-Pune
- SaciWaters, Hyderabad
- Anthra, Pune
- The Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business



AREAS OF EXPLORATION

[THE ARCHITECTURE OF WATER SYSTEMS]



Explore and examine ancient hydro-technologies utilized in the Deccan region, and investigate the complex designs and engineering principles that facilitated water management and distribution in historical contexts. Additionally, stories can also highlight innovative and sustainable infrastructure projects spearheaded by local communities, assessing their effectiveness in addressing contemporary water challenges.

Fellows can explore the intersections between cultural heritage and water. Potential foci could explore the historical representations of water in various craft forms, including rituals and traditions, performance art, music, and dance that shed light on the profound impact of water on expression and identity. The aim is to analyze how art reflects and influences water-related practices and perceptions within societies.



[ARTS, CRAFTS, AND ARTISANS]

[PASTORAL COMMUNITIES AND WATER]



Research a range of critical themes, including the examination of access and rights to water resources, the relationship between land use and water conservation, and the exploration of gender dynamics, particularly the essential role women play in water management. The proposed narratives can involve analyzing community-led initiatives that aim to enhance biodiversity, support livestock, and promote sustainable land-water interactions, providing insights into traditional knowledge systems through visual media.

2025

THE FELLOWSHIP

We're excited to invite artists and cultural practitioners from all disciplines—curators, researchers, performers, filmmakers, writers, architects, and educators—to apply for our theme-based fellowship program: the **Deccan Water Chapter**.

Fellows will embark on a three-month journey between September 2025 and February 2026, where they will develop artistic or research projects with the guidance of experienced mentors. We're looking for 10-12 passionate fellows who are ready to delve deep into the theme and explore the rich narratives around water in the Deccan region.

The exhibition will bring to life the work produced during the fellowship in a dynamic, virtual exhibition space that is not just accessible, but also engaging and interactive.

OUTPUTS

Produce a creative, art-driven, innovative output addressing specific thematic and regional water issues. The work is expected to have a narrative structure, tell a story, and be in a creative format (e.g., video/film, photo essay, artwork). The final output must also be digitized in high quality to maximize its impact.

Fellows will be provided with the following opportunities:

- An honorarium for one output to the amount of **INR 30,000-50,000**, depending on the nature of the work involved and the technical resources required.
- **8-12 weeks** of regularly scheduled online workshops, mentorship opportunities, and creative meetings.
- The possibility of in-person meetings (TBD based on funding availability)
- The potential for showcasing your work at pop-up exhibitions across the country/globally.

REQUIREMENTS

- Development of **one output** in the aforementioned formats
- Participation in online workshops and mentoring meetings
- A commitment to meet timelines (to be determined collectively)
- The granting of reproduction rights for images and texts resulting from the fellowship for communication and promotional activities, and for the potential of a publication at the end of the program. Please note: all rights to work produced remain with the author and are typically in the Creative Commons. They are shared by producers, LWM, and partners for non-commercial purposes only and with due acknowledgements.



ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ The fellowship is aimed at young people aged 18-40
- ◆ Must either live in the region or have extensive working knowledge and proven experience of the Deccan. The fellowship will not cover travel to the Deccan region
- ◆ A good knowledge of English. A working knowledge of regional languages (Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, and local dialects) of the Deccan is a plus.
- ◆ Applications from collectives or duos are welcome, but the grant amount will remain the same. All participants in the collective or duo must meet the above requirements. In the case of a collective or duo, the application must be submitted by one member of the group
- ◆ A background in visual art, design, storytelling, cultural practice, or water research is preferred

STEPS TO APPLY

Applications should be sent [via this form](#) by **11:59 pm September 15th (India time, IST), 2025**. Please have a look at the FAQs for information on evaluation criteria and other questions.

Please include the following documents:

- **A one-page PDF** (500 words max.): An abstract of the proposed story that indicates the approach and methodology to be followed, the proposed location, language, and output format. 1.15 spacing and 12-point font in Times New Roman.
- **A portfolio** of work in a single PDF file
- **A CV** of the primary applicant and a brief bio if applying as a group
- A brief budget, where necessary

