

Cair: Caithness Artists in Residence Phase 2

Background

CAIR: Caithness Artists in Residence first launched in November 2020 as a new community arts initiative that connected artists and creative practitioners with Caithness communities. Led by Lyth Arts Centre and local community organisations, the first cohort of CAIR artists led projects across the county, developing creative responses to local problems, encouraging creative cultural activism and exploring an artist and community-led approach to recovery after coronavirus. You can read more about the projects [here](#).

Following a period of learning, reflection and evaluation we are pleased to announce **Phase 2** of the project. **CAIR: Phase 2** builds on the learning of the last 12 months to identify eight new partnerships (artists and community partners) to participate in Phase 2. This will involve:

- Initiating eight new projects on a rolling basis, two at a time from January 2022 onwards. Each of these will run for 10 weeks (2 weeks research and development, 8 weeks of collaboration and delivery)
- Delivery of free, open-access 'An Introduction to Art & Social Practice' courses for anyone interested in the process, delivered in house by the LAC team, guest speakers, and the artists we have already worked with. These will upskill and empower our wider local creative workforce, promoting community as a central tenet of artistic practice, leading to the delivery of better-formed co-designed projects. [We expect all applicants to be registered for the course – click here to sign up.](#)

The Brief

LAC is seeking 2 professional artists, to each work with a community, within the Caithness area for 10 weeks from January – March 2022. The community could be a geographical community but also includes social communities or groups, or a specified demographic. During this period, the artist will work with LAC and their group to design a programme of work that will be participatory, socially engaged and collaboratively explore local themes and issues.

The residencies will be available to artists who are based in Caithness, or have a strong connection to the area or the communities they will be working with.

We are seeking proposals from professional artists who work in any art-form or medium and at any stage in their career but who are interested in participatory, social practice.

We are not looking for fully-formed project proposals, but rather ideas that demonstrate the following;

- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Authenticity
- Importance, relevance and benefits
- Connection to the Caithness community
- Innovative ways of working (especially during coronavirus restrictions)

There are no fixed outcomes for this project and the programme of work will be developed in collaboration with the artists, the LAC team, partners and the community.

This is not a traditional 'artist residency', we use the term residency to describe the fact of *being* in a place. We anticipate the residencies will be an opportunity for artists to collaboratively explore their practice and process, rather than focus on producing specific works.

Details

The artists will work for 2 days a week for a 10 week period. All artists will receive extensive support from the LAC team including training, marketing and recruitment support and project management. There will be regular opportunities for the artists to come together to share experiences and learning.

The contract will be for 20 days. We anticipate the artists will design their working patterns, in collaboration with the community they are working with.

The fee is £150 per day (total fee £3000) plus £800 materials budget.

How to Apply

We are asking artists to complete a short form which asks the following the questions;

1. Who are you and what is your artistic practice?

Tell us about yourself and your work. What is your connection to Caithness? It would be useful to know here what experience you have in participatory or socially-engaged art projects (don't worry if you don't have experience).

2. What specific community or community group are you proposing to work with?

Each artist will work with a specific community. We mean 'community' in the broadest sense. This could encompass a geographical community like a particular village, town or a school, or a social community or group like a youth club, LGBTQIA+ folks, support group farmers or isolated older people. LAC can help connect you with partners so don't worry if you don't have a specific contact or group in mind yet.

3. Tell us about your idea

What is your idea? What themes, ideas or issues would you like to explore?
Can it be innovative and responsive to coronavirus measures?

To apply, please complete the Google Form here by midnight on Monday 6 December. You will need to login with a Google account. If you are unable to do this, for any reason, please email info@lytharts.org.uk and we will send the questions via email. If you require any support to make this opportunity more accessible to you then please email info@lytharts.org.uk.

If you require additional support to make this opportunity more accessible to you then please get in touch. If you would prefer to provide a video application (max 3 minutes), please send a link using the Google Form (we recommend uploading it to Youtube or Vimeo - let us know if there is a password).

If you have any questions or would like to speak about your application please contact charlotte@lytharts.org.uk

Key Dates

Call out released: Friday 12th November

Deadline for applications: Sunday 5th December

Shortlisting: Monday 6th December

Informal discussions with shortlisted artists: Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 December

Decisions: Friday 10 December

Start: January 2022

Finish: March 2022

Other Useful Info

- LAC define a creative practitioner/artist as anyone who uses creativity overtly in their work – whether that is visual artists, makers, writers, performers, filmmakers, producers, designers or researchers – and invite applications from all backgrounds
- As a commissioned artist/creative practitioner you will be working directly with a selected community partner. Some examples of our existing partners include; Pulteneytown People's Project, Thurso Youth Club, Thurso Community Development Trust, Caithness Community Connections (Lybster), HomeStart Caithness and Highland Council Children's Services.
- Together, with all involved directly in the project, you will also be part of the 'CAIR collective' that explores the overall themes that emerge through the project through a series of training, sharing and evaluation sessions and activities co-ordinated by LAC
- LAC is committed to supporting strong local relationships with our community partners and as such preference will be given to artists that can demonstrate a local connection/ understanding of the community they are proposing to

work with. If you do not have a local connection and established local relationships, we ask that you clearly demonstrate in your form how your approach to the project would address this challenge

- The national guidelines for social distancing and safe working will be observed at all times. We are encouraging creative responses, travel to and from communities at this difficult time and are imagining a combination of virtual and socially distanced delivery. We will endeavour to accommodate particular personal circumstances of practitioners and participants
- The next round of CAIR Phase 2 commissions will open for applications in February 2022 to commence March – May 2022
- This project is funded by Inspiring Scotland Creative Communities and Creative Scotland Open Project Fund