

## River/Flow/ Connect: Artist Brief

### Phase 1 Workshop Artist



BCA River Picnic 2023 © Urban Judge

#### **About the Project:**

Bedford Creative Arts (BCA) are looking for an experienced artist for a community-based arts project. BCA has been awarded funding by the National Community Lottery Fund to run a series of creative workshops with the communities of Kempston to connect with the River Great Ouse.

#### **The Brief:**

Bedford Creative Arts are looking for an exceptional artist to deliver a series of workshops to connect the communities of Kempston with the River Great Ouse. BCA has future ambitions to commission sculptural spaces along the riverbank in Kempston. We need to understand the needs and desires of the local community and discover what we need to know about residents' views, the river and about wildlife to inform the development of this ambitious project.

The artist will have significant experience in community engagement, a passion for the river environment and public art.

We are looking for an artist to deliver a series of public creative sessions (see below example) with the people of Kempston to explore what the river means to them and what they would like to see commissioned in three key areas (between Queen's Bridge and Kempston Mill) that would strengthen their relationship with the river and support their well-being.

The artist will explore the areas and the community's needs in those areas. The artist would find common values within each of the communities to progress into a creative concept/theme for a potential community sculptural space (this could be linked to heritage of the area, use of the river in that area or natural cues).

There will be a minimum of 5 sessions at each of the 3 potential areas e.g:

1. Open picnic / café event
2. Community leader steering group sessions.
3. Open public creative community workshop
4. Open public creative community workshop
5. Presentation/ Findings of the community workshops

**Future Commissioning:**

This commission is for the first community engagement phase of this project. The findings from each group area will form part of the brief for a lead consultant to guide the community in the preparation of the geographical areas, e.g. planning, groundwork and landscaping. We will work with a specialist and a community panel to commission the lead artist for the sculptural community space at a later stage.

**Fee:**

The fee is in the region of £3750-£4000

There is a separate budget available for materials held by BCA of £1000 (approx.)

Reasonable travel expenses will be provided agreed in advance.

This is a freelance contract. The artist will be liable for their own tax, insurance and pension contribution. This is not an employment contract.

**Application Process:**

Candidates wishing to apply should submit a proposal of no more than 2 sides of A4 (including links to their work), explaining how they will respond to the brief and outlining the following:

- Their relevant experience (including their ability to work with children and their families).
- How they intend to deliver the outputs required
- We will obtain references from the successful candidate before appointment.

Artists are welcome to supply this information in video or audio format (no longer than 5 minutes) if they prefer. If you require any other support to apply, please contact us to discuss how we can support your application.

For informal enquiries, please email our Programme Producer, Ami Aubrey, [amia@bedfordcreativearts.org.uk](mailto:amia@bedfordcreativearts.org.uk) before the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

We welcome joint applications or applications from artist collectives.

Deadline for applications Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am.

Please submit applications to: [info@bedfordcreativearts.org.uk](mailto:info@bedfordcreativearts.org.uk)

Successful candidates will be invited to an online interview in the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### **Eligibility**

We welcome applications from artists at various stages of their career and from a variety of demographic backgrounds.

An Enhanced DBS check will be required for any unsupervised work with the community.

### **About Bedford Creative Arts**

Bedford Creative Arts is a contemporary arts organisation that has worked across Bedfordshire for 39 years. It is committed to commissioning high quality art in communities, working with people to make great art in response to the place where they live. We work at different levels, from light participation to deeper collaborative projects between artists and the public. Throughout our work we seek to make new work that is accessible and engaging for audiences, and questions and develops social practice within contemporary art. Bedford Creative Arts is an Arts Council England national portfolio organisation.

[www.bedfordcreativearts.org.uk](http://www.bedfordcreativearts.org.uk)

### **About River/ Flow/ Connect**

River Flow Connect is a longitudinal project that aims to strengthen engagement and connection with the River Great Ouse by residents living near the riverbank between the town centre and Rural Kempston/ Great Denham. Beginning firstly in Kempston, the project seeks to use arts and creativity as a tool for helping residents to have a positive relationship with their local river that sees an increase in use of the riverbank as a place for recreation, navigation by foot and cycle, socialisation and conservation.

To do this we will identify locations along the riverbank that will be transformed into accessible community spaces (“hubs”). A “hub” is likely to be where we restore an overlooked open-space and re-claim it for use by residents as an area to picnic, walk along, cycle along and celebrate at. This Kempston phase of community engagement is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

### **About Kempston**

Kempston is a large town within Bedford Borough with a strong Parish identity. Three key wards are linked along the river area for this project and ward councillors are actively engaged. Some areas have higher levels of need for the Community Needs Index than for the rest of Bedford (the Community Needs Index identifies areas experiencing poor community and civic infrastructure, relative isolation and low levels of participation in community life.). Levels of deprivation are generally higher than average for England and for wider Bedford and levels of Higher Education are lower. Some areas also have a higher than England and Bedford average levels of disability.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Bedford Creative Arts values inclusivity and strives to ensure equal opportunities for all. This means that all applications will be judged on the candidate's individual merit and abilities in relation to the brief for the role and no applicant will be unfairly discriminated against based on any protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) or will be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable. We acknowledge certain demographics are often under-represented in the arts and in our areas of work and therefore we especially encourage applications from diverse ethnic backgrounds, those with a disability, and those with less formal educational qualifications. We will not prejudice any applicants that do not come from one of these backgrounds if they have the skills and knowledge needed to deliver the role however, we may take positive action to support representation where this can be shown to be justifiable. If you require an alternative method of application in order to fairly access this recruitment process, please contact us on [info@bedforcreativearts.org.uk](mailto:info@bedforcreativearts.org.uk) or 01234 818670.

### **Privacy Notice**

Bedford Creative Arts (BCA) complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 under the control of its Information Governance Policy. Your information will be stored confidentially and only be used for the purposes of selection for the role applied for. Your information will not be transferred outside the organisation. By submitting an application, you are indicating that you are content for your details to be stored by BCA for the purposes of handling this recruitment process until such time as all appointments are made. All application information from unsuccessful applicants will be safely destroyed unless you give us permission to retain it in our Talent Bank for the purposes of informing you about other future opportunities which may be of interest.