

Yeovil Art Space Artist R&D Commission

Artist Brief - Celebration

Yeovil Art Space is commissioning an artist/collective to carry out a commission developed and co-delivered by the Yeovil Arts Action Group (YAAG). The commission forms the 3rd part of a year-long R&D commissioning process led by Yeovil Art Space to develop a partnership commissioning group YAAG. Funded by Arts Council England Lottery Funding.

About YAAG

Supported by socially engaged arts organisation Take A Part, YAAG is made up of community organisations, local authority and town council representation, heritage, libraries and communities partners. Over the course of 2020/21, the YAAG have been commissioning artists to work with young people and heritage assets in the town to create engaging events and workshops that open up conversations around cultural ambitions in Yeovil Town.

Vision - To use creativity to build culture, community and identity in Yeovil

Mission - Celebrating and connecting everyone in Yeovil through creativity and culture; fostering unity, embracing change and championing inclusivity.

Aims

- To focus on place-making and co-create contemporary art activities with communities, groups and stakeholders that carry wider aims, i.e. social change, regeneration, economic growth and community cohesion.
- To nurture new artistic ideas through partnership working, together to build reputation and new audiences for the work that is innovative, impactful, positive, relevant and specific to Yeovil.

About the commission

This 3rd commission is focussing on reaching out to areas and groups that do not normally engage and bringing them into the town to celebrate and connect together.

While this is an open brief, the YAAG are keen to:

- Reach those in Yeovil Town who may not normally attend or link into cultural activities
- Explore themes of celebration and togetherness centred around the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee or thoughts on how communities celebrate together
- Interested in supporting identities and cultural heritage
- Consider and support diverse and inclusive approaches to communal celebrations

Our work covers a wider geographical area of Yeovil, including the following Yeovil Town, Brimpton, Yeovil Without & West Coker Parish, and we are keen to engage with and increase our connectivity with groups/communities from the deprived neighbourhoods, including Westfield, Pen Mill North, Sherborne Road, Town Centre and Birchfield, which all within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK.

Our YAAG partners and YAS Team will support the artist by identifying and engaging with groups and organisations in these areas to ensure a broad reach.

Timetable

November 2021 - March 2022

Budget

The overall artist fee is £3000 with a production budget of £1500.

£200/day x 5 days (research & development, including stakeholder meetings, reporting, correspondences with YAS team)

£250/day x 8 days (Production, including running workshops, talk, events, exhibition install & uninstall)

Production budget: £1500 (includes travel and expenses)

Payment will be in 3 parts.

Support and management

Project development will be overseen by Zoe Li, Project Director, including:

- project planning, management
- Curatorial, install and presentation

With support from Engagement Producer Natasha Rand, who will provide 5 days for each artist to assist in:

- Liaising with groups and build links, including those with existing relationships
- Coordinating events and engagement activities with the artists

Additional mentorship and support will come from Kim Wide, Take A Part (1-2 days) over the course of the work.

3 days technical support from Eastville Project Space (eastvilleproject.org.uk) will be offered to each artist if required, including installation, VA facility, equipment and production (within the production budget if in excess of allocated time)

The outcome

We expect to support a final sharing/celebration event in Yeovil Town Centre. We are also interested in supporting digital sharing of the event (a film, talk, images, music etc) for dissemination.

YAS and the wider YAAG will offer marketing support.

We expect some artist time to go towards supporting the evaluation process.

We can offer some volunteer support if needed, however, for good practice and our policy, we do not encourage artists to seek volunteering capacity directly from students or community members, unless there is clear agreement and arrangement with Yeovil Art Space.

Available spaces for engagement activities, exhibition and events:

Yeovil Art Space

This will be our showcase space with ground floor gallery spaces, retail and education space, with upstairs space for education and workshops managed by Yeovil Art Space.

Public spaces

- We are located in Quedam Shopping Centre and there are public spaces allowing for events and performances, temporary installation, intervention.
- Other locations to be identified with YAAG members and partnership organisations, including community centre, vacant shop windows and spaces in the town centre.

Currently Engaged Groups

Here are the existing groups link to YAS

1. 30 x Yeovil Creatives: local artists (50% from culturally diverse & disadvantaged backgrounds)
2. 10 x age 8-13 (holiday & Sunday Art Club)
3. 20 x aged 14-18, including YAY (Young Artist Yeovil) YAS young people group & Yeovil College foundation/ B-tech / A-level arts and design
4. 50 x Yeovil Mini Creatives: Parents with preschool children
5. 30 x Mix age, hobbyist, and those sign up our art workshop programme
6. 200 x Yeovil Residents who took part in our community events, i.e. Window Wanderland

Other groups and communities will be developed together with YAAG members and partnership across Yeovil to be identified within the planning stage.

If you are interested, please send your Expression of Interest to include the following:

- Your profile/CV to include a website link to show your skills and experiences.
- A covering letter to outline why you are interested in the commission and your approach (no more than 300 words)
- Send your Expression of Interest to Zoe Li, Project Director of Yeovil Art Space at zoe@yeovilartspace.uk

Deadline: 8 November 2021

If you would like to access this document in another format please contact Yeovil Art Space.



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