

Open Call for an Artist Commission in Brighton & Hove 2025

INTRODUCTION

We are seeking proposals for an artist commission and participation project exploring themes of wellbeing for young people, to take place between January and October 2025 in Brighton & Hove. The artwork and showcase of other outcomes from the project will be toured nationally between October 2025 and June 2026.

The artist brief is to create a collaborative or responsive, temporary artwork informed by and developed alongside staff and young service users of Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC, a GP surgery in Whitehawk, Brighton. And in conjunction with this, the development and delivery of at least 6 creative sessions for young people that contribute to their wellbeing, to take place between late June and late August 2025 in Whitehawk.

The fee is £3,750. A separate budget of £850 is available for materials and expenses for the project, and a further £300 for training/support which will be budgeted with the artist during the planning stage.

A £50 fee will be paid to each shortlisted artist to attend the interview.

Deadline for submissions: Friday 3 January 2025, 10am

The commissioners are Fabrica and Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC and the opportunity is funded through the 2024 Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award (ARMA).

ARMA was established in memory of the artist Alexandra Reinhardt and is supported by the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust (MRCT). More information about the commissioners and funders can be found at the end of this document.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

For over two decades, Fabrica has developed and delivered numerous community engagement projects and programmes leading us to a wider understanding of health and wellbeing approaches. We have led long term mental health projects such as Men in Sheds and Men Who Make, which are suicide prevention projects aimed at adult men who would not usually seek more clinical / therapeutic support.

Similarly, Fabrica has a strong track record in artist commissioning: spanning major exhibitions (in response to Fabrica's building and other outdoor sites in the locality) and artist residencies: at Fabrica in relation to exhibition themes, in community settings and more recently in response to The Living Coast (Brighton, Hove & Lewes Downs Biosphere).

This new commission is enabling Fabrica and Wellsbourne Healthcare to share and develop their expertise in creative practice and wellbeing, and for Fabrica to work in Whitehawk, where it has fewer community partners.

The age group we are focused on working with for this project is young people aged 11-15 yrs, whose mental health and wellbeing could benefit. Wellsbourne Healthcare will lead on identifying the participants for the project and will, where possible, host the creative sessions. We expect the activity with the group to take place between late June and late August, after exams have finished and into the summer holidays. Wellsbourne Healthcare and Fabrica will jointly monitor and support participants' health and wellbeing.

The outcomes we are aiming for through the commission are:

- Improved wellbeing/mental health outcomes for young participants who are facing barriers to inclusion in culture and formal education.
- Learning from/with artists, partners and participants, developing best practice and disseminating learning.
- Developing relationships with participants so that we can better understand and respond to the needs and interests of the young participants, and then use this knowledge to pursue further engagement opportunities.
- Aligning mental health evaluation and delivery approaches from adult to children's engagement via peer-to-peer learning and towards best practice.

COMMISSION DETAILS, FEES and TIMELINE

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist(s) to undertake a participation-based commission that will be well-supported by the project partners, and will be widely promoted, locally, nationally and internationally through Fabrica, Wellsbourne, Engage and the ARMA 2025 host networks.

The artist fee for the project is £3,750 (c.15 days at £250 per day (this is equivalent to 6 and a quarter hours per day @ £40 per hour). The fee includes time to develop creative engagement activities with a group of young people, creation or co-creation of an artwork for a touring showcase, participate in a sharing event about the project with a critically engaged audience, and work with Fabrica's staff to tell the story of the project.

This is broken down as:

- 2 days research and planning time. This will include working with Fabrica to develop and deliver an initial consultation session with staff and/or young people at Wellsbourne Healthcare, to inform the project.
- 1 day to prepare the creative engagement sessions with/for young participants
- 1 day to: plan and deliver/attend the sharing event for a critically engaged audience with Fabrica (3 hrs); work with Fabrica Communications Coordinator (1 hr) to plan and write social media posts (2 hrs).
- 3-4 days for delivery of creative sessions with young participants (approximately 18-24 hours of delivery time), structured in a way that works best for the group and project, e.g. as 12 x 2hr sessions or 3 x 6hr sessions.
- 7-8 days for the creation of the artwork with/from the participatory sessions for the national touring showcase. This will involve allocating some time to work with the young people to talk about what needs to be presented and how it should be presented.
- Attend and participate in a 2hr sharing event about the project and learning with a critically engaged audience.

A suitable space will be sourced and paid for by Fabrica for the production of the work and delivery of the creative sessions, most likely at Wellsbourne Healthcare, at Fabrica or at another accessible space.

The artist(s) will be supported at all stages of the project by Fabrica's Co-Directors Clare Hankinson and Liz Whitehead and their wider team (production, curatorial, marketing, engagement). The creative sessions with young people will also be supported by an early career creative on paid placement (who will be managed by Fabrica).

Approximately £850 is budgeted for related project expenses and materials. This includes relatively local travel expenses. There is no provision for overnight accommodation.

