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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



The New Curators

Artist Brief

'Opes and Dreams 2023'

We're looking for an emerging or early career artist or artist group to create an audio/visual artwork as part of a community based project for b-side festival 2023. The work will respond to an archive of hopes and dreams created by Portland's communities and visitors and which have been collected over the 2021 and 2022 b-side festivals.

Fee: £3,000.00 for 18 days over 5 months, + £700.00 materials budget, + £300.00 travel and accommodation budget, + 3 days Research and Development stay at Party Wall

Timeframe: May 2023 - September 2023 - work to be completed and installed for b-side festival 2023 which runs from 7 to 10 September

Deadline for proposals: Monday 8 May 2023

Hello there!

We are b-side's [New Curators](#) inviting you to respond to our commission for b-side festival 2023. We are looking for proposals for a new audio/visual artwork that responds to an archive of hopes and dreams. The commissioned artwork will be installed in Castletown, Portland for the duration of the festival.

b-side's Common Land Festivals

[Common Lands](#) is the theme for b-side's programme of work between 2023 - 2026, exploring our relationship to and with land that incorporates biodiversity, climate change, migration, displacement, land use, ownership, and rights.

Common Lands invites artists and communities to explore the site and context of Portland through community-led research, workshops, talks and discussion events, publications and artist bursaries, residencies and commissions.

This commission sits within the overarching theme of Common Lands, being a response to our previous work and engagement that took place within this theme, over the past two years.

Our previous work and the archive

You can often find the word Ope dotted around Portland, on street signs, place names, and the names of visitor attractions. An Ope is defined as an opening. It is used as a common place name around Portland to indicate access routes between settlements and the sea for seawater from storms and high tides to be able to disperse. In our previous work we have sought to reform Opes as openings for hopes and dreams.

For b-side Festival 2021 we curated the 'Promenade of Opes and Dreams' project with artist-duo, Promenade. Through workshops, questionnaires and conversations, Promenade collaborated with the Portland community to create a series of four performative walking tours. These tours were site-responsive and told a story of Portland's past, present and future. At the end of each tour we asked visitors to write a postcard to their future, capturing the hopes and dreams of Portland residents and visitors.

For b-side festival 2022 we hosted Opes and Dreams: Friends of the Future, an interactive installation where people could drop in and engage in activities on the theme of hopes and dreams. This included wishing tree and postcard written responses, an audio listening gnome for whispered dreams, and a typewriter continuous story.

The archive of the postcards from the 2021 project, and the transcribed community responses from 2022 can be viewed [here](#).

Here are links to some further information about the project.

- [Link to videos](#)
- [Link to the New Curators b-side page](#)

About the commissioned artwork

The artwork will be a creative response to the collection/archive of previous community engagement, and may take the form of audio/visual work, installation, or sculpture. The work will be sited in a public outside location in Castletown on Portland, on each of the four days of b-side festival, either throughout the day, or at specific times of the day. Public spaces, greenspaces, and the Common Lands theme are closely intertwined, and have been a feature of our previous work. Therefore public accessibility will be a consideration for the commissioned artwork.

The commissioned artwork will be displayed during b-side festival 2023 in the publicly accessible area outside [Agincare House, DT5 1BB](#). (It may be possible to use other locations in Castletown for siting the artwork. This would be negotiated during the course of the commission, and confirmation of the alternative location would need to be provided early in the project period). Agincare House is the Head Office for Agincare community care services, a relevant location for our continued theme of care, envisioning futures and creating hopes for the people and visitors of Portland.

As the New Curators, we will be on hand to support your project and can offer guidance with material needs, research support, data collection, and more. If your project is needing specific support please outline in your proposal ways the New Curators can aid your project.

More about the Party Wall Research and Development stay

The commissioned artist(s) will have the opportunity for research and development at the Party Wall residency. This stay allows for the testing out and development of ideas and is an opportunity for collaboration. You will undertake relevant research, any necessary engagement and is a chance to collaborate with Portland creatives or local specialists.

