CALL FOR ARTISTS/ARTS ORGANISATIONS – Sculpture/Textiles

Artists/Arts Organisations Commission Fee: £18,300
Plus £500 to mentor an Assistant Artist

Elliot Foundation Arts Ambassador Schools Network

Deadline: Tuesday 30th November 2021, noon

Untitled Project – to be developed in partnership with appointed artist/s

Commission Brief:

We are looking for a sculpture/textile artist or an arts organisation to work with 10 schools across the West Midlands. Through this project (the title of which will be agreed with the artist/s) we are hoping to explore 3D art forms in our schools in order to inspire young people and help celebrate their culture, identity and community. The programme will culminate in a sharing and celebration in the week/s beginning 20th or 27th June, 2022 (to be confirmed).

Our primary focus is 3D art forms, such as sculpture through any medium appropriate to the age range, as well as textiles. We are also open to similar 3D art forms that can address the themes of oracy, diversity in culture and identity as well as linking with the theme of Common Wealth as the Commonwealth Games are being held in Birmingham and the West Midlands in 2022.

Background:
The Elliot Foundation (www.elliotfoundation.co.uk) is a charitable multi-academy trust specialising in primary academies. This commission will bring together 10 schools from across the West Midlands area. We anticipate that delivery will be split between Spring and Summer terms. Participating children will be in years 3 or 4, aged 7-9. The commission will involve 2-3 classes per school, depending on the school's size. The schools in the network are:

- Billesley Primary School (Network and finance lead) - Billesley, Birmingham
- Chandos Primary School - Highgate, Birmingham
- Tiverton Academy - Selly Oak, Birmingham
- Kings Rise Academy - Kingstanding, Birmingham

- Shirestone Academy - Tile Cross, Birmingham
- Shireland Hall Primary Academy - Smethwick, Birmingham
- George Betts Primary Academy - Smethwick, Birmingham
- Croft Academy - Walsall
- Woods Bank Academy - Darlaston, Wednesbury
- Netherbrook Primary (joining date TBC in January) - Dudley

The Elliot Arts Ambassador network model starts with the school and its unique context. We expect all their schools to actively support each other and to share emergent and best practice for everyone's benefit. We want each school to assert and celebrate its distinctive identity within this community of academies.

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

Our Arts Ambassador School Network programme involves established school networks (e.g. Multiple Academy Trusts) working together to develop teachers ad young people as leaders (i.e. as Arts Ambassadors), to achieve an Artsmark as part of a whole network focussed programme on the arts. This involves working with the arts, culture and heritage sector, CPD for teachers, Arts Awards, and celebration events.

The Programme:
The commission was created in response to our collective ambition to develop our approach to the arts in our schools. We are keen to improve our artistic provision and simultaneously celebrate the concept of being a global citizen with our young people and their communities. As well as providing a high quality experience for young people, there should be an element of specific art form Professional Development (CPD) for school staff during the programme.

Themes:
- Oracy; Diversity; Culture; Identity; Community; Common Wealth

We have chosen 3D form/s of sculpture/ textiles to allow our children to explore a hands-on art form after the heavily digital impact of the pandemic. We are interested in seeing how children's oracy skills can be developed through this work. The final pieces will be displayed in a temporary gallery exhibition at the MAC,

Birmingham. The art form has been left intentionally broad to allow artists/ art organisations to bring their own ideas and proposals to excite the network's thinking.

As all participating schools are undertaking Artsmark (with several aiming for Platinum), the programme should recognise Arts Council England's Quality Principles. For information on these please refer to:
http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/quality-metrics/quality-principles
These form the basis of our approach to evaluation.

We expect delivery to fit within the timeline indicated below and that the artist/arts organisation will take a lead on the project, managing the artist programme in partnership with the Arts Ambassadors (i.e. the lead teacher) in each school, and with the lead Arts Ambassador.

