

WHAT WE DO NOW

‘WHAT WE DO NOW ECHOES IN ETERNITY’ MARCUS AURELIUS

Twelve substantial commissions in Dumfries & Galloway for creative practitioners

OVERVIEW

‘What We Do Now’ (WWDN) is a bold, collaborative project working with creative freelancers, communities and local anchor organisations (Place Hubs) across Dumfries & Galloway.

Creative practitioners* will be commissioned to co-develop original creative projects over the course of a year. The project will ignite and inspire new imaginative possibilities with, for and about the communities involved, actively working to ‘build back better’ in the aftermath of Covid. What We Do Now is one regional project within a nationwide network coordinated by Creative Scotland entitled Culture Collective.

These opportunities are an invitation to artists to re-emerge, to experiment and play with new ideas in collaboration with communities across Dumfries & Galloway. WWDN is itself an experiment in how creativity, arts practice and community can work to realise new possibilities, to engage and platform the voices hitherto unheard in our places and inspire new collaborations across the region. With the support, encouragement and infrastructure of multiple organisations across the arts, community and third sector in Dumfries & Galloway, ‘What We Do Now’ is a vote of confidence in the role of creativity as part of the future of our society. We are looking for creative practitioners who are committed to their work and want to be part of making a difference. If you are interested, but concerned that some of what is described in this pack may not be an exact fit for you, then please do talk to us, you may be just who we are looking for.

There are 12 commissions in total of which 10 creative freelancers/artists or arts groups will be commissioned for a year to work in and with 5 places, (2 for each Place Hub) and initiate creative projects with key sections of each respective community. These place opportunities are split between ‘emerging’ and ‘established’ artists/ creative practitioners. A further 2 creative freelancers are sought to work alongside The Stove Network in the creative documentation (Documentarian Commission) and digital delivery (Digital Producer) of the project.

Fees for the artists working in places are based on a commitment of approx. 2 days per week with additional production and support budgets. The five projects are in: Stranraer (based with Stranraer Millennium Centre), Sanquhar (A’ the Airts), Langholm (Outpost Arts), NW Dumfries (LIFT D&G) and Castle Douglas (Castle Douglas Development Forum). Please see the Place Briefs for each place within this pack. Artists will be supported to co-develop ideas with communities based on the working values of inclusion, empowerment and creative freedom through collaborative, community embedded processes.

Shared learning and support for artists, groups and organisations is a crucial element of WWDN. Commissioned artists will have access to the relevant experience and skills of The Stove and our partners including: one on one support and mentorship, project delivery and production support as well as flexible payment and working formats that can be responsive to differing needs and working approaches.

WWDN is supported by a regional partners group (DG Arts Festival, Wigtown Book Festival and Upland) and a strategic partners group (South Of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Third Sector D&G and Skills Development Scotland) all of whom have supported the development of WWDN and will support the development of ideas/projects as they emerge. Each of the five Place Hubs took part in The Stove’s research project, ‘Embers: Creative Placemaking in South Scotland’ and are in, or working with, communities experiencing disadvantage. All have identified sections of their own community where Covid has accentuated existing disadvantage and exclusion and have some experience of working culturally.

*we use the word 'artist' and 'creative practitioner' interchangeably through this document to mean anyone who uses creativity as a core process in the way that they work. We are open to all forms of creative practice being part of this project. See also 'Priorities and Working Criteria'. We are open to joint proposals, or those from performing groups for example, but would want to hear how this might impact on the financial support for the individual freelancers involved.

CULTURE COLLECTIVE

'What We Do Now' is the Dumfries and Galloway project within the national programme called Culture Collective, coordinated by Creative Scotland. As part of their Covid response, the Scottish Government have made a £6M investment into the Culture Collective programme, to place freelance creative practitioners in communities in 26 projects around Scotland. Large numbers of creative freelancers have lost their income because of the Covid pandemic and people in communities are also experiencing real difficulties. The basic principle of Culture Collective is simple - to pay creatives to work with communities.

Scotland has a developing movement of artists embedding their practice in communities to co-create projects with local people. Because of this, it has been possible to conceive a national initiative that develops new projects through the experience of arts organisations who can support creative freelancers to connect with communities, make new work together and share the learning, expertise and capacity from this work across a national network.

