

Creative Work Shop: Residency Brief

Introduction

Applications are invited from artists/creative practitioners for a new residency programme – *Creative Work Shop* – running from February to September 2020 that respond to themes of **place** and **regeneration** and which spin from our **empty shop space based on the High Street**, in the rural town of Forres in the region of Moray, Scotland.

At the heart of this pilot residency programme is conversation, artist-led conversation with residents, workers and visitors, given the opportunity to express what matters to them, and to see how this is articulated and responded to through creative practice.

Creative Work Shop offers space for **reflection, connection** and **exploration**.

Artforms

Applications across a range of artforms are welcomed, including (but not limited to) visual art, dance, architecture, creative community facilitators/practitioners, writers, makers and more.

We are looking for artists/creative practitioners with a minimum of 5 years+ experience beyond any education experience. Artists must be able to demonstrate significant experience in community engaged/socially engaged practice.

We will select 3 artists/creative practitioners to work alongside us through a curated series of residencies and who will be supported to develop artwork that responds to the themes of place and regeneration, all spinning out from our space on the High Street of Forres.

Each artist/creative practitioner will spend six weeks in Forres either in one block or spread over a period of up to 3-months from their appointment and supported to share their work publicly through exhibitions, presentations, screenings, readings, performance or via a mutually agreed sharing.

We are keen to talk to creatives that have links with Moray, or whose practice will demonstrate a strong ability to connect with our town, the High Street, residents, workers and visitors within the length of the residency.

Findhorn Bay Arts

Creative Work Shop is produced and managed by Findhorn Bay Arts (FBA), an award-winning creative producer of cultural events and activities rooted in Moray. Whilst, as a producing organisation the projects and activities we deliver vary in theme and scale, our overarching aim is to:

- Produce, support, grow, encourage and develop high quality cultural events that attract local and visiting audiences
- Grow audiences of all ages through long-term engagement with creative experiences
- Encourage participation in cultural activities, removing barriers to awareness and access
- Support artists in developing and presenting artworks that engage with and respond to the area

Our vision is that Moray is a place of creative opportunity for artists, audiences and participants.

Our mission is to produce creative events and experiences across different art forms that engage with Moray audiences and attract visitors to the region.

FBA is a social enterprise with a Board of Directors who hold responsibility for Governance, Policies and Financial management and along with the team set and monitor strategic activities, finances, and key performance indicators to develop the organisation and deliver project and outcomes.

The Starting Point

Forres is a place of significant natural beauty with a rich and a strong creative and cultural identity. However, the economic position of Forres has changed in recent years due to changes in agriculture, changes in shopping trends, and centralisation and reduction of services.

This context presents a pressing need to find diverse activities and sustainable income streams that make the area attractive and a thriving community.

Using the reflection of JW Thompson's Trend report and the dawn of the Century of Regeneration by Daniel Wahl as a starting point (see quote below), we invite artists/creative practitioner to respond through conversation and creative collaboration with the townsfolk of Forres.

"Now is the time to invite deeper conversations and deeper questioning into what regenerative practice entails. We have to engage those in business, public sector and civil society who are becoming curious about 'regeneration', how it might differ from 'sustainability', and what regenerative development, business and cultures might have to offer as transformative responses to the converging crises – and opportunities – we are faced with glocally (not a typo!)"

Community Interaction

Through this project, the selected residents will involve local people in their work, encouraging all voices to get involved. Whilst the resident will shape their own projects, we will support each to engage with local people via our deep and wide networks with local community groups, schools and businesses.

It is vital that the residency responds to people, place and regeneration and that process and outputs are shaped as a result of involvement by a wide range of residents, workers and visitors to Forres.

Individuals and groups from the local community should represent a diverse range of expertise and interests including: health and wellbeing, food production, sustainability, local produce, growing, town regeneration, tourism and local development, culture and heritage, environmental, green energy, waste reduction, changes in farming and fishing industry and decline/changes in service provision.

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Outcomes

It is expected that ideas are researched in consultation with local people and groups and work collaboratively to develop new work. In addition, you will be provided time to develop your own new work from this research / engagement.

Whilst it is important to us that the project is shaped by the resident artists, so that we do not become prescriptive about the approach, it is equally important that the process:

- Engages with and excites the residents, workers and visitors of the area, including non-traditional arts audiences
- Finds representation and reflection of the people living in Forres and the themes that are important to them
- Devises imaginative ways to stimulate conversation, to get people talking and allow them to take part and to respond
- Interacts with everyday occurrences on the High Street
- Spins out from artist-led activity, performance and exchange
- Facilitates positive change for the town and its people, and in doing so creates cultural and social benefit

Artists will also have the opportunity to work together with the existing network that is [Culture Café](#) and will be supported to use this network and associated events in a manner that best fits the residency approach and outcomes. Designed as a meeting place for the local arts community, the highly successful Culture Café brings together people who work in the arts and who are interested in networking, sharing ideas, developing partnerships and peer support.

