

Artist brief

Project: Artist Bursary – Sustainable Innovation in Creative Practice Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation

Client: Somerset Council
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1. Introduction

This brief is for an artist bursary that will take place in the newly opened Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation (FCDI) in Taunton. This bursary opportunity has arisen to meet the public art planning requirements for this development. Ginkgo Projects is a Somerset based cultural producer and is responsible for the production and management of the bursary.

We are seeking a Somerset or Southwest based artist who would benefit from support to develop more innovative, sustainable, engaged ways of working. This support will take the form of a bursary of £20,000 to pay for artist time as well as training, materials workshop time etc. The artist will also be supported by Ginkgo Projects throughout the process.

The Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation supports new, creative ways of thinking, and the bursary will echo this, creating a space for experimentation, research, collaboration and learning from mistakes as well as successes. The residency will take place over a 10 month period of non-continuous working with research and activity based both offsite (eg. artist's own studio) and at times within the FCDI (there are some opportunities to use spaces such as items such as recording/podcasting equipment).

As part of the bursary, the artist will be required to develop a means of communicating their activity and working practice to a wider audience (within the FCDI, Taunton and beyond). It is expected that there will be opportunities for skills sharing, debate and integration of new thinking into the wider Somerset cultural context. Practice innovation can be developed by the artist through collaborative and partnership working. Collaboration with those based at the FCDI is encouraged.

2. Location and context

The new Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation is located in the Firepool regeneration site in Taunton town centre. Firepool is a proposed mixed-use scheme which will support revitalisation and regeneration of Taunton town centre, with new homes and a leisure quarter in a high-quality public realm.

“Due to open in early 2024, the £11 million Digital Innovation Centre will provide a 2,493 square-metre innovation facility in the heart of Taunton. The Centre is designed to drive innovation-led growth in the digital

sector, create and safeguard jobs, and provide small and medium-sized businesses with the right support to grow their companies in Somerset. The capital funding for the construction and fit-out of the Centre was secured from the European Union Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and HM Government's Getting Building Fund.” (Somerset Council)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ti3CakIDFA>



3. Project aims and process

Aims:

This artist bursary will support an artist based in Somerset (or the Southwest) to support innovation within their practice. This practice could be materials focused, engaged, digital or based around communication and dissemination of ideas. The brief is completely open to all creative practices, the main focus is on addressing improvements in sustainability within the creative sector – either environmentally, or through supporting a sustainable cultural community through innovative creative practice.

This bursary is open to a wide range of practices and creative approaches but it is expected that those applying will have a clear need for support in order to develop new, inventive and experimental ways of working.

The FCDI will provide Taunton with a hub for skills sharing and support. Whilst the aim of this bursary is to provide the artist with an opportunity to innovate and grow, it is also key that it provides opportunities for the wider cultural community in Somerset to connect with the selected artist's work and innovation. This may be through drop-in sessions at the FCDI, presentations and workshops, broadcasting (making use of the “podcast Room” in the FCDI) or making new connections into the cultural sector in Taunton or wider Somerset.

The artist will continue working at their studio or usual place of work for the majority of the bursary supported time, however they have the opportunity to work at the new FCDI should a space there be deemed suitable by mutual consent. It is expected that a proportion of their time *will* be spent at FCDI in order to make connections with the new community of innovators there and to communicate their findings and practice.

The outcome of the bursary will be the creation of new work or new understanding in the artist's approach to innovation within their practice. The artist should develop a new body of work or a piece that encapsulates this innovation. The innovation and the progress will be captured in some way, perhaps through sound recording, film or words and this will be shared with the community at FCDI. A further outcome will be some kind of sharing event, either through a small exhibition, broadcast or event that will bring together innovators within the Somerset cultural community and within FCDI to share or debate issues of innovation, sustainable cultural practice and engagement.

The sharing event/outcome will serve as an evaluation of the bursary and will provide learning and insight that may feed into the development of future bursaries.

This is an open brief and we will welcome different approaches from across creative practices to explore the interest area. The client hopes that the outcome of this bursary programme will:

Spark delight or extend horizons. The work will inspire imaginations, present alternative futures, animate the cultural and innovation community in Taunton.

Be innovative or distinct. The work or approach will provide space for new ideas to be tested and potential nurtured. It will be distinct or unexpected for audiences here, prompting them to think about art or craft practice in a new way.

Invite curiosity and questions. We're interested in supporting work that encourages us to ask questions and encourages a culture of enquiry, where the hidden is revealed and the obvious challenged.

Promote dialogue and exchange. We want to support creative process that encourages an exchange of skills and ideas, nurturing potential. Work may be relational, participatory or co-produced with organisations and individuals locally.

