

Stamford Connections: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE BRIEF

Art Pop-Up is seeking an Artist/Creative Practitioner to create a series of artworks which investigate, respond to and demonstrate/illustrate stories of connections in the Stamford community. The commission is open to all art forms.

About the project

“How do you connect in Stamford?” Building a stronger community based on its assets

The *Stamford Connections* project is a partnership led by Art Pop-Up with MindSpace Stamford. It is based on the premise of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and the NEF/NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing, it will form the initial research to define what Stamford’s ‘assets’ are: where and how people connect in Stamford.

If you are not familiar with the concept of ABCD please watch the video (18 mins): *Sustainable community development: from what's wrong to what's strong*, Cormac Russell, TEDx Exeter
<http://bit.ly/CR-ABCD>

- RESEARCH: Through the project research and outcomes we will make the local connections and their importance visible, defining the value so it becomes a principle to invest in: know, understand, value, act. We will employ a Community Engagement Lead to investigate and define connections in the Stamford community.
- ENGAGE: We will then use art as a method of convening and broader engagement: creating a public platform through an Artist’s residency at the Stamford Arts Centre Gallery to tell the stories of how connections are made - to encourage participation, advocacy and further connections.
- CELEBRATE/ADVOCATE: We will then host celebratory/introductory events at key sites as defined by the research to advocate for increased participation.

Alongside the research aims, the programme will provide an opportunity for people to come together, participate in a creative activity and make connections.

We will investigate:

- **where connections exist and how they happen**
- **what connection means to the community and how it helps**
- **how are connections maintained - how do we make them wider reaching, resilient and sustainable?**

Outcomes:

- disseminate the opportunities, facilitate connections in the Stamford community
- facilitate networking between key community connectors

Artist's brief

The Artist will collaborate with the Community Engagement Lead, community groups and the wider public in Stamford. They will run workshops throughout the project and make works (produced on site) at the Stamford Arts Centre Gallery from July 7th to August 3rd 2021.

The initial artwork development should complement and engage with the research process led by the Community Engagement Lead and the final artwork(s) produced should explore and communicate clearly the research and engagement outcomes.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PHASE - The project will include an initial research phase in May and June led by the Community Engagement Lead with volunteers from the community and assisted by the Artist through community group etc workshops/talks. The outcomes of this initial research will form the basis of the material to which the artist will respond, along with further input from primary sources engaged by the Artist in conjunction with the project team.

RESIDENCY – development of work on site at Stamford Arts Centre Gallery, envisaged potentially along the lines of an 'Open Studio' with work in progress displayed/evolving. The residency/exhibition will install on 7th July and de-install 2nd/3rd August. It is envisaged that the public will be able to visit the 'studio' (in compliance with COVID-Secure guidelines, during the Arts Centre opening times) to see the work evolve, to talk to and/or participate in workshops with the Artist.

BOOK/DOCUMENTATION - The research and artworks will be collated into a celebratory book to which we anticipate the Artist will contribute a minimum of 6 key images/texts from their project work plus supplementary images/text.

CELEBRATORY EVENTS - The project culminates with a series of celebratory events which will include workshops by the artist, during August/September 2021 at sites in Stamford that will be defined as part of the research in conjunction with project participants.

Key tasks

- Reach out to the community to explore the project theme/aims, in conjunction with the Project Manager and Community Engagement Lead.
- Collaborate with the Community Engagement Lead and facilitate the collection of research including workshops with community groups etc.
- Explore research outcomes and feed into the analysis led by the Community Engagement Lead.
- Develop work that communicates the project aims and explores the research outcomes.
- Produce work during a residency at the Stamford Arts Centre Gallery.
- Create and run workshops during the initial research and development phase and the residency/exhibition and the celebratory phase.
- Contribute works and information developed during the project to the book in collaboration with the project manager, the artist and the editor.
- Collaborate on celebratory events including liaising/encouraging research/workshop participants to engage with the subsequent event programme.
- Contribute regularly to the social media and marketing coverage of the project.
- Take part in reflective and evaluative discussions about their work, during and at the end of the project.

- Participate and contribute to the project evaluation.

COVID-19 considerations

It is intended the vast majority of this work will take place in person adhering to government guidance and restrictions and ensuring a COVID-Secure work environment. The Project Manager will continue to monitor the situation through the coming months, adaptations to the project may be necessary if government guidance and restrictions change.

Timeline

Closing Date for Applications 22nd April 2021 at 6pm

Artist selected by 30th April 2021

May-June 2021 – initial research takes place

July 2021 – work created on site in Stamford Arts Centre gallery

August/September 2021 – celebration events at sites in Stamford

Budget and fees

A total of £3060 will be awarded to the commissioned artist.

- This fee is inclusive of travel and all costs associated with producing, delivering/installing the work.
- Artists must have their own Public Liability Insurance and be registered as self-employed.
- A small additional budget for workshop materials is available if required.

The ideal candidate

We are looking for an artist who is passionate about telling stories of local people and communities. Candidates should have at least 3 years' experience ideally of working with communities as part of their practice as a professional artist, with excellent project management skills, great at collaborating, as well as having high quality artistic outputs.

We particularly welcome applications from artists who have a personal connection to the area.

The residency is open to artists of all disciplines including visual art, poetry, music, dance, theatre, photography and film. Please note that the intended outputs/deliverables for this project are a series of workshops, works to evolve in the gallery space and to be documented in a book. Work therefore must be able to be visually represented. It is intended that most of the programme be delivered in person.

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. The quality, originality and ambition of the creative idea at the heart of the application and its relevance to the commissioning context
2. The capacity and the approach to deliver the project on time and within budget

3. Previous track record **and/or** potential
4. Ability to engage with the community who will support the development and promotion of the programme

Shortlisted artists will be invited to an interview over Zoom.

To apply

Please submit a CV, 4-6 examples of your work, and a letter answering the 4 questions below.

Applications should be sent to: submissions@artpopup.co.uk

The deadline for applications is 6pm Thursday 22nd April

Please tell us:

1. Why do you want to work in Stamford? (500 words max)
2. About your recent professional experience. (500 words max)
3. An occasion where you have worked directly with a community to inform the work you were making. (300 words max)
4. Your initial ideas and how you might approach this commission. (500 words max)

Please note that you may be asked to undergo a DBS check for this role.

About Art Pop-Up

Art Pop-Up is small, innovative, non-profit arts organisation based in Stamford, Lincolnshire. We create inspiring, thought provoking opportunities for creative discovery, participation & enrichment, to reach out to everyone in our communities. We are creativity evangelists, cultural engineers and community builders. We have worked with over 130 artists and engaged over 70 000 people since we were founded in 2011.

www.artpopup.co.uk

[www.fb.com/artpopup](https://www.facebook.com/artpopup)

About MindSpace Stamford

MindSpace Stamford is a local charity committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the whole town, helping people to flourish. We encourage conversations around mental health in our homes, businesses, and schools and offer a range of activities based on the 5 ways to wellbeing, that anyone can access (for free!) to encourage positive mental health and wellbeing.

www.mindspacestamford.com