

Spring Rising Brief for Artist Commissions

The story

Our story starts with the frozen, but fertile, earth – made up of many layers built-up over time from the remnants of past life, each contributing to a rich soil. A seed is brought from a distant land, borne by the wind it lands on this frozen ground. Thawed by the rain and sun, slowly the ground softens and the seed opens. Tentatively, new life is nurtured and new growth springs forth. Fed by the rich layers of the soil, the seed thrives and grows into an exotic plant, bearing colourful flowers and succulent fruits that feed many creatures. As Winter approaches, the plant dies and itself becomes part of the soil, completing the cycle.

Description of the project

Output Arts and Emergency Exit Arts have been commissioned by Southwark Council to create *Spring Rising* in March 2018, to follow on from their successful 2017 event *Spring Waking*. For this we will be creating the following:

- A procession of vibrant illuminated flowers carried through local streets. These will be made in artist-led workshops in schools and community groups.
- A finale outdoor performance in Goose Green with a poem created by Sophia Walker and community groups from across East Dulwich set to music and combined with a film.
- An interactive illuminated garden with commissioned installations incorporating light and sound. These will create an immersive experience for the community to engage with and enjoy after the finale performance.

Description of the commissions

Output Arts are commissioning two artworks from artists for the event that reflect the themes arising from the story as described above. We are open to artists adapting and showing existing work and appreciate that the commission fee lends itself to this. The artworks should have an interactive element, or allow the audience to linger and explore or contemplate the themes arising from the poem.

Preference will be given to artists who live or work locally to the Dulwich area. Emerging artists are encouraged to apply or artists who would like to take work outdoors for the first time. No training or qualifications are required. Some support will be given to commissioned artists by Output Arts and Emergency Exit Arts.

We encourage applications from artists from ethnic minority backgrounds and disabled artists.

Event and commissions supported by



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Commission ONE: £1000

This commission is to work with a local youth group (15–20 participants) to develop an installation for the finale. The youth group will have two workshops (each of 2 hours): the first session will be working with our poet and the second will be dedicated time towards the installation.

The installation:

- should incorporate the voice of our participating youth group and allow them to shape the work;
- should reflect their thoughts on opportunities and hopes for the future through the theme of spring growth and blossoming;
- can be any form – structural, audio or light;
- needs to have impact on the space and be able to be illuminated (if not self-illuminated);
- allow for the audience to interact with and explore it.

The commission includes a planning meeting and attendance at the second workshop session on Monday 12 March; attendance at the first session on Monday 5 March is encouraged. A facilitator will work with you to run the second session.

Commission TWO: £750

This commission is to create an installation in collaboration with a local group (15–20 participants) who attend an English As A Second Language class, specifically targeting people who have migrated or moved to live in the Dulwich area. The group will have two workshops (each of 2 hours): the first session will be working with our poet and the second will be dedicated time towards the installation.

The installation:

- is a structural 3D make around the themes of seeds, exploring themes of journeys, arriving in a new place and ideas of home;
- should incorporate the participants' work and reflect their voices;
- should be able to be carried in the procession and then installed as part of the show;
- needs to be self-illuminated.

This is intended to be a learning opportunity commission for a local emerging artist, or someone looking to expand their practice to outdoors settings. You will work with one of EEA's leading structural makers to design and deliver this make.

The commission includes a planning meeting and attendance at the second workshop session (date to be confirmed); attendance at the first session is encouraged (date to be confirmed). A facilitator will work with you to run the second session.

Guidelines and considerations

Your proposed art work should:

- clearly make reference to the themes and the narrative of the project;
- be durable and well built to withstand public interaction for one evening, including being weather and rain proof;
- be somewhat interactive – allowing physical engagement like listening, moving through, or perhaps activating;
- be able to be installed during the morning of the event day and de-installed with ease immediately after the event is over;
- be safe in close proximity to the public – you will need to provide a risk assessment and comply with site safety;

- fulfil its function for the whole evening of the event.

In addition, you must have public liability insurance (low cost artists' public liability insurance is available through Artists Newsletter / AIR). There will be security and stewards on duty during the event to ensure the security of the installation.

The Process

If your submission has been successful, you must attend an artists' briefing at the start of the project to meet the rest of the artist team, share and develop ideas and keep in touch with the latest developments of the project.

You will then be asked to submit further plans, drawings and designs for approval before you start creating the work, including a technical specification of any power requirements. We would also hope to arrange a studio visit in advance of the event to discuss progress, power and other needs arising.

Prior to the event we expect you to have tested the work to ensure it is fit for purpose and will run for the duration of the event with little or no maintenance once installed. You will need to install, manage (if applicable) and de-install the work on the event day and be responsible for transporting the installation to and from the site unless otherwise agreed. Any additional support you may require from technicians or crew should be included in your proposal.

Key dates (subject to change)

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| • Deadline | 1pm on Thursday 1 March 2018 |
| • Applications awarded by | 5pm on Friday 2 March 2018 |
| • Workshops | 5–16 March 2018, to be confirmed |
| • Artwork tested and complete by | Wednesday 21 March 2018 |
| • Event | Saturday 24 March 2018, 6pm–9pm |
| • Evaluation completed by | Monday 2 April 2018 |

Payment

The total commissions are inclusive of all meetings, material, insurances, planning transport/travel installation and de-installation of the work.

Payments will be made electronically in two equal installments: the first on the receipt of an invoice and signing of the contract; the final payment will be made after the event, on completion of the evaluation document and receipt of a final invoice.

To apply

Please send your application by email to Andy D'Cruz from Output Arts at: andy@outputarts.com

In your application please include:

- a covering letter detailing why you are interested in the commission, any previous relevant experience and how you will involve the participating group;
- your idea for the installation (no more than one page of A4);
- a supporting budget.

Please also confirm whether you hold a recent Enhanced DBS check certificate. This is not a requirement, but necessary information for planning of the workshop sessions.