**Small-scale pilot commission for outdoor arts in the Welsh language**

Articulture, in collaboration with the National Eisteddfod & Machynlleth Comedy Festival, invites artists and arts companies based in Wales from any discipline to request support for the creation and delivery of **new outdoor work** in the Welsh language.

**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 although commissions were always bilingual or non-lingual, work in the Welsh language was under represented. Articulture achieved funding and secured partners to offer strategic pilot commissions for small scale work to address this 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 2019 National Eisteddfod will be held in Llanrwst, Conwy county from 3rd – 10th August. <https://eisteddfod.wales/2019-eisteddfod>

Machynlleth Comedy Festival runs from 3rd – 5th May. <https://machcomedyfest.co.uk/the-festival/>

**Strategic commission aims**

* Grow the number of artists creating work in the Welsh language for the ‘outdoors’
* Raise the profile of outdoor work made in the Welsh language and support festivals and organisations to programme the work both in Wales and beyond
* Encourage more Welsh speakers and learners to see outdoor work in Welsh

 **Overall aims for commissioning**

* 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 work that is imaginative and striking in concept and delivery. Work that challenges the idea of what Wales outdoor arts can be, and leaves 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 the opportunity of some kind of adventure - an immersive and transportive experience.

We are open to work along any concept or theme. This includes applications that respond to the Wales 2019 theme of ‘Year of Discovery’.

**Eligibility and guidance**

* Articulture exist to support the development of new and ambitious 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 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 both the Machynlleth Comedy Festival and the National Eisteddfod (dates above). Please specify if either of these dates or locations would prove impossible for the commissioned work to be shown.
* As a pilot commission, artists should be committed to exploring opportunities for the work post touring the initial two events and contributing actively to the learning process for all involved.
* Proposals need to be suitable for both rural and urban spaces, with consideration given 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 touring to perform at the two events.
* 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 touring 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 consortium 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 (including mandatory dress rehearsal)
* Support in the marketing of your work and tour
* 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 above to: annie@articulture-wales.co.uk

For further information please contact Articulture – [www.articulture-wales.co.uk/](http://www.articulture-wales.co.uk/)

**Deadline for commission proposals is 1st March 2019, 5pm**

**FAQ’s**

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

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

We will be looking for projects that require no more than £3,000 from the consortium 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 both events. 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 etc) at the venues varies, but is 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. Please note that for this round we are looking for proposals that require very basic or no venue technical requirements.

**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 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. Please note that the Welsh language will need to be at the heart of the work.

**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 partnership?**
Yes as long as this is agreed with Articulture, who in turn will consult the two partner events (Machynlleth Comedy Festival & the National Eisteddfod).

**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 check whether they require to premiere the piece; if this is the case please confirm the date of the premiere so we can see whether this would exclude partner events.

**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 the three partners (Articulture, Machynlleth Comedy Festival & the National Eisteddfod) week beginning 4th March. We hope to let you know whether your proposal has been selected on 12th March 2019.

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**Proposal form 2019**

Please complete this form if you wish to request support from Articulture and its consortium partners to create and/or tour 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** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **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 |
| **Please confirm 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 or with the performance?**  |  |
| **4.5 Do any members of your company have any access requirements?** *Please explain*  |  |
| **4.6 What are your rehearsal / development plans?** E.g. dates, locations |  |
| **4.7 Please confirm the work will be available for both events (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 **annie@articulture-wales.co.uk by *1st March 2019, 5pm.***

**Timeline**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **1st March 2019**
Successful applicants notified: **12th March 2019**Presentation of first show: **3rd May 2019**

**Contact**

For further information please contact Articulture

annie@articulture-wales.co.uk

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