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Artist Residency at the Olympic Delivery Authority

Competition Brief



The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), supported by Arts Council England (ACE), is inviting expressions of interest from experienced artists to undertake a 16 month residency at the ODA offices and Olympic Park construction site, resulting in an outreach programme produced in partnership with a curator of their choice, focusing on the nature of culture-led regeneration, and communicating the artist's research to a wide and diverse audience.

This project is funded by the Arts Council England (the national development agency for the arts in England, further details can be found at www.artscouncil.org.uk) and the Olympic Delivery Authority.



Introduction

This programme is based on the premise that artists are inspired by new environments and by exposure to different social and economic contexts. With the Olympic Park site now undergoing the 'build' phase, we wish to harness this as an opportunity for an artist to work both on site and with the ODA office staff to get 'under the skin' of this unique regeneration project over a significant period of time. This is to allow for a meaningful creative response to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the legacy aspirations of one of the largest regeneration developments in Europe, resulting in the biggest mixed-use park of its kind for 150 years.

The collaboration between an artist and a curator will allow for the artist to research and explore the structures of the ODA, and the details of the Olympic Park construction site, while the curator will contextualise the artist's research and process looking outward, making visible links between their findings and wider audiences.

Funding has been agreed to support the project until the end of 2011. This project builds on the ODA Arts and Culture team's programme of participatory and temporary arts projects to engage audiences in the issues raised by the London Olympics. The Arts and Culture team completed the first Inside/Out programme in March 2010 which commissioned Film and Video Umbrella and artist Simon Pope to develop Memory Marathon, a large-scale participatory film. This artist residency will be developed alongside a second Inside/Out project, which will also be completed at the end of 2011.

Aims for the Residency

- To place an artist in the business environment of the ODA and allow for a response to the context of London 2012, the Olympic Park site and its legacy aspirations in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games
- Provide stimulus to an artist's practice and to inspire those who work at the ODA and its delivery partner CLM through the experience of an artist working alongside them
- To further develop the practice of an artist and curator at influential points in their careers
- To result in the production of works of art or works in progress relating to the Olympic Park and its vision for 2012 and beyond
- To give the opportunity for an artist to work closely with a curator and vice versa in a unique regeneration and construction context
- To generate interest in the artistic process amongst the developers, contractors and communities involved in the process as well as those living, working or visiting the Olympic Park or its vicinity
- To explore how the role of an artist at this stage of construction can impact on the legacy of the Park
- To contribute and respond to the over arching ODA Arts and Culture Strategy and its innovative programme of commissions
- To give the Arts and Culture strategy greater visibility to those working in the ODA, both on site and in the offices and to the wider public through the outreach programme to be developed by the curator

- To engage with the emerging overall vision for arts and culture in the Olympic Park which advocates:
 - honouring the history of the past;
 - capturing the imagination of the present;
 - leaving space for aspirations of the future.

Indicative outcomes of the residency could include but are not limited to: strong partnerships between ODA professionals and the artist, new ways of thinking about large-scale regeneration, new opportunities for arts and culture to be integrated into the Olympic site, and new ways for audiences to engage with the Park post-games.

Indicative products of the outreach programme could include (but are not limited to) one or more of the following forms: public discussions, artist talks, publications, interpretation activities, or interactive exhibitions.

Applicant specification

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- meaningfully engage with staff and the workforce at the ODA, considering that the ODA is not an arts or cultural organisation;
- programme and ensure delivery of a series of outreach events/products that communicate the artist's research within agreed timescale;
- identify a supportive arts or cultural host organisation with an existing diverse audience, and marketing department who can promote the events to a further network;
- identify who the wider public is, considering the particular and sensitive importance of the site to the five host boroughs and the wider London community;
- work with existing communication networks specifically in London to target engagement with communities adjacent to the boundaries of the Olympic Park site, including equality target groups;
- work with existing events and activities which are already building strong relationships with local communities, such as the Open Weekend and local festivals;
- work proactively with the support of the project steering group, comprising the client and key partners, to develop the overall project and communications strategy;
- work with the client to identify potential partnerships for collaboration within the ODA and CLM;
- ensure project outputs and milestones are reached on time and on budget; keep records in line with expenditure and accounting;
- undertake full project evaluation as set out by the client;
- attend regular progress meetings and provide project updates;
- pursue an educational strand to run throughout the programme;
- show creativity of approach and flexibility to developing proposals in partnership with the ODA and steering group throughout the development of the overall programme and the outreach process;
- have an awareness of and willingness to engage positively with the challenges and opportunities surrounding regeneration projects; and
- undertake further reasonable duties in relation to the programme.

Projected budget

The overall project budget is all inclusive and will cover all management costs, programme, artist and curator fees, commission costs, materials, venue hire, delivery and relevant insurances: circa £67,000 excluding VAT (17.5%).

Indicative timescale

Aug 2010	ODA to appoint artist and curator
Aug 2010	Sign-off of detailed project management and delivery plan
Aug 2010 - Sept 2011	Project delivery - programme of temporary commissions and participatory projects
Oct/Nov 2011	Launch events/publicity
Dec 2011	Full project evaluation delivered by appointed organisation

Criteria

The successful applicant should:

- have a minimum of five years' experience of successful projects in the public realm (both the artist and curator);
- have a completed a minimum of two successful artists residencies in regeneration contexts (artist only);
- have experience of engaging creatively with local communities within one or more of the five Host Boroughs and good knowledge and awareness of creative activity in this area (curator only);
- have a track record of working with non-arts professionals AND diverse communities on arts projects; (both the artist and curator);and
- have a demonstrable understanding of the issues raised by the Olympic site and the regeneration of the area, and the issues faced by the communities adjacent to the Olympic Park site (both the artist and curator).

Selection process

Artists and curators are required to complete the application form available to download from the www.london2012.com by **10am Monday 21st June 2010** and email to **artcommissions@london2012.com**. All the questions on this form are essential in order to proceed to the next stage. Please note no other form of application or material will be considered and attachments will not be looked at.

Applicants will be longlisted from this initial application stage and contacted to submit further information on their previous experience. These applications will be evaluated against the criteria and a shortlist will be invited to submit a proposal for the residency. Interview dates will be confirmed at this stage.

The final applicants and proposal will be selected by a panel comprising of the Arts and Culture team at the ODA, ACE, the Office of the five Host Boroughs, internal and external stakeholders and Art in the Open. Please note any organisations being invited for interview will be subject to a full business credit check. **We regret we will not be able to provide individual feedback to applicants who are not shortlisted.**