The necessary training and DBS checks will be provided and paid for by Fabrica.

The artwork and all participation work is to be completed by the end of October 2025.

An 'artist spotlight' (the sharing event mentioned above) will be organised by Fabrica to reach regional artists, especially those with an engaged practice.

A launch event will take place in late November 2025, after which, the artwork will tour to other venues taking part in ARMA 2025.

Costs for exhibiting and touring the work will be supported by a separate budget.

The artist, supported by the early career placement, will contribute videos, photographs and where possible short case studies/texts to be shared on the Engage website (Engage manage the ARMA grant programme) and Fabrica's Instagram account.

The copyright and intellectual property rights for the artwork produced during the Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award remains with the artist(s) who created it. The artwork and any documentation produced as part of the activity supported by the Award can be used for education, dissemination and promotion by the artist(s), Fabrica and Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC, Engage and the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust.

Timeline:

- Friday 3 January 2025, 10am – Deadline for applications
- Tuesday 7 January 2025 by 3pm - shortlisted artists notified
- Thursday 9 January 2025, 12-4pm interviews for shortlisted artists. A fee of £50 has been allocated per shortlisted artist to plan for and attend an hour-long interview at Wellsbourne Healthcare on Thursday 9 January. Interviewees must be able to attend on this date or should otherwise not apply. Details of the selection panel are at the end of this document after the How to Apply section.
- Friday 10 January 2025 - selected artist notified
- Friday 17 January 2025 - selected artist contracted
- January - April 2025: Planning, consultation and final project design. Before finalising delivery planning, we would run a consultation session with Wellsbourne Healthcare to connect with staff, community members and/or potential participants to refine our understanding of their needs, interests, session timings, etc.
- June – August 2025: participatory activities with young people take place.
- September/October 2025: sharing event and evaluations
- November 2025 – June 2026: Touring exhibition of project outcomes between 4 locations including Brighton & Hove

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Proposals that primarily take a process-based approach to realising a creative outcome: ie the artwork. We are aware that the context here is complex for producing an artwork, both in terms of timescales, budget and the participatory /collaborative element of it. However, we are ambitious to create an opportunity for this way of working, but recognise that in terms of a finished piece, the resulting artwork may be an early-stage iteration or require further development/finishing after the project is finished.

Proposals from artists in any artform but who have demonstrable experience in working in a participatory setting and/or with harder-to-reach audiences. We are interested in artists who have been working in this area for 3-5 years, who can bring their existing knowledge and insight to the opportunity. We are primarily interested in proposals from artists or makers who can demonstrate a deep interest in/track-record in working with people towards wellbeing outcomes. We would expect this to be evidenced by images/case studies of relevant past work or documentary/research material that shows clear intent to make work.

We will be open to the selected artist(s)' suggestions about the best way to lead the participation process with staff and young people – for instance artists may wish to adopt a collaborative approach, or a more responsive one – but we will expect artists to articulate the rationale for their chosen methodology.

In terms of structuring the project, at the moment we anticipate the project may be structured as a series of weekly sessions, which could be delivered in one block or split into two blocks. We could also explore longer sessions over a shorter period, however previous experience leads us to believe weekly shorter sessions will work better for this age

group as well as the wellbeing approach, as it will allow time to create relationships and have moments between sessions for reflection and preparation.

Fabrica utilises the New Economic Foundation's 5 Ways to Wellbeing, ensuring wellbeing is considered at every opportunity in design, development and evaluation of its engagement activities. To build positive and mutually rewarding relationships with participants, it would be important to communicate and plan around the short-term nature of this project. Signposting and care around the conclusion of the project, along with including the participants in any further outcomes of the project (such as exhibitions, sharing events) would be important in retaining trust and creating potential new opportunities to work together.

We will favour expressions of interest that are experimental, interactive, reflect current thinking in arts practice, and that show a clear understanding of the participant group.

We will favour artists based in Brighton & Hove, East or West Sussex, and/or those who already have a relationship with Whitehawk.

HOW TO APPLY

Who can apply?

- Artists who have been working for at least two years in participatory settings and/or with harder-to-reach audiences.

Submitting a proposal

Please submit your proposal via this [form](#).

You should include all of the following:

1. Your full name
2. Contact Details: your full address, your phone number and your email address
3. Please let us know if DBS checks will be an issue for you. We anticipate this role to require a standard DBS check, however an enhanced level might be required, depending on the project design and risk assessments.
4. Your statement. This should be no longer than 1000 words. Your statement will:
 - Introduce yourself and your artistic practice
 - Outline a line of enquiry that you wish to follow through this project. The connection between your line of enquiry and the thematic (young people and wellbeing) needs to be clear to the reader.
 - Mention any areas of research or personal and/or professional work you have already done in relation to this thematic, and how that might inform this project. your URL (or somewhere online that we can view work by you that is relevant to the thematic and the line of enquiry that you are proposing).
 - Show that you have thought about how young people in Whitehawk could engage with the residency.
 - Say where you might need practical support from Fabrica, Wellsbourne Healthcare, Engage (ARMA) team.
5. A CV no longer than two pages
6. A short biography (up to 200 words) that is suitable for us to share if you are selected
7. a link to your website, or a downloadable file, which contains documentation of your previous work
8. Please complete an anonymous Equality & Diversity Monitoring Form

Please note: The Fabrica office is closed from 5pm on 19 December to 9am on Monday 6 January, during which time no one will be able to respond to queries or offer support. Please get in touch prior to 19 December if you have any queries you would like to discuss with our team.