Process:

The length and structure of the bursary programme will be developed to suit the artist's workload but it is expected to be a 10 month part time working commitment with the bursary programme taking place between May 2024 and March 2025. This bursary will lead to a series of events and activities as well as the possible formation of a body of new work and approach to creative practice. It is expected that the work will mainly take place offsite with some time spent at FCDI.

It is expected that the artist will be selected on the basis of an outline project proposal produced in response to this brief, an up-to-date CV and examples of relevant, recent work. A shortlist of artists will be interviewed by the client team and one will be selected. The client's selection is final. This proposal together with the artist's brief will form the reference documents for project expectations.

Project stages and programme:

Expression of interest: by 5pm 15th May 2024

Artist selection interviews: 21st May 2024

Stage 1- Bursary enhanced proposal: 5 days research period to be complete by 21st June 2024

Deliverables for proposal:

- Research and develop approach to proposal
- Indication of potential methods for linking with the wider cultural community and FCDI
- Outline proposal for permanent legacy in the form of physical work, sound, film, photography etc that can be displayed/shared by the client Somerset Council
- Outline programme of activity
- Initial working cost allocation for bursary

Stage 2 – Bursary active phase: 28th June 2024 – 24th March 2025

- Artist appointment to undertake bursary programme of activity over the remaining 9 months of the 10 month period.
- Presentation of research findings / body of work / new piece of work/sharing event responding to the requirements of the brief.
- A permanent legacy - the format if this to be agreed during Stage 1.
- Completion of a report capturing the activities, learning and legacy from the bursary. To be completed during the bursary period

4. Contracts and payments

There is a total bursary allocation of **£20,000 ex vat** and inclusive of artist fees and materials allocated for the bursary including all fabrication, communication and partnership work, travel and expenses. The daily rate is allocated at £300 per day.

This is broken down as follows:

Stage 1: Research and developed proposal	5 days	£1,500
Stage 2: Artist fee and project/materials costs		£18,500
		£20,000 ex vat

The project is dependent on client approval between stage 1 and 2 and subsequent stages within the bursary period. One staged artist contract will be used for the whole bursary with progression for each stage dependent on client approval. Payment will be made by the client on approved invoice tied into the stages set out in the contract.

If the artist brings in other practitioners to work with them on this project, the artist will act as the main project lead subcontracting and paying the other project contributors.

The artist contract will contain the below clauses:

Copyright and Ownership

The copyright and all intellectual property rights in the works will remain vested in the artist or the person responsible for the production (as the case may be).

The artist grants to the Client a perpetual, irrevocable, non exclusive royalty free licence to copy, use and to reproduce all the submitted creative proposals, designs and associated Intellectual Property Rights produced and/or provided by the artist in the connection with the performance of Services for any purpose including, but without limitation, the construction, maintenance, repair, documentation and promotion of the project. Such licence shall carry the right to grant sub-licences and shall be transferable to any third party.

To the extent that the artist does not have ownership of the copyright in any of the design documents the artist shall procure, where possible, from the copyright holder a licence for the benefit of the Client in respect of that design document in the same terms as are set out above.

Insurances

Third Party Liability Insurance: The minimum limit of indemnity for insurance in respect of loss of or damage to property and liability for bodily injury to or death of a person (not an employee of the artist) caused by activity in connection with this contract for any one event is £5,000,000 (five million pounds sterling) each and every claim or series of claims arising out of one occurrence.

Tax liabilities

The Supplier will be responsible for all income tax liabilities and National Insurance or similar contributions relating to the Payments and Employees of the Supplier. Responsibility for conformance with HMRC requirements in respect of payments to sub artists/suppliers sits with the artist.

7. Submission Requirements

Your Expression of Interest should be sent as a PDF to Sophie Scott. (sophie@ginkgoprojects.co.uk) by **5pm 15th May 2024**.

Artists will need to state that they can commit the time required to this bursary to fulfill the ambitions and requirements set out within this brief.

A condition of application is availability for interview by Zoom/Teams.

The submission should include:

- An up-to-date CV
- If the applicant is a practice or group, please also include a practice or group profile;
- Documentation of previous relevant projects.
- Statement setting out your working practice and your approach to the bursary;
- Statement confirming that you would be able to complete the bursary within the timescale stated and attend interview on 21st May 2024 by Zoom/Teams.
- Confirmation that the daily rate is acceptable (£300).

Criteria for selection will be:

1. Quality of previous work and relevant experience (40%)
2. Statement outlining working practice and proposal (60%)

For submissions:

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