Culture Collective has the potential to place creative practice right at the heart of Covid recovery and be a game-changer for the way we do culture in Scotland.

THE STOVE

The Stove Network is an organisation that has had collective freelance creative practice at its core for over ten years. It is an arts and community organisation based in the centre of Dumfries in South West Scotland, a successful social enterprise and the first arts-led Development Trust in Scotland, providing regular employment for creative practitioners. In 2019/20 we offered 63 commissions to creative freelancers at a total value of £111,920. We have experience in commissioning artists (£200 to £40,000), residency projects (locally and internationally) and peer-to-peer learning with emerging and established artists over short and long periods

Our style of practice is a process-led way of working that uses creative activity to engage communities in projects, rooted in the place they're made. Our values of audacity, collaboration, trust, empowerment, positive disruptive change, innovation and inclusion guide all our work in a commitment to finding locally led solutions for the future of our places and communities.

TAKING PART

PARTICIPATORY AND SOCIALLY-ENGAGED PRACTICE

The aim of What We Do Now is to support creative practitioners to use their skills to co-create work with people and places. We call this socially-engaged or participatory practice, wherein practitioners and community members go on an open-ended exploratory journey together. The results of this journey will vary wildly in form and substance, however the overall impact will be that new ideas and initiatives will be shaped for the benefit of people and place. This impact, we call Creative Placemaking, is the core practice of The Stove and the objective of What We Do Now is to set in motion new Creative Placemaking projects and link those to form a network of knowledge, resource and capacity in our region. At the heart of this practice is the idea of 'experiment' - a commitment to trying things and learning together through the process. If this is the way you work, or would like to work - we would love to hear from you.

TRAINING AND LEARNING

Creative freelancers will be supported at every stage of WWDN and have access to: • relevant experience and skills of The Stove and our partners

- one on one support and mentorship
- project delivery and production support
- flexible payment and working formats that can be responsive to differing needs and working approaches

Creative freedom will be valued across the commissions, with communities and other partners also supported in understanding how to get the best from collaborating with creative practitioners. Training and induction sessions will introduce themes and the collaborative working ethos of the project and provide support to less experienced artists.

Regular working sessions will establish a collective practice for practitioners engaged in WWDN and be a place for visioning and sharing themes across the project. The Stove will facilitate these spaces as a further opportunity for co-creation with communities.

Freelancers will also be supported in digitalisation, communications, inclusive design and delivery, cross-sector working, demystification of organisational processes, use of public spaces, working with marginalised and minority groups and working in areas of disadvantage. Partners across the project will offer additional expertise (DG Arts Festival, Wigtown Book Festival, Upland, Third Sector D+G, Skills Development Scotland, DG Council).

A key priority related to the vision of The Stove is providing priority support for the D/deaf community and BSL user groups. WWDN will work with Deaf Scotland and DG Council's Sensory Support Unit, with whom we have a long-standing partnership in our targeted programme engaging the D/deaf community in D+G. The project will include BSL interpretation and training for commissioned artists and community groups in D/deaf and neurodiversity awareness.

To ensure the protection of commissioned freelancers, WWDN will implement a Duty of Care framework, held by an assigned Key Worker responsible for the commissioned freelancer. The framework will address the supervision and support in working with protected and vulnerable individuals.

THE BRIEFS

Two artists sought per place + one documentarian and one digital producer.

IDENTITY & VISION - STRANRAER MILLENNIUM CENTRE

Stranraer Millennium Centre is a Community Trust and resource for Stranraer that runs a regular programme of events for community groups locally. The Stranraer project will develop a multi-sensory project focused on creating quality arts activity and accessibility for local people to engage with visions for the future of their town and public spaces.

MOVEMENT & PLAY - CASTLE DOUGLAS DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Castle Douglas Development Forum (CDDF) is a community organisation in the Stewartry, set up to incorporate various civic organisations under one body. CDDF will develop a physical performance project with young women and families that aims to encourage a more playful interrogation of local needs in their community.

CONNECTION & POSSIBILITY - A' THE AIRTS – SANQUHAR

A'The Airts is a community arts space in Sanquhar working to contribute to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the communities of Upper Nithsdale by actively encouraging participation in a range of arts, crafts and related activities. They have identified the need to better connect with socially-disadvantaged young people (14-25) in the upper Nithsdale and engage this demographic in identifying, developing and producing activity and work that is relevant to them.