SELECTION PANEL

- [Liz Whitehead](#), Co-Director, Fabrica. Liz was a co-founder of Fabrica and has co-led the development of Fabrica's artistic programme since 2000, including developing major exhibitions in response to Fabrica's building and at

other outdoor sites in the locality; artist residencies and other artist development initiatives. She began her professional life as an artist working in participatory settings and led Fabrica's early work with audiences and volunteers.

- [Clare Hankinson](#), Co-Director, Fabrica. Clare has led the development and delivery of numerous projects and programmes, notably Growing an Older Audience which had organisation-wide effects in how we approached working with older people and working in the community. From this project, a wider understanding of health and wellbeing approaches have developed in the programme, with Clare leading on long term mental health projects such as Men in Sheds and Men Who Make, which are suicide prevention projects aimed at adult men who would not usually seek more clinical / therapeutic support. She became a Co-Director in 2023.
- [Ian Leaver-Blaxstone](#), Resident Artist and Workflow Administrator, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC. Known on the Brighton art scene as 'Beav-Art', Ian developed his signature style as an artist; enfolding fragments of the modern world within vintage B-movies, mythology, folklore and sci-fi themes. Ian has been a resident artist for Wellsbourne since 2017, curating exhibitions for local artists/patients in the surgery, whilst running workshops and art projects. Ian is one of the longest running members of the 'Our Place Festival' Steering Group since 2017, in association with Brighton Dome/Festival. Where he helps devise ways to bring many art forms into the community and involve local residents/patients in the performances.
- Lucy Mitchell, Community Coordinator, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC
- Tammy RAYMOND-GRUNG, Mental Health practitioner, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

[Fabrica](#) has a strong track record in commissioning artists to present large-scale immersive works and supporting artists to develop and share their working process with audiences. An educational charity, Fabrica currently creates a wide-ranging programme of discussions, events, short exhibition projects, film screenings and creative hands-on activities that connect different audiences to an artist's work, thereby opening out the opportunity of learning more about the subjects that artists research.

www.fabrica.org.uk

[Wellsbourne Healthcare](#) Community Interest Company (CIC) is a local GP surgery in East Brighton. It was set up in 2018 by doctors and nurses working in the area, to provide a better service for local people. "We are a GP surgery with a difference. Alongside the clinical services you would expect, we are working with our community to make sure everyone can live, work, learn and play happily and healthily in East Brighton. The new community garden we are working on is just the start!" The service is well positioned in the community, serving thousands of patients in East Brighton, positioned within a community hub alongside a children's centre and Whitehawk Library. They have in-house social prescribers who connect patients to opportunities and also provide support to sessions and knowledge-sharing.

<https://www.wellsbournehealthcare.org.uk>

Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award: ARMA was established in memory of the artist Alexandra Reinhardt and is supported by the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust. The Award comprises an annual artist participatory / education project culminating in an artwork in the public realm. Artists have undertaken residencies in NHS hospitals since 2005 through a programme coordinated by Paintings in Hospitals. The artist residency programme was coordinated by The Art Room from 2010, an organisation that works with art and artists to support vulnerable young people. Engage, the National Association for Gallery Education, is delighted to be running ARMA for a seventh year in 2025.

www.alexandrareinhardt.org

ARMA 2025 is designed to support a greater understanding of, and visibility of participatory visual arts and wellbeing practices with children and young people. The programme aims to:

- Embed wellbeing practices into visual arts organisations.
- Develop, deliver and evaluate practices within visual arts engagement and wellbeing.
- Support the professional development of learning and engagement professionals in visual arts organisations.

- Support the professional development of participatory visual artists
- Support early career cultural workers with work experience
- Understand how participatory visual art may improve wellbeing outcomes of children, young people, experiencing poor health, mental health or challenging life circumstances.
- Develop cross-sectoral knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning opportunities through cohort training and sharing events.

Engage: Engage is the lead advocacy and training network for visual arts engagement and participation with some 700 members across museums, galleries and visual arts organisations. Members include national, local authority and independent museums and galleries, and freelance education and art professionals throughout the UK. Engage receives support from Arts Council England’s, Arts Council of Wales and Creative Scotland.

www.engage.org

Engage is generously supported by:



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