



Pride Of Place Bedford (POP): Reinventing Bedford's vacant retail space for creatives & the community

ARTIST CALL OUT

****We are working with an unusually short timeline due to the nature of our pop-up license, so you may need to be creative with your thoughts and delivery****

ABOUT THE PROJECT

POP Bedford is a creative hub pop-up, situated right in the heart of our town centre. We are working on a lively and engaging six-week programme of events produced by local artists, creatives, and community groups. From exhibitions to live performances, poetry slams, conversation corners and creative workshops, our aim is to bring people closer together and help reimagine where we live.

This space will act as an extension of the public realm through accessible, experience-based interactions and co-creating for those living, working, and visiting Bedford. POP Bedford is a pilot project and is a perfect chance to trial ideas and find out what the community of Bedford would like to see and use. We hope the project will pave the way for a more permanent, community-led creative space.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

A key aim of Pride Of Place Bedford is to support Bedford's talented artists and creatives, so we are excited to be able to offer an amazing opportunity for local artists to become POP Bedford 'Artists-in Residence'.

The appointed artists will develop their own plans responding to the theme of 'This is Bedford', and work with the creative community and local Bedford community to create an artwork, or series of artworks, that will be exhibited as part of the final collaborative exhibition in the last week of the pop-up.

Key points for applicants:

- You will have artistic license over how you interpret our exhibition working title, 'This is Bedford', be it by exploring historical references, conversations, existing communities, or the town centre itself.
- You may choose what materials you use: work can be 2D, multimedia, sculptural, textile and / or include performance work. There will be opportunities for live performances alongside the work during the exhibition week. (Please get in touch if you are unsure whether your practice would be suitable.)
- The work needs to be led by you (and can be created by you) but a key criteria is that the project is a co-created, collaborative effort where there has been active, hands-on participation from members of the local community. We can adapt the project as to whether you would be keen to welcome passers-by in the street to get involved. Or, perhaps you can invite community groups that you would like to work with in the space.
- The pop-up is mostly open during school holidays; therefore, we would like week 26–30 July to be focused on working with young people and or children.
- You will be expected to deliver a minimum of 2 full day's workshop, or a combination of full and half days in the POP Bedford space during one of the following timeframes:
 - **19 – 23 July**
 - **26 – 30 July** aimed towards children and young people (school holidays)

You can use the upstairs of our space to work on the final pieces if you need time beyond the week in the space before the exhibition.

Please note, however, that the final exhibition will contain multiple artworks and exhibits from the other co-creating project, so the space will need to be shared.

Artists will need to:

- Have a strong idea about how to respond to the theme within their own artistic practice.
- Work collaboratively and quickly with project partners to develop a project delivery plan.
- Engage creatives and visitors through creativity.
- Co-develop and create work with community for a final group exhibition.
- Take proactive measures to be inclusive, remove barriers to access and reach new and diverse audiences through the delivery of the project.

- Assist in marketing, evaluation, and documentation of their project by providing details and giving feedback and updates to Talia Giles, Creative Producer/Director.
- Attend project planning meetings virtually, if and when required
- Adhere to Pride Of Place Bedford's procedures and provide evidence of your own safeguarding policies.

COMMISSION INFO:

There are two commissions available.

The fee per artist is £750 to include materials and expenses. The cost of materials can be paid in advance.

Artists/creatives must:

- Be based in or around Bedford.
- Have a valid enhanced DBS check.
- Have PLI and PI insurance at a minimum of £5million.
- Be available to help with exhibition set-up on either Monday 14 August or Tuesday 15 August.
- Deliver a minimum of 2 full day's workshops, or, a combination of full and half days in the POP Bedford space during one of the following timeframes:
 - **19 – 23 July** or
 - **26 – 30 July** aimed towards children and young people (school holidays)

At least one of the workshop days needs to be on a weekend.

This Is Bedford Exhibition:

Private view: **Weds 16 August** (evening – time TBC)

Exhibition dates: **Weds 16 – Sun 20 August** (this may be extended in to the following week)

Work will need to be collected by 28 August. We may be able to help with rehoming the artwork created.

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply, please submit a project proposal along with a covering letter and CV or links/images to any relevant work, and which dates you can do from list above to popbedford@gmail.com

Deadline: Monday 3 July 10pm

All applicants will receive a response as to whether they are successful by **Tuesday 4 July**

Successful applicants will be invited to see the space on **Wednesday 5 July**

N.B. The only toilet in the space is upstairs on the second floor which is accessed via stairs. We are making partner arrangements with other local businesses for those that need an accessible toilet, but please be aware that there is not one directly on the premises.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:

We hope that this project will be able to expand to provide other pop-up uses for empty shops including performance spaces, studios and more for months to come.

Pride Of Place is delivered in partnership with Bedford Creative Arts. This project is made possible thanks to Bedford Borough Council's Town Centre Priority Fund.

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