It is anticipated that the project will be delivered in academic year2021-22 through live workshops in schools, subject to each school's Health and Safety policy and Government Guidance, particularly in light of COVID-19. However, this would need to be flexible and to be, if required, adapted for digital delivery.

Details:
The budget is **£18,300**, (plus £500 to mentor an Assistant Artist) inclusive of travel; based on the artist/arts organisation being responsible for own tax and NI on a freelance basis. This fee includes:

- The Artist/Arts Organisation attending three Arts Ambassador meetings (2/3 hours each meeting); one to meet the network and plan workshop delivery (12.01.22 - 1pm-3pm); one to plan the Sharing Event at MAC (date TBC) and the last to contribute to an evaluation (date TBC)

- Two days equivalent to cover individual planning meetings in each school with class teachers and lead Arts Ambassador teacher (on-line)- e.g. 1 hour per school

- Materials

- The Artist/Arts Organisation will project manage the artist programme in agreement with the Arts Ambassador teachers and the lead Arts Ambassador for the network

- Supporting the monitoring and evaluation; it is expected that each practical workshop would involve a debrief at the end of the session with class teachers, Arts Ambassadors and artist/s.

- Celebration event, over 3 days (including get in and get out of the exhibition), is planned for the week/s beginning 20th or 27th June, 2022 (to be confirmed); the exhibition format is still open to discussion. There is a small additional budget for the venue cost.

Assistant Artist: We are keen to support young artists, particularly from under-represented backgrounds, to develop skills and build experience of working with schools on arts projects. We will ask the commissioned artist/s to mentor an appointed Assistant Artist as part of the programme. There will be an additional £500 of funding, on top of the commission fee, to enable you to mentor the Assistant Artist and to support them to sample all aspects of the programme including: the network meetings, planning with schools, workshops, CPD sessions and the celebration event.

Timescale:

Application deadline: Tuesday 30th November 2021, noon

Notification of Interviews: no later than Friday 03rd December, 2021

Interviews: Wednesday 8th December, 2021 in Birmingham; please pencil date in your diary**.** The interviews will include an adult panel plus a workshop with young people from the network's schools. (It is expected that all artists proposing to work in schools would be involved in the Interview process).

Appointment: Monday 13th December, 2021

Planning meetings: Wednesday 12th January, 2022 & two TBC

Celebration preparation: TBC

Celebration event: in the week beginning 20th or 27th June, 2022 (to be confirmed -3 days)

Evaluation: There will be national evaluation of this programme along with other arts and cultural programmes in The Elliot Foundation Academy Trust. This may require the appointed artists being interviewed and contributing to the evaluation where negotiated.

How to Apply:
Both individuals and arts organisations/companies can apply. We anticipate that the commission will be to artist/s or an arts organisation to work across all the schools, though we recognise that you may wish to involve other artists managed by the lead artist/organisation. All successful applicants will need to evidence their portable DBS or undertake a DBS check, along with any other artists from their organisation. You must carry Public Liability Insurance for all artists.

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

- Your experience of working with networks of schools (please give examples e.g. through online links, website, etc.). We would like to see examples of your own artistic practice as well as the work that you have supported children to create.

- Your experience of working with children

- An outline of your approach to the commission, explaining how you will use your artistic skills to engage children and teachers enabling them to be part of the team of artists, alongside professional artists, to create quality work to share

- Two Referees, ideally schools

- A budget

- If an you are an individual artist please provide an up to date 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 have a copy of their CVs. Please note that if shortlisted, we need to interview all the people involved in working in schools.

Please send your proposal and all supporting documentation by: Tuesday 30th November 2021, noon to:

- **Angie Watson (Lead Arts Ambassador): a.watson@billesleyschool.co.uk**

- **Pepita Hanna (Arts Connect Associate Director): Pepita.hanna@wlv.ac.uk**

For further information:

- Angie Watson (email above)

- Pepita Hanna (email above)