BELONGING & PRIDE - LIFT D+G NORTHWEST DUMFRIES

LIFT is a community group focused on bringing together their community in celebration, activity and development of their place. Northwest Dumfries is a housing estate on the outskirts of Dumfries and listed in the top 5% on index of multiple deprivation. WWDN will work with young families and residents living in high-rise flats in the area, focussing on identity and a sense of belonging for children and families to enjoy and feel safe in the places they live.

OWNERSHIP & VOICE OUTPOST ARTS - LANGHOLM

Outpost Arts delivers an ambitious, contemporary and diverse programme of rural arts, offering a high quality creative education programme, multi-generational creative health and well-being opportunities and works to support the regeneration of Langholm & Esk Valley. WWDN will work with Outpost Arts to creatively explore new spaces that community members and groups can use locally, working with a broad range of the community in the process.

DOCUMENTARIAN AND DIGITAL PRODUCER

2 commissions are available to work across the project, collaborating with The Stove team as part of the project's development and delivery. A Documentarian is sought to capture the project across each place hub as well as a Digital Producer to work with the core project team in the digital production and delivery, sharing the project's development over the course of one year. Please refer to the separate Briefs for these commissions in terms of working practice we are looking for, fees and how to apply

STRANRAER - IDENTITY & VISION

PLACE HUB

Stranraer Millennium Centre is a multi-use community centre and venue based within Stranraer town centre.

BRIEF

In Stranraer, we are looking for creative practitioners/artists to work with local groups, community partners and initiatives to engage the community in re-igniting cultural and creative activity at a unique period in the town's development.

Artists are invited to use their own original creative practice, to help shape and showcase a community vision and invite and collaborate with others in the process. This is a unique and exceptional opportunity for two creative practitioners to apply their creative processes to the identity and vision of Stranraer, at a pivotal stage in the town's life.

A key consideration of the practitioners' residency is the rapidly developing regeneration initiatives undertaken by Dumfries & Galloway Council, Stranraer Development Trust and Millennium Centre. Regeneration initiatives include: Stranraer Oyster Festival, Stranraer Harbour Redevelopment and the town centre regeneration. Stranraer Project partners are particularly interested in collaborating and involving local communities in the visual and/or multi-sensory representation of 'An Inclusive Town'.

As such, Creative Practitioners are sought to interpret, work alongside and collaborate with sectors of the community, including young people, local businesses and those with Autism Spectrum Disorders and disabilities in the visual realisation and expression of the town's evolving identity, one that is inclusive, creative and aspirational. Practitioners will be supported by the place project partners throughout the residency in this interaction.

We are particularly interested in hearing from visual and public artists who are keen to explore their practice within community and public spaces, working in collaboration with the communities to evolve and platform an 'inclusive town' narrative.

Creative practitioners will be based within the Stranraer Millennium Centre though it's expected that project work may expand out-with the centre so as to engage the wider community, including community hubs and centres.

There is a strong appetite for creative practitioners to work with town centre businesses in the visualization of the creative regeneration of Stranraer, with opportunities to collaborate and work alongside other place-making/ creative projects within the town, with a coordinated network of community connectors and organisations.

PLACE CONNECTORS

- Stranraer Development Trust
- Better Lives Partnership
- Wigtownshire Stuff

SEEKING

- One experienced creative practitioner/artist: £15,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)
- One emerging creative practitioner/artist: £11,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)

CASTLE DOUGLAS - MOVEMENT & PLAY

PLACE HUB

In Stewartry, the community place-lead organisation for What We Do Now is Castle Douglas Development Forum (CDDF), a Scottish Registered Charity (SCO 46339). CDDF's aim is to promote the well-being of the people of Castle Douglas and its immediate surrounds by generating community spirit and civic pride. They do this by supporting volunteer groups, community events and activities year-round as well as running a volunteer-led Charity Shop raising funds for their community. On behalf of the community they now own the visitor information centre, the Heart Of Galloway. A year ago CDDF became the Town's community anchor organisation and resilience team and in response created the Stepping Stones project, a food bank for the Stewartry alongside a poverty alleviation programme. The was listed as one of the Big Issue Top 100 Changemakers 2021.

