



# **Absolutely Cultured Creative Micro-Commission Programme**

## **About Absolutely Cultured**

Absolutely Cultured is a cultural development organisation passionate about the ability that arts and culture have to be a vehicle for change.

Our mission is to facilitate social, economic and cultural transformation by placing creativity at the heart of people's lives, their ambitions and aspirations.

We are living in unprecedented times, learning rapidly how to work differently, how to best reach out to vulnerable people, how to home school our kids and how to still reflect on and respond to the world around us and stay connected to our community through arts and culture.

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, Absolutely Cultured have suspended all of our programmed activity to ensure the health and wellbeing of the public, our staff, volunteers and partners. This means that our talent development programme, due to take place from April – July, has been put on hold and we have had to close Humber Street Gallery until further notice.

In response to the current situation we are adapting the work across all of our main programme strands. We are working with local charities and the council to provide help to vulnerable people across this city in this time of need through our extensive volunteer programme. Through our talent development and creative programmes we are setting up ways to continue to provide support and learning to artists and we are launching a micro-commissioning opportunity for the creation of a series of new online pieces from across multiple artforms.

## **Creative Micro-Commission Programme**

We are accepting proposals from artists from Hull and the North of England for a new creative micro-commission programme which offers **£350** to creative practitioners from any discipline including visual arts, performance, spoken word, film and sound to produce a new work within the limits of working under current social distancing measures. The programme is designed to enable artists to respond and create new work quickly, encouraging the space and freedom to try out new ideas and ways of creating work for online presentation.

We will initially commission up to six new pieces for presentation on our website and across our social media channels. Each artist's commission will be a feature on our digital channels for a selected time of up to two weeks and then will remain on our online channels for the duration of the programme.



## **Artist Brief**

We are seeking proposals that reflect on and respond to the current global COVID-19 situation, using the changes to circumstances as an opportunity to create new work in new ways for online presentation. Inspiration can be drawn from how you as an artist have been directly affected in terms of your work, working practice, health and social life or from the wider implications COVID-19 is having on society locally and globally now or in the future. Inspiration for the commission may include but not be limited to how information about the crisis is being distributed, how governments and communities are responding differently, how individuals are being impacted day to day, positive coping mechanisms that individuals, communities and companies have initiated or the mental health impacts of living in this time of uncertainty.

We want to encourage experimentation and innovation with how work can be created and presented online. Proposals should have a dynamic element to them even if the work is a static piece such as a sculpture or drawing, for instance the making of the work should be captured through video or there could be an online public participatory element to the work. We are open to ideas and suggestions but as a guide, selected commissions may take the form of:

- A single video piece or performance;
- A series of short live events or performances;
- A new visual art piece with associated films of how the work was created;
- An illustrated piece with call to action for public to add to or respond through social media;
- A series of writing and photographs released periodically that tell a story.

Considerations you may need to make for your proposal and creative response to this micro-commission could include the following:

- Your new situation and reduced access to materials than you're normally used to;
- The different online platforms that are available to present the work;
- The audience that will engage with your work and who your work is aimed at;
- Where you will create the work due to changes in access to the physical spaces; you normally use such as studio or rehearsal spaces, and how this new use of space impacts the creation of the work;
- Reduced physical contact with other people during social distancing and/or isolation and the impact this may have on collaboration or participation.

We welcome proposals that are collaborative or participatory, represent diversity and consider ways to ensure inclusivity within the presented work.



## Outcomes

1. An artwork which can be shared digitally with audiences on both website and social media channels.
2. Documentation of your making process which you are willing to share publicly.

## Timeline

- Deadline for submissions 19 April
- Selection process week commencing 20 April
- Proposals confirmed week commencing 27 April
- Programme aimed to be live online with first commission from mid-May

## Proposals must include

- Name and address (proposals only accepted from artists based in Hull and the north of England)
- Artist bio. (200 words max)
- Social media tags and website links
- Proposed work (500 words max) outlining:
  - Concept of the work – how does it answer the artist brief;
  - How you will make it happen;
  - Who will be involved – if other artists or participants are involved;
  - Format it will be shown in – video, audio, PDF, series of images, mixed formats etc.;
  - Who the audience is for the proposed work;
  - Documentation method(s).
- Two images showing examples of previous work
- Proposed timeline to create the work
- An artist C.V.

Applications are open to artists from Hull and across the North of England. Deadline for submissions is **midnight on 19 April**.

Unsuccessful applications will be notified but we are unable to offer feedback. We see this as an initial pilot programme with the potential to be continued.

If your proposal is not selected, keep an eye on our channels for more opportunities in the near future.

To apply, send your proposals to [getinvolved@absolutelycultured.co.uk](mailto:getinvolved@absolutelycultured.co.uk) and include in the subject heading: **REF: CMC2020**

For more information visit [absolutelycultured.co.uk](http://absolutelycultured.co.uk).