

## My Place Artist Commission

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

[My Place, Our Place](#) is a Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded project ('test and explore' grant focussed on widening access and participation with the arts) to develop methodologies to creatively engage early years and family audiences with the art form that is all around us: *architecture and place*. Phase one of the project involves two artists working with 3/4 year olds (and staff) in two Bristol City Council Children's Centres (Early Years settings), exploring the theme of place.

'Place' is identified as an element of the UK's culture in the 2016 Cultural White Paper. Place-based participation connects city children with their heritage, environment and the creative design process. The Architecture Centre has extensive experience of creatively engaging diverse audiences with and through 'Place'. This project will be inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach ([www.reggiochildren.it](http://www.reggiochildren.it)). At the heart of the Reggio pedagogy is the belief that children are full of innate curiosity and creativity; not empty vessels waiting to be filled with knowledge and skills.

### THE PROJECT TEAM

#### About the Architecture Centre

The Architecture Centre is a registered charity with over 21 years' experience as place-making experts; brokering and enabling relationships between communities, creatives, architects and urban planners to champion and create better places for people. We do this through learning and participation programmes, design review panels, public walks, tours and exhibitions, the annual Bristol Open Doors Festival. The Centre's award-winning Learning & Participation programme has delivered creative projects with and for children, young people, families and communities across the city and the South West for 15 years. [architecturecentre.org.uk](http://architecturecentre.org.uk)

#### About 5x5x5

5x5x5=creativity is an independent arts-based action research organisation which supports children in their exploration and expression of ideas, helping them develop creative skills for life.

<https://5x5x5creativity.org.uk>

#### About the Children's Centres

The commission will be working with two Bristol City Council Children's Centres (Early Years settings):

- St Phillips Marsh Children's Centre / Cashmore House (Lawrence Hill ward)
- Ilminster Avenue Children's Centre (Knowle ward)

The project working group also includes Sally Jaeckle (Head of Early Years, Bristol City Council) with evaluation support from Dr Debbie Watson and team (University of Bristol).



## COMMISSION - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE INFORMATION

Applications are invited from artists to work in Children's Centres in two different geographical/demographic areas of the city. We are looking to engage 2 x artists (one for each early years setting). The details of the project are not pre-structured, but will emerge through collaboration and dialogue between the artists, Architecture Centre, 5x5x5=creativity and Children's Centre staff/children. The direct project delivery will involve: the planning, facilitating & evaluating of 10 x half day creative workshops/experiences exploring the theme of 'place' through any (or various) art forms with 3/4 year olds (in liaison with Centre staff).

### The project seeks to explore

- How the context of 'place' can support children's understanding of the/ir world and through expressive arts and design; share their thoughts, ideas and feelings (and help deliver the EYFS Statutory Framework)
- How early years settings can creatively use their own/local environment to explore the theme of 'place'
- How meaningful relationships can be developed with artists/ arts organisations
- The co-development of methodologies/resources that can be shared with early years/cultural settings
- The piloting of Arts Mark / Creative Families Award in/with the early years settings (working with Architecture Centre and 5x5x5=creativity).

Key to the project is an awareness of the Reggio pedagogy including the concepts of: *the child as an innate and creative knowledge-builder and explorer, the environment as the third teacher and of the atelier (space for creativity) and the atelierista (artist educator).*

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Artist/practitioner will need to:

- have a friendly, approachable manner and be an effective communicator
- have a proven track record of socially engaged/participatory arts practice with children/families/ communities
- have an understanding and experience of working in diverse city neighbourhoods
- work with art form(s) that are participatory, accessible and playful
- have insight, and preferably experience of into working with early years children and their families/care givers
- have experience of creative documentation and evaluation of projects
- be willing to contribute to wider planning, documentation and evaluation as appropriate
- have a commitment to working collaboratively / using co-enquiry with early years practitioners to develop sustainable models of creative practice
- have an interest in, and willingness to engage with the principles of Reggio Emilia approach
- maintain regular, professional working relationship with the project lead/s (regular updates by email/phone)
- have a current enhanced DBS check and an awareness of the safeguarding issues related to working with (young) children
- have the ability to deliver all elements of the project on time and on budget
- be registered to pay their own tax and national insurance.



## PROJECT DELIVERY TIMESCALE:

Overall project delivery: Feb – Sept 2019 (dates to be mutually agreed)

Total number of days: 15 x days (per artist)

Comprising:

- 10 x days contact in early years centres between March – July 2019 (half day prep, half day delivery)
- 3 days x project group sessions (planning, mid-point review, end point evaluation/ reflection)
- 2 x days recording / reflecting / contributing to evaluation and reflective project blog.

## ARTIST FEE

Per artist/early years setting:

- 15 x days artist time @ £250 / day: £3,750
- Material costs for 10 x sessions (£75 / session): £750
- Total fee: £4,500 (full and final)

## SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Please send the following by email to: [centre@architecturecentre.org.uk](mailto:centre@architecturecentre.org.uk) with 'My Place Artist Commission' in the subject line:

- an up-to-date CV detailing relevant recent experience
- a **one page** A4 responding to the person specification, demonstrating suitability to deliver the project (working creatively and collaboratively with early years settings)
- two references from relevant projects
- links to supporting information/projects available digitally (if sharing large files, please provide a Dropbox/We Transfer link).

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Wednesday 28 November 2018:** artist commission opens
- **Monday 7 January 2019 (9am):** Deadline for proposal submissions
- **Wed 16 January 2019 (afternoon):** Interviews at the Architecture Centre Bristol with shortlisted artists (*interview panel will comprise project leads from: Architecture Centre, 5x5x5=Creativity and Children's Centres*)
- **By 25 Jan 2019:** successful artists announced & contracts signed

\*\*ENDS\*\*

**My Place, Our Place**

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