BRIEF

Working with CDDF as well as other community connectors, creative practitioners/artists are sought to work with the local communities in Castle Douglas and surrounds to devise and deliver an ambitious creative performance project connected with themes of playfulness and physicality.

CDDF have hitherto successfully engaged their respective communities in circus and 'fringe-style' performance, and are keen to build on this work and raise the bar in confidence and skills in their community as well as provide a creative and healthy outlet for the town to collaborate and share, engaging local after-school clubs and sports societies in the co-creation of performance work.

CDDF are keen to work with performance practitioners with a practice in physical theatre, circus and/or dance. They are keen for the artists to work with them on engaging young people and families, particularly young women under-represented within cultural initiatives and creative activity. Performance practitioners from other and related disciplines are also encouraged to apply as well as collectives and companies.

Creative practitioners will work with CDDF and other project partners to engage sectors of the community experiencing heightened disadvantage due to the pandemic, identifying and exploring means of engaging individuals through a sensitive and considered process to platform, champion and raise the confidence of participants from the conception to delivery of the project.

PLACE CONNECTORS

- CDDF
- Better Lives Partnership
- Heart of Galloway Visitor Centre
- Galloway Glens
- Ballet Box
- Gymtastic
- Support In Mind

SEEKING

- One experienced creative practitioner/artist: £15,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)
- One emerging creative practitioner/artist: £11,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)

SANQUHAR - CONNECTION & POSSIBILITY

PLACE HUB

Situated in the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar A'The Airts Community Arts and Crafts centre is nestled in the heart of Upper Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. An arts centre with a small theatre and crafts workshop, as well as a shop and cafe, A'The Airts works with children and families as well as the wider community in the production and development of community festivals, art projects and related activity to inspire and nurture senses of belonging through cultural participation.

BRIEF

Creative practitioners/artists are sought to engage hard-to-reach young people between 14-25 in a creative project to inspire and provoke conversation and activity, exploring young people's relationship to their town and their voice within it. This is an exciting opportunity for creative practitioners to explore their own practice in new environments, with an emphasis on positive disruption.

Within Sanquhar, there is a growing curiosity in how creative work can respond and highlight the voices of young people locally, to inspire, provoke and involve them in new experiences to enrich and widen their own possibilities for the future. As such, we are keen to hear from creative practitioners across a wide range of disciplines and practices, who can apply their own practice in a responsive, adaptable and generous way so as to connect with young people who feel excluded from arts and creative activity.

We are open to hearing from applicants who have little experience in working with young people but feel their practice may align with the brief's aims. We are looking for artists to be proactive, radical and courageous in their approach to the residency. Following a consultation with young people in the area, there is a keen interest in visual and public art including mural, sign painting and graffiti, though all artforms from performance to music have been highlighted.

Young people within the town are historically underrepresented in cultural and creative experiences, due to a multitude of factors including disadvantage, lack of amenities and public transport. With this in mind, creative practitioners will undertake a period of research alongside A'The Airts to trial and experiment with different means of cultural activity as a means to provoke discussion with young people in the area.

Practitioners will have access to a localised network of partners including Sanquhar Academy, Crawick Multiverse and Building Healthy Communities to help facilitate participation and engagement in the creative project. Dependant on the project outcomes, exhibitions may be held at the multiverse. Artists will be supported with this engagement throughout the project.

PLACE CONNECTORS

- Building Healthy Communities
- NHS
- Upper Nithsdale Tourism Partnership
- Sanquhar Academy

SEEKING

- One experienced creative practitioner/artist: £15,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)
- One emerging creative practitioner/artist: £11,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)

NORTH WEST DUMFRIES - BELONGING & PRIDE

PLACE HUB

LIFT is a community group focused on bringing together their community in celebration, activity and development of their place. Northwest Dumfries is a housing estate on the outskirts of Dumfries and listed in the top 5% on index of multiple deprivation. WWDN will work with young families and residents living in high-rise flats in the area, focussing on identity and a sense of belonging for children and families to enjoy and feel safe in the places they live.

