

Please note that the deadline for submissions has been extended by one week since the original call was distributed. The final deadline for submissions is now 26th January. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

PRODUCTIVE MARGINS: CALL FOR ARTISTS
'WEATHERING THE STORM': THE HIDDEN VALUE OF COMMUNITY ANCHOR ORGANISATIONS

Submission deadline: 26th January, 5pm

Productive Margins seeks to commission an artist / collective to work with academics and community organisations in Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil on a project exploring the role and value of community anchor organisations. We welcome applications from artists and creative practitioners from a range of disciplines including visual arts, performance, installation, and public art. The budget is £10,000 (including VAT and materials)

Context

Productive Margins is a five year Connected Communities research programme that brings academics and communities together to explore new ways of engaging with regulation. The programme is concerned with questions of co-production, regulation and engagement. It is a collaboration between research teams in Cardiff University and the University of Bristol with expertise in law, arts, humanities and the social sciences, and community organisations and social enterprises in South Wales and Bristol. Within the programme there are seven co-produced research projects (see the website for more information: <http://productivemargins.blogs.ilt.org>)

Eligibility

This call is open to artists working in any medium. While artists from South Wales are especially encouraged to submit, there are no geographical boundaries affecting eligibility or selection. The primary criteria will be: 1) examples of prior work, 2) statement of approach 3) experience of co-production with diverse communities, 4) project management experience, 5) technical expertise. An understanding of Welsh Government's community oriented policy context – especially surrounding Communities First – is also desirable.

Project Description

This research project was created following Welsh Government's announcement, earlier in 2017, to end the Communities First programme in Wales. The end of the programme marks a period of reflection for community anchor organisations, as they think about their role in supporting communities. How do they adjust to change? What frustrations and dilemmas arise when community anchor organisations are required to operate between the government and the community? Do community anchor organisations perhaps have a hidden value, largely overlooked in the perception of Communities First as a 'failure'?

The project aims to bear witness to the period of reflection and change following the end of Communities First, focussing on two organisations in particular: South Riverside Community Development Centre (Riverside, Cardiff) and the 3Gs (Gurnos, Merthyr, Tydfil).

Commission Description

We are looking to commission an artist/artists, working in any medium, to produce an interpretive arts piece alongside members of community organizations in Wales. The project will explore how we create change for the future in the area of regulation for engagement in decisions that affect more marginalized communities. The artist(s) will be experienced at working with diverse communities, and the commission will be rooted in the experience, knowledge and intelligence of the two community organisations.

For inspiration, the artist is invited to draw on the project's interview data, its working group meetings, as well as three participatory workshops on values, which the artist/s will be directly involved with (to take place in March 2018).

We hope the commission will be of value to two principal key audiences: other community anchor organisations (who may or may not have been involved in Communities First delivery) and policymakers / Public Service Boards. We will stage an event in May 2018 that will contribute to the policy case to recognise the skills and value of community anchor organisations within the context of Well-being of Future Generations Act, as well as Welsh Government's current focus on resilient communities. We anticipate that the arts commission will play a key role in this event, where it could be used to engage attendees in a discussion about the value of community anchor organisations.

Themes

Artists may wish to consider:

- How more marginalised communities can be involved in decision-making based on grassroots values, voice and experience, rather than top down government agendas.
- Ways in which values and experience at the heart of diverse communities might help to frame initiatives developed under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
- The strengths, frustrations and dilemmas of community anchor organisations when they rely on public funding, or are required to operate between government agendas and community needs.
- How to re-interpret the perception of Communities First as a failure, to more accurately capture the value of community anchor organisations for the community members they serve.
- How government might better develop regulation for engagement with more marginalised communities.
- The value of shared spaces, community assets and a culture of support / belonging in the present context of Riverside and Gurnos.

Estimated Budget

The commission has a maximum budget of £10,000, inclusive of materials, the artists' day rate, and VAT.

Deliverables

To be determined during the selection process.

Selection Process

Applications will be shortlisted by a selection committee made up of representatives from Cardiff University, South Riverside Community Development Centre, and 3Gs. Candidates invited to interview will be asked to give a fifteen minute presentation on their ideas.

Information on the commissioner

All financial and contractual matters will be handled by Cardiff University.

Project management structure

The artist will work closely with Eva Elliott (Cardiff University) and David Frayne (South Riverside Community Development Centre), as well as the wider circle of co-producers involved in the project. Once you have accepted this commission in writing, we will draw up a contract with you. All expenditures will need to be discussed and agreed by the Productive Margins Management Team.

Copyright ownership

You will retain Copyright in work which is your Intellectual Property. However, in agreeing to undertake this work you agree to the subsequent use of the artwork itself (if it is a standalone work, either in situ or online) and documentation of the work by the Productive Margins research project partners University of Bristol, Cardiff University and its community organisation partners. We are happy to discuss appropriate wording and limits to use as part of the contractual negotiations, following Creative Commons templates, should you wish. We assume a basic level of allowing no commercial use of your artwork by anyone other than you, the artist; clear attribution of your work in any use; no third-party modifications of your work.

Application Deadline and Key Dates

- Application deadline, *26th January*
- Estimated date for shortlisting, *2ndth February*
- Estimated interview date, *16th February*
- Community values workshops, *end of February / beginning of March 2018 (exact date tbc)*
- Policymakers event, *May 2018 (exact date tbc)*

Application materials

Please enclose the following in a PDF document:

- A letter of interest, outlining your response to the brief, ideas for the commission and an estimated budget breakdown (not exceeding two pages). This could include potential materials, methods, and potential outcomes.
- A professional CV, outlining training, experience and previous commissions. If applying as a team, please include individual CVs
- Samples of previous work (no more than ten images, or three videos)
- Three references
- Any additional support materials

Application submission

Please email your application to Allan Herbert (allanherbert@srcdc.org.uk) and David Frayne (fraynedm@cardiff.ac.uk) by 5pm on 19th January.

Contact

For informal enquiries about the commission, please contact David Frayne:

Email: fraynedm@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: 07969 065684