Terms of Residency and Application Guidelines from pages 4-6.

Terms of residency & Application Guidelines

Total Residency Time of 30 days (6 weeks at 5 days a week)

50% (15 days) allocated to the development of work

30% (9 days) for direct community interaction

20% (6 days) community preparation, evaluation and travel time

Fee

The current Scottish Artist Union rate for artists with 5 years+ experience for 6 weeks (30 days) is £4,118.

Note: Recognising that delivery over 30 consecutive days might not work for all, or for integrating community interaction and participation artists are able to deliver over a period of up to 3 months by mutual agreement and in advance of commencement.

Expenses

£1,000 per residency, includes materials, costs of engagement and consultation with local community and travel costs. Support will be provided to produce and manage these associated expenses budget at start of and during the residency.

Facilities

Artists/creative practitioner will be based in an empty High Street Space on the High Street of Forres (size 4.5m x 4.5m) with access to electric heating, Wi-Fi, tea and coffee making facilities, toilet and kitchen. Residents will have exclusive access to the space for the duration of their residency.

It is expected that the artists will engage with the public primarily through the High Street space. However, we are also interested in the rural and natural environment in which we are situated to being explored, utilised and experienced. Where activity with larger groups takes place additional facilities for participatory activity can be sourced. This will be paid for through the artists expenses/materials budget and agreed with the selected artist.

Support and Administration

Creative Work Shop has been developed by and will be managed by the Creative Director of FBA. Each residency will include support:

- From FBA's Communications, Admin and Events Assistant
- With finance management

An especially formed advisory group has been put in place to select, support and guide the residencies, and includes:

Kresanna Aigner – Creative Director, Findhorn Bay Arts

Kirsten Body – Freelance Visual Arts Producer

Prof Henry Rogers - Programme Leader of MFA Fine Art at GSA

Claudia Zeiske – Director Deveron Projects

Stacey Toner – Curriculum Team Lead Creative Industries, Moray College UHI

Accommodation

Artists from out with the region will be accommodated by a community host by arrangement with FBA. Artists are expected to pay for their own food and drink.

Note: Due to project budget limitation we can provide accommodation for one out of the 3 artists who requires this support.

Timescale

Each artist/creative practitioner will spend up to six weeks in Forres either in one block or spread over a period of 3 months from their appointment and by mutual agreement. Residencies will be delivered in 3 blocks and are anticipated start from February, May and July of 2020.

We would like to be flexible with start and end times, and will negotiate these with the selected artists pending availability etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We will document the project using photography and film (or other agreed methods) which will be shared where possible online and via social media. We will work the resident artist to explore their preferred methods of documentation/recording and where possible, accommodate these ideas.

The artists will meet regularly with the Creative Director and a member(s) of the project advisory group who offer an experienced critical reflection on process and progress.

We will carefully monitor feedback about the project from a wide range of sources including partner organisations, participants, audiences, staff and resident artists. We will evaluate the gathered monitoring information and review and analyse that information to make judgements about the project, its success and otherwise.

Experience

We expect you to be a professional, practising artist/creative practitioner creating interesting, well-produced and presented work.

We are looking for artists/creative practitioners with a minimum of 5 years+ experience beyond any education experience. Artists must be able to demonstrate significant experience in community engaged/socially engaged practice.

You will have experience of working in community settings or can demonstrate that you have an aptitude for this kind of work. You are expected to be interested in a socially engaged practice, an approach that engages in research and discussion with local groups, working with members of the local community to collaboratively explore their ideas and make work.

If you are working with children, you will have to be aware of child protection policy, and will have, or be willing to join the PVG scheme, if required.

You will be expected to give public talks/presentations about your work at the beginning of the project and later, about the work you have developed.

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To Apply

Letter of Application: maximum 2 pages, referring to project outcomes and outlining:

- Why you are interested in this opportunity
- What your interest is in this area, and initial outline proposals for development of your own work
- Your process and how your process will engage with people to inform your work
- How you would propose spending your time and timeframe of delivery. Please indicate your availability and preferred timeframe of delivery
- Resources and materials you anticipate requiring
- Your experience in working with communities, participative and socially engaged practise
- Please let us know if you are a member of the PVG scheme

Supporting Material

Please provide us with appropriate supporting material to demonstrate the quality of your work, maximum of six examples including images, links to videos, written materials, recordings etc. as appropriate.

Two references in writing, one must be from a community project.

Submission

By [Online Submission Form](#) or by post to:

Kresanna Aigner
Findhorn Bay Arts
86 High Street
Forres
Moray
IV36 1NX

Deadline: 5pm, Wednesday 15 January 2020

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview with members of the advisory panel on: Friday 24 January, between 10am and 4pm. Interviews will take place in Forres or by video call by arrangement.