BRIEF

Situated in NW Dumfries (Lincluden & Lochside), LIFT are seeking creative practitioners/artists to apply a responsive and colourful practice that engages and empowers residents to contribute to the design and production of artworks, designs and projects to reinvigorate the Dunlop Road area of Lochside.

This is an opportunity for artists to work intimately and freely with a residential community, allowing artists to explore and deepen their own practice in the exploration of the project's themes of belonging and pride.

We are looking for creative practitioners to work with local residents and community partners in the design of a creative project and/or associated artworks to 'breathe new life' into the local area to:

- Engender a sense of pride from local residents.
- Support and encourage residents to participate in the project
- Platform and celebrate the unique qualities and people of the area
- Reinvigorate the residential street, using practical means to encourage participation
- Apply and develop their own creative practice to deepen senses of belonging whilst being tenacious and sensitive, to allow others to participate and share.

Creative practitioners will be working with participants historically under-represented in cultural and creative initiatives from a diverse range of backgrounds and needs, as such; creative practitioners will work with local residents, facilitating their views and ideas. Turnaround residency is quick within the area so creative practitioners will work with residents to engender a sense of belonging through the process by actively involving them, with the aim of encouraging families to stay longer-term.

Project partners along with LIFT will support the artist in realizing the creative ambitions of the project, equipping the creative practitioners with the connections and tools necessary to establish the project to work within best practice.

PLACE CONNECTORS

- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership
- YMCA
- Oasis Youth Centre
- Local residents
- NHS
- The Family Centre

SEEKING

- One experienced creative practitioner/artist: £15,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)
- One emerging creative practitioner/artist: £11,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)

LANGHOLM - OWNERSHIP & VOICE

PLACE HUB

OutPost Arts deliver an ambitious, contemporary and diverse programme of 'rural' arts, offering a high quality creative education programme, creative health and well-being opportunities as well as supporting the regeneration of Langholm & Esk Valley, benefitting people of all ages and abilities. With key focuses in education, wellbeing and regeneration, the charity works alongside local groups, schools and communities, exploring and delivering creative activity with, for and about the area, its heritage, people and ambition.

BRIEF

Creative practitioners/artists are sought to work alongside the local community to explore and develop creative projects tied to themes of ownership and voice. With the recent community buy-out of an area within Langholm Moor and Tarras Valley there is a palpable sense of momentum and interest with regards to the rights, uses and ownership of public, private and derelict space within the town and surrounding area, as well as an interest and/or scepticism of the processes, rights and accountabilities of ownership from local authority to private acquisition of the town's buildings and land.

There is particular interest from young people to explore and develop skills and knowledge in digital media to platform, contribute and advocate for young people's voices within these processes. As well as to platform and inspire meaningful creative expression of young people in the area, from spoken word, performance and public art.

Similarly, there is growing community conversation related to the deterioration of public space locally, with particular emphasis on the provision, maintenance and design of recreational spaces for children and families, with COVID-19 and its subsequent lockdowns bringing this into focus. Creative practitioners are sought to explore public space, use and advocacy to activate and inspire imaginative possibilities through a collaborative, engaging and sensitive process with the community at its core.

Practitioners will work alongside OutPost Arts, associated community groups and schools in the initial research and development of creative project(s) to explore, platform and collaborate with aforementioned user groups through activity and conversation, leading to practical (in-situ) activity to trial, test and experiment with new models, blending creative practice and community development related to the key themes of the commission.

Creative practitioners with an interest/experience in digital media (filmmaking, streaming, web-based platforms and design) have been highlighted, however, WWDN Langholm are interested to hear from practitioners across all forms and mediums. Practitioners with experience/interest in working with young people have been highlighted, with OutPost Arts and local schools providing foundational support with this interaction and development.

PLACE CONNECTORS

- Langholm and Canonbie Schools Cluster
- Langholm Initiative
- SURF (Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum)
- Langholm Alliance
- Xcel Youth Trust

SEEKING

- One experienced creative practitioner/artist: £15,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)
- One emerging creative practitioner/artist: £11,000 for 100 days (See Commissions in Places)

DOCUMENTARIAN COMMISSION

BRIEF

The Stove Network is seeking a Documentarian to imaginatively record the What We Do Now project. The Documentarian will spend time in each Place Hub to record the development and output of activity and visually map the storyline/narrative of the project based on its key thematic occupations, which are:

- Connection & Possibility
- Identity & Vision
- Movement & Play
- Belonging & Pride
- Ownership & Voice

We expect the Documentarian to take an interesting and insightful approach to the concept, reality and ambition of WWDN and its role within the continuing story of creative placemaking in the region, and apply a proactive approach in capturing the unique nature of community and socially-engaged arts practice in Dumfries & Galloway.

