



School Project Commission - £4,250

CALL FOR DRAMA & SPOKEN WORD ARTIST/S OR ARTS ORGANISATIONS

Project Brief: Speaking of Friendship - a sharing of cultures through drama and spoken word. Spring & Summer terms 2022.

We are looking for an artist/artists or an arts organisation to work with 2 primary schools in Walsall - Abbey Primary School and Delves Junior School - who are part of a network of 14 schools in Walsall participating in the Walsall Arts for All (WAFA) programme.

The project will build on cultural and friendship-themed links already made between the two schools, and use drama to explore friendship across different communities, with a particular focus on developing literacy skills through spoken word. From this will develop a performance which will feature as part of a carnival-style Celebration Event for all 14 WAFA schools in Walsall in July 2022.

There will be approximately 60 participating Year 4 students (30 from each school).

As well as delivering high-quality artistic outcomes for the students, the programme will develop confidence in participating class teachers, equipping them with basic skills to continue aspects of the work in the future.

For the programme overall, we are particularly interested in building up a team of diverse artists from Walsall and the Black Country, who can raise aspirations and inspire young people through the power of the arts. We are therefore particularly interested in hearing from artists/arts organisations who fit with this brief.

Background:

Walsall Arts for All is a Walsall Cultural Education Partnership programme, supported through Arts Connect's Partnership Investment programme and co-funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government via Walsall for All.

The focus for the programme is high quality arts experiences which create meaningful connection and understanding between schools, communities and cultures. Each school has been paired up with another Walsall school to commission and work with an artist, and help to overcome issues of community cohesion which are particularly challenging in Walsall.

The participating school pairs are:

- Abbey & Delves primaries
- Blue Coat & Watling St primaries
- Christ Church & Salisbury primaries
- Pinfold & St Anne's primaries
- Rosedale Infants & St Joseph's primary
- Aldridge & Shelfield secondaries
- Blue Coat & Bloxwich secondaries

Phase 1 of the programme is currently underway, with all school pairs working with visual artists - its Celebration Event (an interactive exhibition) will take place in early December 2021. Phase 2, of which this commission is a part, will run throughout the Spring and Summer terms of 2022.

Arts Connect is an initiative of the University of Wolverhampton, tasked to deliver the [Bridge programme](#) in the West Midlands to improve arts & cultural engagement of children and young people. For further information visit: www.artsconnectwm.co.uk

Through its Partnership Investment programme, Arts Connect is committed to working with partners to ensure new, or increased, investment is brought into the West Midlands to improve the quality and access of arts and cultural education for our children and young people, aged 0-25 years.

Contractual details:

The fee is **£4,250** inclusive of travel expenses; based on the artist/arts organisation being responsible for own income tax and NI on a freelance basis. This fee includes:

- 1 day's worth of planning - meetings with the school pair, 1 x attending part of a whole WAFA network meeting, any follow-up, etc.
- 12 days' worth of delivery across the 2 schools
- 2 days' worth for the Celebration Event, including any prior rehearsal, preparation and post-event project debrief
- 1 twilight CPD session for teachers - potentially delivered virtually

Materials and any related costs can be discussed in line with the nature of the work, and we would encourage the use of what reasonably be sourced by the schools/communities themselves, but a small materials budget may be available.

The artist/arts organisation will proactively manage the project in agreement with the school teachers and the Programme Manager, and will be expected to be efficient with all communication.

It is expected that each practical workshop will involve a debrief at the end of the session, led by the artist/s with class teachers and the arts lead for the school (if different), and a session report submitted to the Programme Manager.

Selection and Project Timescale:

- Application Deadline: **Thursday 4 November** (no later than 12.00 noon)
- Notification of Interviews: no later than **9am on Tuesday 9 November**
- Artist selection day (interview and trial workshop with Young Arts Ambassadors - please keep daytime clear): **Friday 12 November 2021**
- School planning meetings (1 hour per school): **December 2021 tbc**
- Programme delivery: **Spring & Summer terms 2022**
- School network meeting: **2022 TBC**
- Celebration Event: **July 2022 TBC**
- Evaluation debrief: **July 2022 TBC**

How to Apply:

Both individuals and arts organisations/companies can apply. All appointed artists will need to evidence their portable DBS and Public Liability Insurance.

Please submit a proposal on how you would deliver the commission and the ideas for the creative content and the performance. You should include:

- Your experience of working with networks of schools (please give examples, e.g. through online links, website, etc.)
- Your suitability
- An outline of your approach to the commission, explaining how you will use your artistic skills to engage students
- Two referees, ideally schools
- A budget of how you propose to allocate the commission
- If an individual artist, please provide a CV; if an organisation please provide an outline of your company's aims, mission, vision and information on the people involved in this commission
- If you are intending to use freelance artists we would like to know who you are proposing to work with and to see a copy of their CV

Please note that if shortlisted we would wish to observe and interview all the people involved in delivering in schools.

Please send your proposal and all support documentation by Thursday 4 November (12.00 noon) to:

- Baz Chapman - Wafa Programme Manager: bazchapman1@gmail.com

Any queries, please contact Baz on 07768 314415