

Artist Brief

Real Estate: Micro Residencies

Locally based artists Blackpool & Wyre



Image: Anna Cremin-Horton, artist micro residency 2019

We are currently facing a global crisis that is affecting all corners of people's everyday lives and livelihoods. In these uncertain times of social distancing and self-isolating we are interested in how we support both artists undertaking a socially engaged practice and communities who find themselves in unexpected circumstances.

At LeftCoast we are looking to reframe our programme for the next 12 weeks, taking our programme away from public facing delivery and on to alternative platforms. Although our normal daily lives and routines are being changed and curtailed for the next few months, we feel now more than ever that it is important to keep making work that is of use to our communities.

We are looking to offer a series of micro residencies to work with our Real Estate programme to explore how artists can be socially useful at this time. Our micro residency series has been running for 18 months and would normally involve an artist coming to stay for a period of three weeks with one of our main residency artists in Blackpool and Fleetwood. For the next couple of months this will obviously not be possible and our usual methods of engaging with people in our neighbourhoods will not be appropriate. This does not mean that we shouldn't continue to make work. Both the creative community and local communities are resilient and strong, we are used to thinking up different solutions and ways to connect people together.

We are looking for proposals from locally based artists/ creatives/ producers to create work that engages our communities in an alternative way. We are going to have large numbers of people working from home, children off from school, people who live on their own and the older generations more isolated than usual. People will have more time to fill and family members to entertain than usual, whilst also needing to engage with the outside world and have social connections. The question is how do we do this without physically meeting? How can we use the many platforms open to us to help our communities engage in different and innovative ways? If there has ever been a time when we need creative and innovative thinking, this feels like an opportune moment.

Our ask to you the artistic community is what can you propose that takes the current world crisis and finds the humanity in it. Do you have ideas that will help our communities from the safety of your studio? We are open to all ideas from playful to practical.

We also have our two main Real Estate residency artists that are focusing on developing similar work in the areas that they reside – Hawes Side and Flakefleet. For the purposes of this brief we are not focusing on specific geographical areas as we would usually, we are interested in ideas that can connect with the people of Blackpool and Wyre in general, however if you have an idea regarding a specific location or community please do specify.

For the residency we are limiting proposals to artist that are based locally in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde.

Also important to consider when submitting ideas is that we will not be able to provide the same level of producer support for the micro residencies down to the logistics of delivering this work in such a unique situation. The LeftCoast team will do all it can to support but artists will have to be self-organizing and able to deliver their proposal without much external input.

To apply:

Please send us:

- A proposal of what you would like to do (up to 500 words)?
- Why you think it would be a useful project to develop?
- Who will it engage with?
- Any images/ information from past projects that you think might help you deliver the micro residency
- Your location

Your proposal will be accessed according to a scoring matrix which includes sections on:

1. How appropriate is the activity for the current stage of the situation
2. Does it offer ingenuity, playfulness, innovation or support for communities
3. How practical is the proposal – can it be delivered by the artist in the current circumstances
4. Does it offer a genuine benefit for the people of Blackpool, Wyre or Fylde
5. Does the proposal offer artist excellence.

Budget:

Up to £1000 for each micro residency, to include all artists fees, materials and other expenses.

Procedure:

- Please send digital proposals to laura.jamieson@leftcoast.org.uk
- As this is a responsive brief we will commission on a rolling basis so this brief will be open for the next 6 weeks (until 30/04/2020)
- Proposals will be reviewed every two weeks
- We may also ask for a Skype conversation if we feel like elements of the proposals need further discussion
- The programme is flexible and will need to adapt to the current situation