The Documentarian will work alongside the Artistic Director, Digital Producer and General Manager to support up to 4 outputs of the collated material throughout the year of the project with a final presentation/publication as part of the project's conclusion in August 2022.

The Stove is keen to hear from applicants who can demonstrate a diverse and/or broad range of practices/skill-sets to provide sufficient material to communicate the project in a multiplicity of ways (for eg: podcasts, video, photographic exhibition), yet are open to applicants who can demonstrate a defined/singular practice in a relevant field (for eg: photographers).

Applicants should be conscious and open to the material being shared across multiple elements of the project including website and the digital hub, podcasts and offline printed media and installation. We expect the Documentarian to work closely with the core project team in the display and publication of the material as well as contributing to the Stove's 'Conversing Building' project in liaison with the Public Art lead.

We recommend you read through the full Application Pack if you are applying for this position to give you a feel for the over-all project and how we will be working with Creative Practitioners in each place. However the sections specifically relevant to the Digital Producer brief are:

- Information and Support Sessions
- How to Apply
- Key Dates

FEE

£15,000 (inclusive of all fees, project materials and expenses).

We ask that applicants provide an indicative breakdown of the project budget, estimating fees, expenses and materials (eg: printed work/publication and equipment) within the application submission. We expect to pay Artists Union pro rata residency rates for 2021.

TIME COMMITMENT

August 2021 - August 2022

DIGITAL PRODUCER COMMISSION

BRIEF

The Stove Network is seeking to work with a Digital Producer as part of the core project delivery of What We Do Now (WWDN). Alongside the project's key focuses, we want to create a central online space for the WWDN community, associated place hubs, commissioned freelancers and the wider public to engage and learn about the project. It is hoped the online hub will be a central resource to gather and learn as well as lay a foundational legacy for resource-sharing in future creative placemaking practice for Dumfries & Galloway.

The Digital Producer will work with The Stove's core project team as well as the Documentarian on the design and build of an online space for each locality (5 in total) their associated communities, and the public to engage with the project.

We envisage the WWDN Hub to be a central online space for the public to learn more about the project as it evolves, from articles, video and photographic documentation gathered from the place hubs and the commissioned practitioners in each place.

We would like the hub to be an online conversation space and resource, based upon the central thematic and conceptual considerations of the project which are:

- Connection & Possibility
- Identity & Vision
- Movement & Play
- Belonging & Pride
- Ownership & Voice

The Digital Producer will work with the Stove's Communications and IT manager, as well as the Artistic Director and Community Membership Liaison to design and coordinate the project hub, identifying and utilising digital platforms and software including social media, streaming software and video conferencing to connect the place hubs, communities and creative practitioners in conversation.

We envisage the project activity will take a 'blended' approach to events and workshops, with a high percentage live and in-situ at each locality hub across the region. Part of the Digital Producer's role will be to support the commissioned practitioners in the digital delivery of their projects, applying a broad range of skills and experience to best identify the appropriate software and platforms to use.

The Digital Producer will:

- Design a central 'online hub' for resources and project documentation across each locality
- Support the creative practitioners in the digital delivery of events and associated work
- Support place hubs in connecting with each locality using digital software (Zoom, CrowdCast, YouTube etc)
- Work with the Artistic Director on the programming and delivery of digital events associated with What We Do Now
- Work with the Documentarian in the exhibition and display of documentation and associated materials

We recommend you read through the full Application Pack if you are applying for this position to give you a feel for the over-all project and how we will be working with Creative Practitioners in each place. However the sections specifically relevant to the Digital Producer brief are:

- Information and Support Sessions
- How to Apply
- Key Dates

FEE

£10,500 (Inclusive of all fees, project materials and expenses)

TIME COMMITMENT

August 2021 - August 2022

(approximately 70 days over the course of the project - based on Scottish Artist Union residency rates 2021)

COMMISSIONS IN PLACES

There are 10 artists' commissions available across the What We Do Now project to work with Place Hubs and relative communities; for 5 experienced practitioners and 5 emerging practitioners.

