HIGHLAND CULTURE COLLECTIVE - CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

WE HAVE QUESTIONS?
A socially engaged practice working group

May 30th – June 1st 2023

Cat Meighan and Hector MacInnes from the Highland Culture Collective are seeking practitioners from a range of creative, arts, teaching and community backgrounds to join a working group exploring the following themes

- creative practice
- social engagement
- rurality, remoteness and the north
- ethics and participation
- practicing after the pandemic

Across an evening, a morning and an afternoon at the Old Brewery in Cromarty, the practitioners will be invited to present and/or creatively respond to, short provocations or questions on one of the above themes.

Partly creative professional development, partly a call for collective action, this session will include moments of reflection, activity, discussion, working and listening together.

Outcomes

1. Through this extended working group session, a collective learning and sharing will take place around approaches to collaborative practice, and how we might collectively influence positive change.
2. At the end of the working group, the provocations and questions, and the discussions and creative responses they elicit, will be collated into a zine to be sent to participants and distributed to individuals, organisations, zine libraries, bus stops, wherever else wants one, across the Highlands.

Pay

In line with SAU rates we can offer the following remuneration:
- For freelancers, or professional practitioners not participating as part of salaried work, a fee of £504 + travel expenses will be offered.
- For students and recent graduates (up to three years ago) a fee of £315 + travel expenses will be offered.
- We welcome applications from prospective participants who are able to offer their time through salaried or funded work and projects, as this will allow us to offer more places overall. If you feel this might be you, you can let us know in the questions below.

Accommodation and catering for all will be provided on site.

Timetable

Participants will arrive by 5pm on Tuesday May 30th and will leave on the morning of Thursday June 1st. A detailed schedule will be provided closer to the time.

We are looking into the possibility of allowing additional participants to join working groups through Wednesday 31st May remotely via zoom, and you can state if this would be of use or preference to you in the application form.

The deadline for applications is **Friday April 14th**, and you will be informed of the decision week commencing **Monday April 17th**.

Accessibility

Workshop and eating spaces at the Old Brewery are all accessible, and fully accessible accommodation is available. You can specify both your accessibility needs and dietary requirements in the form, but we welcome any questions to the contact details below.

Application

To apply, please complete this google form.

You can also access the form by copying over this URL:

https://forms.gle/icL6HE3di5wnueMb8

In the form, you will be asked to write a very short summary of a provocation/question and a response method of your own devising (100-200 words, roughly). You might be asked to build on this and do a short presentation during the working group, but this is mainly a way of us learning about people's interests and where their practice and their curiosity is at right now. There are two example summaries on the next page for your reference. If you prefer to send this as an audio or video file, you can do so to the contact details below and note this in the form.

Contact

If you have any questions, in the first instance please contact Hector MacInnes at hector@highlandculturecollective.com

You can find out more about the Culture Collective here: https://culturecollective.scot/
And the Highland Culture Collective project here: http://www.highlandculturecollective.com

Culture Collective Co-Chomann Cultair

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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Examples of provocations / questions

1. Is it time to abolish rurality?

It is clear in the 21st century Highlands that "rurality" is a concept built on a series of manipulative and harmful fabrications. Outwith "the rural", it is deployed everywhere as a gloss for aestheticized and unsustainable ideas of nature, for a romanticised and patronising understanding of community and culture, and for an extractive and ableist definition of place. On the other hand, the more one is situated where "the rural" is thought to be found, the more evasive and difficult to find it becomes, and the more it is displaced by infrastructure, community, mud and storytelling. It is both the Highlander's responsibility, and their prerogative, to *abolish rurality*, and to create something else in its stead.

Participants in this group will conduct a short 30 minute dérive, leading outwards from the doors of the Old Brewery, and will document their encounters with rurality through photography, sound recording or text notes, before returning to evaluate their findings.

2. Take the lead! A case for what collaborative authorship could be.

Cast out those typical engendered ideas of leadership! Embrace generosity, reciprocity, and authentic integrity! Could we as artist leaders embody an authentic collaborative process where we are creatively filled up, have a sense of individual ownership and authorship, and allow space for others to share in this? What needs to be in place to achieve this, and how do we individually act? Our developing of relationships with others can be seen as paramount to successful collaborative making. Through the delicate balance of holding on and letting go, where and how does creative ownership reach its comfortable level? What is enough? How much power, how much control, and what values underpin our actions?

Come with a concern and work together through a dialogical process of consensus decision making to create a manifesto for future work and action.