The Party Wall accommodation is a three bedroom house on Habourview Road, located close to the Castletown site for commission. Party Wall includes a six meter gallery wall where you'll be encouraged to display project plans or any artwork developments and research. The residency also allows for small gatherings so you may like to host a workshop or conversation/talk as part of the stay.

The residency will take place for three consecutive nights, your date options include May 24 - 29 and June 7 - 15 2023. Please state as part of the application what three nights you intend to visit. This stay can be made available for families.

Your research and development stay will be supported by the New Curators so please outline in your proposal how you would make use of this time and any research or collaboration you may like to carry out. If the commissioned artist is unable to attend the Party Wall stay within the specified dates then alternative dates at a different location will need to be proposed

What's included in the fee

- Artist fee - £3,000 for 18 days over 5 months +
- Materials - £700.00
- Travel and accommodation - £300.00
- 3 days R + D at Party Wall (accommodation included, 3 days included in the artist fee and travel and accommodation budget)

The commissioned artist will be expected to attend b-side festival for at least 2 of the 4 days. This is included in the artist's fee.

A bit about Portland

Portland is a small land-tied island off the south coast of Dorset in the South West region of the United Kingdom. It is joined to the mainland by a barrier beach and a single road. The island's landscape is fractured due to extensive quarrying and is home to almost 13,000 people, many of whom experience socioeconomic deprivation. By responding to the postcard collection, proposals for this commission should be centred on Portland and informed by the place itself.

For us, Castletown represents an area of great importance to Portland, as a gateway, through the Port, and into its merchant and quarrying history up the Merchant's Incline (former railway, now a footpath). It is also very relevant to pressing contemporary issues of migration. The area would have been the lifeblood of the Island in past times, and it is a demonstration of the Island's past military and naval importance and its present as a place where community is of great importance. As such, the Common Lands theme is also of

relevance to Castletown, with areas such as Portland Port and the previous right of way through it now being inaccessible to the public, the Incline as a valuable public right of way onto the Island, and the stalled redevelopment of the former naval accommodation complex providing an imposing monument to past and potential future.

About you

Applicants should be able to demonstrate previous experience or understanding of producing physical artworks for an outdoors public location. They should also show some experience of public engagement work and an interest in social issues or working with communities. Our audience comprises diverse community groups so you will need to be able to demonstrate socially inclusive approaches within your proposal.

Key dates & deadlines

- Deadline for submission to the open call: Monday 8 May 2023
- Interview/artist selection: between 9 May to 15 May 2023
- Research and development stay at Party Wall: May / June 2023*
- Developing the artwork: June-August 2023
- Install day for b-side Festival: 5/6 September
- b-side festival takes place between 7 and 10 September 2023

*taking place for three consecutive nights, your date options include May 24 - 29 and June 7 - 15 2023. Please outline your selected dates.

How to apply

If you have any questions about the open call, please contact us on thenewcurators@gmail.com.

Please apply via our online form [here](#)

Be ready to submit:

- Your Name
- Email Address
- Relevant links
- Up to 500 word written proposal or 5 minute video proposal
- Budget
- Examples of previous work
- Any other relevant supporting materials

Accessibility

We value diversity and we are working to make the application and commissioning process accessible to all. We welcome proposals from those currently underrepresented in the arts.

We are keen to work brilliantly with people, and therefore will encourage the completion of a [‘work with me’](#) document to enable us to work with the commissioned artist(s) in the best and most accessible way possible. This is voluntary, can be completed at any time during the project, and only questions considered relevant need to be answered. If you’d like to discuss this please contact us on thenewcurators@gmail.com.

If you would like the brief in another format please email thenewcurators@gmail.com detailing what you would prefer.

Please note, applications can be made by video (maximum length 5 minutes) by sending us a YouTube or Vimeo link. We’re asking applicants to submit this via the online form, but if that’s an issue let us know.