An 'emerging' practitioner could be of any age with a desire to develop in the field of socially-engaged or participatory arts. To create a lasting legacy and invest in the skills of our region, selection will be weighted to emerging artists/arts groups based within the region, though applications are welcomed outwith Dumfries & Galloway. They could be experienced in another field and looking to diversify their skills or are early in their career (see Priorities and Working Criteria).

Experienced practitioners will be expected to have at least 5 years of relevant professional work experience.

Creative Practitioners will be commissioned for a period of one year to work approximately 100 days during that period. Experienced practitioners will be paid £15,000* and emerging practitioners will be paid £11,000*.

It is expected that both artists will work collaboratively with their Place-Hub, their community and in close communication with each other, but not necessarily in direct collaboration.

There will be a separate production budget available for the practitioners to develop work in each community, project support from The Stove and each Place Hub and an accessibility budget to support participation by local people/communities. Arrangements for workspace will be negotiated in each place according to the needs of the practitioners and the resources of the community.

*fees have been calculated using Artists Union pro rata residency rates for 2021.

COVID-19

What We Do Now was conceived with the experience gained by The Stove Network of community arts during 2020, through projects such as Atlas Pandemica, Elsewhere, Wild Goose Festival and Artists and Community Landowners we have learned much about how to work during different phases of Covid restrictions and planned What We Do Now with this knowledge. We are hopeful that the initial stages of the commissions will include significant amounts of in-person interaction, but equally, this work will be possible remotely if necessary. We are anticipating that there could be additional periods of lockdown during next winter and will be working with everyone involved in the project to develop creative proposals that are adaptable to all possible Covid regulations.

Safety of the public and everyone working on What We Do Now is the number one priority of the project and national and regional Covid regulations/guidelines will be followed at all times.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PLACE COMMISSIONS

We would like to hear from creative practitioners/artists with an initial response to the project specifying which Place-Brief you are applying to and a short proposal that responds to the selected brief (see How to Apply). We are looking for proposals from creative practitioners/artists working in any discipline and want to encourage both those who are familiar as well as those who are new to community-engaged methods of working. Please specify in your submission if you are putting yourself forward as experienced or emerging in relation to this project in your application.

We are interested in processes that are responsive and adaptive, demonstrate a commitment to collaborative working and give a clear idea of the creative skills and tools you bring to developing this. We are open to joint proposals or those from performance collectives but would want to hear how this might impact on the financial support for the individual freelancers involved.

We are open to video/recorded sound applications that address the brief and would encourage those who may have additional access requirements or support needs, both in application or anticipated through delivery of the project, to please let us know what we can do to make this opportunity as accessible as possible.

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SESSIONS

We will be running two sessions to share information and support those interested in applying for these opportunities.

1. An Information Day with The Stove team and each Place-Hub to introduce you to the project teams, talk about the overall aims and working approach for What We Do Now and give you an opportunity to ask questions specific to each brief.
1. Application Support Sessions - we are offering one-to-one sessions with The Stove project team to offer additional support as part of this application process and answer questions you might have once you get more into the detail of your submission. These sessions can be booked by emailing info@thestove.org, (see Key Dates for slots available).

Please let us know if you would like to attend these sessions but require additional support such as BSL interpretation or require another form of accessibility support in order to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

We ask applicants to specify which brief they are responding to (Langholm, Stranraer, Sanquhar, NW Dumfries), the Digital Producer or Documentarian and respond to the specifics of that brief in your proposal.

Depending on demand we may suggest moving applications between the places - we will contact you before doing this.

