**Small-scale pilot commission for Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) artists**

Articulture, in collaboration with The Riverfront, Newport invites BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) artists and arts companies based in Wales from any discipline to request support for the creation and delivery of new outdoor work.

**Background**

Since 2015, Articulture and a group of leading arts organisations and festivals (Wales Outdoor Arts Consortium) have worked together to co-commission and present new Welsh street arts and outdoor performance. We reviewed the process in 2018 and identified that BAME artists were under represented in terms of those we have supported. As a step towards addressing this, Articulture achieved funding and secured partners to pilot a strategic commission for small scale work and initiate a learning process for artists, partners, ourselves and the wider sector.

Articulture is a creative organisation that aims to bring together practitioners to support the production of innovative, high quality outdoor arts in Wales. [www.articulture-wales.co.uk](http://www.articulture-wales.co.uk)

The Riverfront is a lively theatre and arts centre based in the centre of Newport bringing as many people as possible into contact with the arts and creativity. The Big Splash family street theatre festival is hosted by the venue annually and is a free event, with performances, workshops and community projects taking place across the city centre. This year’s event will take place on 20th – 21st July 2019. <https://bigsplashnewport.com/>

**Strategic commission aims**

* Enable more BAME artists to create work for the ‘outdoors’
* Raise profile of outdoor work made by BAME artists (in Wales & beyond) and support Welsh venues to programme it
* Enable more individuals from BAME communities to see more diverse outdoor work

**Overall aims for commissions**

* Present & develop work from a new & emerging generation of Wales based outdoor artists.
* Support & encourage Wales based artists who may not have had previous experience of outdoor arts, but would like to.
* Work with established Wales based companies & artists who are keen to experiment & develop new approaches to their work.
* Help stimulate new, surprising & engaging outdoor arts collaborations between Wales based artists from different disciplines.
* Support the development & presentation of work with culturally diverse and deaf and disabled Wales based artists.
* To work as a collective and with Wales based artists in a positive, open and collaborative way, allowing space for active sharing and learning throughout the process of developing and touring work through regular communication and ongoing evaluation.

We are looking to invest in work that meets these agendas -

* **Innovative**

We are looking for ideas that are exciting and innovative and leave a lasting impression on the minds of those who encounter it.

* **Engaging & captivating**

We are looking for work that actively draws in and includes its audience, offering them some kind of adventure - an immersive and transportive experience.

* **The Big Splash** takes place at sites across the city centre so we are looking for ideas that can work in an urban context.
* The second performance for Articulture will be at a venue in mid-Wales – date t.b.c

We are open to work along any concept or theme.

**Eligibility and guidance**

* Articulture exist to support the development of new work by **artists in Wales;** we can support projects that are developed in association with international artists but **the lead partner on the project must be based in Wales.**
* We are looking for outdoor work from all disciplines and genres, including walkabout, circus, digital, street theatre and dance.
* We are looking for small scale projects that require no more than £3,000 from the partners.
* The commission will perform at The Big Splash Festival (20th – 21st July 2019) therefore the work must be available for this weekend. A second date will also be arranged with Articulture.
* As a pilot commission, artists should be committed to exploring opportunities for the work both in development and after the festival. We would like to discuss the potential for public rehearsals and community engagement alongside options for further touring.
* Proposals need to give consideration to the work being adaptable to being taken under cover in the event of bad weather or unforeseen programme changes.
* Proposals must include planning, budget, and resources for a mandatory dress rehearsal for critical review by Articulture and performances at The Big Splash.
* Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK.
* Applicants must have the appropriate insurance cover for their proposal (eg: public liability / employee)
* Artists must be prepared to work within the spirit of collaboration - in a positive and open way allowing space for active sharing and learning throughout the process of developing and touring work, through regular communication and ongoing evaluation.

We are open to supporting the touring of a project that has already raised its core creation costs, provided that the show has not already toured in Wales, and provided it clearly meets our priorities.

**Commissioning funds**

The sum of money which has been raised collectively by the partners, is to invest in commissioning and touring of new work.

In summary the financial support available is up to £3,000 towards a total creation and performance budget. Match funding is not essential for this pilot commission but please do let us know if you will be drawing on other funds.

**Additional support**

In addition to the partnership funds, we can also provide the following support, the details of which will be agreed by the artist/Articulture once selected -

* Up to 3 days of mentoring by an appropriate professional
* Support in the marketing of your work
* Support where reasonably required with production management advice
* Support to consider the legacy of the work

**How to submit your proposal**

Please complete the form below and submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea within the timescale outlined to: lauren@articulture-wales.co.uk

For further information please contact lauren@articulture-wales.co.uk

**Deadline for commission proposals is Friday 8th March 2019, 5pm.**

**FAQ’s**

**Hopefully you will find the FAQs below useful but please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or would like an informal chat about your idea and whether this is the right opportunity for you.**

**What do you mean by small commission?**  
There are no clear rules for defining scale but we normally think of small scale outdoor work as suitable for audiences of under 500 people in one performance / walkabout

**How much money can I request as a commission?**

We will be looking for projects that require no more than £3,000 to create the work.

**What do I need to include in my budget?**Your creation budget includes all costs related to the development, build, design and creation of your piece, including all artists/creative fees, insurance, show materials, marketing materials, costs related to rehearsing your project and attendance at the festival. If you are VAT registered please do not include VAT that you can reclaim.

**Do I need to include technical costs in my performance fee?**Availability of resources and in-house equipment (staff or crew, power, PA etc) will be minimal. Please give a detailed list of your technical requirements, both those that you will provide, and those you will ideally need each festival to provide. This includes event steward support during your time on site if you have a set.

