



ICE CREAM VAN mobile art initiative

ARTISTS CALL - WORKSHOP N.2

Midsummer Celebrations with the residents of Huggens College

We are inviting interest from artists and creative practitioners to deliver our second arts-led workshop. It will continue our series of public engagement activities in Dartford and surroundings led by Dartford Arts Network and funded by Creative Estuary.

Again, the workshop will have the aim of creating space for a discussion around the concept of a “mobile arts vehicle” which could bring arts and culture activities to under-served audiences for arts and culture in the area, promoting cohesion, local creative links, general wellbeing and generating a sense of place.

About the Ice-Cream Van Project

The long-term project is focused on arts/cultural mobility and access along the Thames estuary, with a view to exploring how a mobile vehicle could improve local access to arts and culture.

The project will do this through

- building relationships with local arts organisations (and therefore highlighting under-served audiences and workshop themes)
- holding 3 artist-led workshops which engage with highlighted audiences and address/explore issues of arts mobility

- mapping the local area along the estuary and identifying gaps in accessibility
- producing a final artwork and event at the end of the project, which can highlight what we have learnt/ways in which a mobile vehicle could improve accessibility for our highlighted audiences

ABOUT WORKSHOP N2

The second workshop will be held at Huggens' College in Northfleet (<http://www.huggenscollege.org/>). Through discussion and collaboration with Gravesend Arts Salon and Northfleet Big Local, we have chosen as our highlighted audience the Huggens residents ie older members of the community who do not necessarily have the means to access regular arts opportunities, and who may have been negatively impacted socially and recreationally by the pandemic in particular. Our focus is to challenge this limited access by taking the art opportunity to the participants. We may also be able to spill out onto the outside areas and encourage the general public to come over from neighbouring residential areas to join in the activity, meet and engage with residents and create a community event – but this is yet to be confirmed. We are planning to use a community room at the college as a starting point, then potentially move outside, so an activity which could start small (10-20 people) and expand if needed would be ideal.

The overall theme of the workshop will be Midsummer – this could include celebrations or festivals, memories, summer holidays, weather etc. The scope is wide enough to encourage creative thinking, but we want it to be relevant to the time of year, audience and also to have a positive focus.

We anticipate that artists will consider the overall aim and theme of the project (arts mobility) in relation to the more specific theme of the individual workshop (engagement with older people through Midsummer topic) and submit a proposal for a 4-hour long workshop which will achieve the following outcomes:

- Interactive, fun, engaging arts activity for older people
- Creatively address the subject/theme of arts mobility through the activity (e.g. Connect people with arts they may not usually access, look at the topic of access to art and going to places, their memories of art and culture, summertime and summer celebrations, explore the grounds, explore what they *can* access as an arts resource etc.) We want artists to be thoughtful about threading the themes together and are looking for innovative proposals which do this.
- Produce tangible creative outputs which we can record/document/give to participants or demonstrate.

Topics we would suggest the commissioned artist consider for this

- The relationship between people and surroundings, especially in relation to arts mobility/access (favourite places or things to do in the area – midsummer celebrations/memories)
- How they connect to the world through art
- How a mobile arts vehicle could open up their opportunities
- Bringing gallery-based art/s to them
- Using creativity/making to spark memories, explore sense of place and belonging, share memories with younger people/people new to the area e.g. to preserve these

Fee and time commitment

We are offering £265 for an artist/creative practitioner to deliver one Community Workshop. This fee covers workshop preparation, materials (for facilitator and attendees), expenses and VAT.

The workshop will take place 12pm-4pm 25th of June 2022, following previous preparation and planning.

DAN will commit to offer benefits in kind of

- Community room area to hold workshop
- If outside, a covered gazebo space with 1-2 x trestle tables, chairs
- Joined up marketing and promotion of workshop and artist through DAN, GAS, NBL, Creative Estuary
- 1 x workshop manager and 2 x assistants minimum available to help on the day
- Documented recording of workshop activities for post-workshop marketing across the rest of the project
- Invite to final event which will bring together all artists from across the workshops, as well as everyone who worked on the project from local and partner organisations, in order to facilitate networking and discussion for professional development opportunities

How to apply

Please send an email with your proposal (not more than 2 pages document) to hello@dartfordartsnetwork.com

Deadline: Proposals should be received by and not later than 5pm on the 6th June 2022.

In your response include:

- A description of your artistic/creative practice and what experience you could bring to the workshop
- What are your links, connections and/or interests to Dartford area and/or surroundings
- Your proposal for the workshop activity to happen on the day and how it covers all aspects of our brief
- Your experience of facilitating sessions with members of the public or community groups

Commissioned artists will need to provide proof of PL insurance and UTR number