TO APPLY PLEASE SEND US:

- A statement of no more than 600 words stating what interests you about the What We Do Now project, a brief description of your practice and your initial approach to the specific brief for the place or opportunity you are applying to.
- Please indicate in your submission whether you are applying as emerging or experienced in relation to place-briefs
- Current CV (max 2 pages)
- Up to 4 examples of past work that you feel best supports your application – this can be in any form (images, films, texts,
- testimonials, links to online video or other online resources). This is not required for the Digital Producer but we would like
- to see examples of work if you are applying to the Documentarian position
- For applications to the Documentarian Commission please also include an Indicative Budget
- If you are willing, please also complete our Equalities Monitoring form as part of your application (see Diversity & Inclusion)
- Please send by email to info@thestove.org with a maximum file size of 10MB, you can also email us with any additional
- questions you have when applying or ask us to contact you in a different way that best suits you.

We will always send an email acknowledging receipt of any applications. If you do not receive an email, please contact us again. If you require specific support when making an application, please let us know. We are happy to provide you with the interview questions prior to your interview - please ask us for these if you are shortlisted.

KEY DATES

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Midnight Sunday 23rd of May

INFORMATION DAY:

7th May 12:00 – 15:00

APPLICATION SUPPORT SESSIONS:

13th May

12:00 - 14:00

14:00 - 16:00

17:00 - 19:00

Please email info@thestove.org with your preferred time window and we will send you a time slot for a 15 minute conversation. We will contact you about shortlisting by the Thursday the 27th of May at the latest

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

A' the Airts:	Tuesday 1st June
Stranraer Millennium Centre:	Thursday 3rd June
LIFT D+G:	Friday 4th June
Castle Douglas Development Forum:	Tuesday 8th June
Outpost Arts:	Wednesday 9th June
Digital Producer:	Friday 11th June
Documentarian:	Friday 11th June

Selection Announcements to artists: 15th June

Artists Residencies will start on the 26th July 2021 and run until the end of July 2022

Induction and Training will be between the 27th July 2021 – 5th August 2021

SELECTION PROCESS

By applying you are deemed to be making yourself available for an interview on the date relative to your application. We will send out time slots and details once shortlisted (please indicate if there is a particular time of day that you require).

Proposals will be short-listed and selected by a selection panel for each place made up representatives from the relative Place Hub plus a representative of The Stove team, and an independent creative practitioner with experience relating to the brief. Short-listed applicants will be invited to interview on the dates highlighted (see Key Dates).

Selection panels for each place will award 2 Artists Commissions for their place, one emerging and one experienced. No announcements will be made until ALL residencies have been awarded.

PRIORITIES AND WORKING CRITERIA

CREATIVE PRACTITIONER/ARTIST

We define a creative practitioner/artist as anyone who uses creativity overtly in their work be they visual artists, makers, writers, performers, filmmakers, designers and invite applications from all backgrounds.

EMERGING AND EXPERIENCED

An 'emerging' practitioner could be of any age and will be someone with a desire to develop in the field of socially-engaged or participatory arts practice. To create a lasting legacy and invest in the skills of our region, we will be weighting applications for emerging artists/arts groups based within the region. They could be experienced in another field and looking to diversify their skills or early in their career.

Experienced practitioners will be expected to have at least 5 years of professional experience.

PRIORITIES

Within the context of COVID-19 we will weight priorities on commissioning creative freelancers whose income has been significantly affected due to the pandemic (e.g. theatre practitioners, musicians, performance artists), creative freelancers who live and can demonstrate a significant connection to relevant catchment areas where creative commissioning opportunities are historically low as well as applicants from under-represented demographics.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The project will give weighted priority in engaging communities and artists historically under-represented within regional cultural initiatives, including but not limited to, those with disabilities, LGBTQ and BAME. An optional Equalities Monitoring Form is included as part of this application (available through the project page on the Stove website). We are committed to ensuring that this project is as accessible as possible for everyone. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of the project, please contact us.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

We are inviting both local, regional and national applications for this project, however we will be offering opportunities based on a balance between drawing in new perspectives and experience and supporting and growing our regions creative and cultural workforce. Emerging opportunities will be weighted towards regional applicants. We are interested in hearing what skills you will bring and how your work will help share learning and develop experience in your place of residence that lasts beyond the life of the commission.

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Creative Scotland
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
South of Scotland Enterprise
Dumfries & Galloway Council
Wigtown Festival Company
Upland
Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival

PLACE HUBS

Stranraer Millennium Centre Community Trust
Castle Douglas Development Forum
Upper Nithsdale Arts and Crafts Community Initiative
Outpost Arts
Lift D&G