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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Council of the
ISLES OF SCILLY**

Creative Islands, Isles of Scilly

Brief for Creative Co-production

About the Isles of Scilly

Located 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall and out into the Atlantic Ocean the Isles of Scilly archipelago is a truly distinctive place. A resident population of just over 2,200 people is spread across the five inhabited islands, while during the season over 110,000 people visit Scilly. Tourism represents 85% of the islands' economy.

The islands present a spectacular land and seascape, significant wildlife and environmental qualities, and a rich and varied heritage. There is much to explore and celebrate, while acknowledging the challenges faced by a remote community.

Creative Islands

Creative Islands was established by the Islands' Partnership in 2017 through Arts Council England's Cultural Destinations funding programme. Now led by the Council of the Isles of Scilly, Creative Islands has delivered a range of arts and culture activities including events and festivals, artist's commissions, community-based projects and development work for a new Museum and Culture Centre. Moving forwards, Creative Islands has been awarded an Arts Council England Project Grant and the Isles of Scilly has recently been designated as an Arts Council England priority place. For this next phase of cultural development we will be focusing on the priorities outlined in a new Isles of Scilly Manifesto for Culture:

[https://www.visitislesofscilly.com/dbimngs/IOS-Manifesto%20for%20Culture%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.visitislesofscilly.com/dbimngs/IOS-Manifesto%20for%20Culture%20(3).pdf)

The project

The key ambition expressed in the Manifesto is for 'Scilly to be a place where visitors and residents can experience, create and participate in high quality arts and culture'.

We are now looking to work with a creative partner (either individual or organisation) to develop and commission original new work for the Isles of Scilly. At this stage we are flexible about artforms and outcomes, but we want the project to achieve the following aims:

- Sense of place – exploring and celebrating what is distinctive about Scilly, its heritage, culture, identity and environmental qualities
- Quality – presenting and supporting work, activity and experiences which are ambitious, imaginative and well-executed
- Collaboration – encouraging new connections both within and beyond Scilly, including educational and creative partnerships, and the involvement of Scilly's creative community
- Engagement – ensuring the active involvement of residents and visitors in the development and experience of the new work

Work is currently underway to develop a new Museum and cultural centre at the Town Hall, and there is an opportunity to align this brief with plans to engage residents and visitors in the development process through exploring local stories. We would also like to consider ways of sharing the new work beyond Scilly through the use of digital media.

We would like to be ambitious with the scale and impact of the project, but we currently have a modest budget to take this forward. As a first stage we will therefore commission a creative partner to undertake Research and Development to progress a costed project proposal. We will then work towards implementing the agreed proposal, including securing funding and permissions, and project delivery. The project will be managed by Creative Islands Project Co-ordinators Tammy Bedford and Jeremy Brown.

Creative partner specification

We are looking for the following skills and experience:

- Track record in your creative practice demonstrated through exhibitions, commissions, recordings, performances, projects, publications etc.
- Experience of working with and engaging communities, and an ability to communicate with a range of people
- Ability to work with a range of professionals in other disciplines in order to successfully complete projects and commissions
- Ability to manage budgets and work to deadlines

Timescales

18th February 2022 – deadline for expressions of interest

March – appointment of creative partner

May – R&D phase, including a visit to the Isles of Scilly

June – submission of project proposal

Fees

We are able to offer an R&D fee of £1,500 plus agreed travel and accommodation expenses.

How to apply

We are not looking for a worked-up project proposal at this stage, but we are interested in whether you have the skills and experience to take a project forward. Please send a letter of application covering:

- Skills and experience relevant to the Creative Partner specification
- How you will approach the R&D phase
- Any initial themes or partnerships you would like to explore
- The names of 2 referees connected with similar projects that you have worked on

Your letter should be sent to Tammy Bedford: tammy@tammybedford.co.uk by 5pm on Friday 18th February. For an informal discussion please ring Tammy on 07721 844548 or Jeremy Brown on 07732 126105.