**What form will mentoring for my work proposal take?**

Post selection the Articulture team and you will sit down to review your proposal and identify areas that it would be beneficial for an outside professional to support, and who this could be. It could be one or more people, offering up to 3 days support in total. Areas could include costume, narrative development, prop making, direction.

**Can I apply for support to tour an existing outdoor piece?**We cannot support the touring of projects that have already toured in Wales.

**Can I apply for a commission to redevelop an existing piece?**This partnership exists to support the development of new outdoor work, so it would be unlikely that we would offer commission investment to redevelop an existing piece. You would need to demonstrate that it was substantially different for us to consider this.

**Can I apply for a commission to create an installation or a durational piece?**

Yes, please explain how many people can experience the piece in the course of one day / session.

**Can I apply to create and tour a piece that requires the involvement of local/community participants at each venue / festival?**

On this occasion, we are looking for ideas that do not involve the involvement of local/community participants as a number of community driven pieces have already been commissioned.

**I have received some development money from the Arts Council of Wales to research my piece; can I still apply for commission funds to create my piece?**

Yes provided your R&D process is clearly separate from your creation process.

**If I receive a commission can I still tour to other events that are not part of the network?**  
Yes although please be aware that you will only be able to do so after the The Big Splash Festival (20th & 21st July).

**I already have some commission funds in place from other events that are not part of the Consortium; can I still apply for support?**  
Yes, please explain which other events have committed support and confirm whether they require to premiere the piece.

**Can I apply for commission money in 2019 and tour the piece in 2020?**

No this is not possible.

**I have applied for some funding but I don’t know yet whether it is confirmed; can I still apply for a commission?**  
Yes but please be sure to tell us when the outcome of your application will be known.

**What happens after I submit my proposal?**

All the proposals will be considered by Articulture and The Riverfront the week beginning 11th March following the deadline. We hope to let you know whether your proposal has been selected by 14th March.

**We may decide to invite applicants in for interviews to discuss ideas further. Applicants will be given sufficient notice and receive travel expenses where appropriate.**

**Small scale pilot commissions for outdoor work by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic artists**

Please complete this form if you wish to request support from Articulture and partners to create and perform your new outdoor project in 2019.

**Please ensure you read the guidance notes before submitting a proposal.**

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| **Cover Sheet Summary** | | | |
| **Artist/Company** |  | | |
| **Main contact for this proposal** |  | | |
| **Position** |  | | |
| **City/Region** |  | | |
| **Address** |  | | |
| **Telephones** |  | | |
| **Email address** |  | | |
| **Website** |  | | |
| **Project** | | | |
| **Project Title** | |  | |
| **Summary of proposal (20 words max)** | |  | |
| **Art forms involved** | |  | |
| **Is your project best described as static or moving?** | |  | |
| **Is this project led by deaf and disabled or culturally diverse artists?** | | Yes / No | |
| **Will the project will be suitable for a Welsh-speaking audience ?** | | Yes / No | |
| **Budget** | | | |
| **Are you requesting commission money from Articulture?** | | | Yes / No |
| **Total commission requested from Articulture** | | | £ |
| **Total funding requested from other funders or investors (Please indicate if this is confirmed, or the date that that confirmation will be given)** | | | £ |
| **Total creation costs of project**  **(including Articulture request)** | | | £ |

**1. Please describe your proposal in no more than 300 words**

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**2. Please describe your company / artists / collaborator, and indicate to what level you have previous experience in creating outdoor work (150 words max.)**

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**3. Budget**

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| **3.1 Please attach a budget for your creation costs (please show this net of VAT)**  *Please include other funders or investors in your project and indicate whether other money is confirmed.* |
| **3.2 Are you VAT registered**? 🞏 Yes 🞏 No |

**4. Production Plans**

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| --- | --- |
| **4.1 Approximately how long will your show be?** |  |
| **4.2 What technical support and specialist equipment will you need?** *(e.g. PA, power, lighting, overnight security, steward support, )*. If you have a technical needs please attach them. |  |
| **4.3 How many shows will you normally perform per day?** |  |
| **4.4 How many people will be in the show / performance?** |  |
| **4.5 Do any members of your company have any access requirements?**  *Please explain* |  |
| **4.6 When will your show be ready to tour?** |  |
| **4.7 What are your rehearsal / development plans?** E.g. dates, locations  (please note we will discuss with you the possibility of a public rehearsal**)** |  |
| **4.8 Please confirm the work will be available for the Big Splash (dates in guidelines).** |  |

**5. Mentoring**

**Is there a particular area of the development of the project proposal you would like the support of a mentor for? If so is there someone you would like to nominate? (150 words max.)**

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**6. Marketing material**

*Images, drawings, or visual material about your project are highly valuable to inform the selection process. If you have any, please send them separately; please clearly mark the attachments with the name of your company and your show.*

**7. References**

*You do not have to supply a reference with this proposal, but if you want you can include a letter of support from a promoter or other professional contact. This would be especially useful if you are an artist or company new to outdoor arts in Wales.*

**Deadline**

Please email your completed form and detailed budget to **lauren@articulture-wales.co.uk by**

***Friday 8th March, 2019 at 5pm***

**Timeline**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **Friday 8th March 2019**  
Successful applicants notified/called for interview by: **14th March 2019**Presentation of first show:  **The Big Splash 20th-21st July 2019**

**Contact**

For further information please contact Articulture

[lauren@articulture-wales.co.uk](mailto:annie@articulture-wales.co.uk)

[www.articulture-wales.co.uk](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com)