

Open Call: Lucky Dip Bursaries



Introduction

'a space' arts is launching a new bursary scheme to support local visual artists to make new work.

The Lucky Dip Bursary scheme offers ten artists in the SO postcode £500 to fund the creation of a new artwork or activity.

The application process will be light-touch and proposals will not be assessed. The bursaries will be awarded to artists through a lottery selection. This experimental new approach was originally proposed by Southampton based artists Dave Hubble and Sarah filmaker and adapted by 'a space' arts in response to a recent review of how our Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding supports artists and to proactively remove barriers around inclusion, application and selection processes.

We understand that 2020 has been a very challenging year for artists across the country. Loss of income from postponed or canceled projects and shortages of other employment opportunities in the wake of the pandemic have made it difficult for artists to fund their practice. The Lucky Dip Bursary Scheme will provide financial support and positivity at this difficult time by enabling ten local artists to make new work.

'a space' arts is committed to becoming an anti-racist organisation and as part of this work five of the Lucky Dip Bursaries will be offered to ethnically diverse* artists.

**Please note, this bursary scheme is only open to artists aged 18+

Objectives:

- To fund new and exciting works of art or artistic activity.
- To lead by example and encourage artists to experiment and take risks.
- To get more money directly to local artists to make work.
- To support artists in the city from a variety of communities.
- To remove the barriers created by conventional application and selection processes and reduce discrimination towards artists who find funding applications lengthy and difficult.

The Artwork:

- The outcome could be an artwork or an art activity
- It must be completed by Monday 6th September 2021
- The work, or documentation of the work, must be available for a group exhibition in August 2021, venue to be confirmed

Project Outline and Timeline:

Wednesday 13th January 2021 > 'a space' announce open call.

Monday 8th February > Deadline for applications.

Friday 12th February > The Lucky Dip Draw will be recorded and released, successful artists will be notified.

Monday 15th February - Friday 26th February > 1to1 Meetings with successful artists. Artist agreements written and signed.

Wednesday 2nd June > Mid-point group meeting. All artists to update 'a space' and discuss projects together.

Monday 6th September> Deadline for finished artwork.

Monday 6th September - Monday 4th October > Exhibition planning.

Friday 8th October > Lucky Dip exhibition launch event. All artists to exhibit and attend.

October - December 2021 > Evaluation. All artists to participate.

Fees:

In order to support as many artists as possible, the bursaries are capped at £500. Artists will be expected to work within this budget.

- Artists will receive £400 upon signing an artist agreement in February 2021.
- Artists will receive £100 once they have contributed to the evaluation in December 2021.

How to apply:

To add your name to the lucky dip, please email the following to Mia Delve at luckydip@aspacearts.org.uk by **Monday 8th February**

If you require this application form in an alternative format please email luckydip@aspacearts.org.uk or phone the 'a space' arts office on 02380 338 778.

****Please note, applications will not be assessed but they will be vetted to assure proposals are not racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic or offensive in any way.**

Please email your response to the following 4 questions:

1. Contact Details - Name, email address and postcode.

This is so we can contact you and verify your postcode

2. An answer to to the question: In what way do you consider yourself to be an artist (50 words)

We decided to ask this question as an alternative to asking for evidence of an artistic practice such as a link to a website or portfolio of work. This is so that artists who have little experience or formal training can apply.

3. 100 words about what artwork or art activity the Lucky Dip bursary would fund.

4. How do you describe your ethnicity?

This will allow us to make five of the Lucky Dip bursaries available to ethnically diverse* artists.

***A note about terminology:**

In this document we have used the term ethnically diverse. This term is intended to be inclusive and inoffensive but we acknowledge that language is fluid and always evolving. As an organisation, we have joined the movement to reject BAME because it is a state-manufactured term which flattens and depoliticises the global solidarity between people with a lived experience of anti-racism, as well as being recognised only in the United Kingdom.