

God's House Tower

International Women's Day 2024: SOUP Event and Bursary Open Call

Since 2022, 'a space' arts has been celebrating International Women's Day by hosting a silent auction of original artworks made by women. These events have been a great success, supporting artists around the world and raising money for Yellow Door, a local charity which prevents and responds to domestic and sexual abuse.

This year, we want to continue supporting creativity and inspiring change by funding a creative, community-focussed, women-led project in Southampton or the surrounding areas. The £2,000 bursary could support a new initiative, or help to contribute to the ongoing work of an existing project.

What we loved most about our silent auction events is that everyone could get involved, whether they were bidding in the auction or submitting an artwork. So, we're keeping that ethos at the core of this project and letting the public vote for which proposal they'd like to see awarded the funding at a public SOUP event*, hosted at God's House Tower on Friday 8th March 2024.

**see FAQs for 'What is a SOUP event?'*

Who can apply

We are looking to fund a women-led project based in the SO postcode which seeks to:

- Build connection and/or creative skills within local communities
- Provide social benefit and are not-for-profit
- Deliver a creative output

We are particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals and groups from underrepresented backgrounds, including projects which are LGBTQIA+led, disability led and/or global majority led.

What you'll receive

The successful applicant will receive

- A £2,000 bursary towards their project, split into two payments
- Access to spaces for meetings and workshops if needed
- Access to shared resources including AV equipment and desk space to help you deliver your project
- Access to 'a space' arts networks of artists and audiences
- On-going support from the 'a space' arts team
- A pop-up exhibition opportunity

The bursary will be split into two payments across one year, concluding with an exhibition opportunity for four weeks in the Barker-Mill Project Space* at God's House

Tower, launching on International Women's Day 2025. This is an opportunity for the successful project to share their progress and activity with members of the public in a creative way at 'a space' arts flagship venue with support and guidance from the 'a space' arts creative programming team.

**see FAQs for 'What is the Barker-Mill Project Space?'*

What we expect

- A project which delivers social benefit for people in Southampton or the surrounding areas (in the SO postcode)
- Outcomes which can be displayed at God's House Tower in a pop-up exhibition. This could be artworks, workshop outcomes or simply documentation of the funded activity/project.
- An evaluation with the 'a space' arts team to report back to our funder for this project, the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

How to apply

We are inviting people to write a short proposal about their project which tells us a little bit about you and your creative background and answers the three following questions:

- Who is involved and how will they benefit
- What will you be doing and what will the money be spent on
- What is your vision for the exhibition/showcase opportunity

The 'a space' arts team will shortlist these initial proposals and invite at least 3 projects to present their ideas in a 10 minute pitch to the public at a SOUP event on Friday 8th March 2024. The public will then vote for which project is awarded the funding.

We haven't included a word count for these proposals as we understand it can be more of a barrier rather than a useful tool. Please tell us as much as you can about you and your ideas so that we can get a true sense of your ambitions. We welcome non-written proposals too, including voice or video recordings if you'd prefer.

To apply for this opportunity or if you have any questions, please contact mia@spacearts.org.uk or call 07824326005

Timeline

Monday 15th January - Monday 12th February	Open Call
Monday 12th February	Deadline for proposals
Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February	'a space' arts review proposals

Friday 16th February	Successful people notified and invited to prepare their 10 minute pitch, which can simply be a presentation of the submitted proposal
Friday 8th March	Public SOUP event where the bursary is awarded
April - September	Funded activity begins
September	Check in meeting with the 'a space' arts team
October - January 2025	Planning starts for the exhibition at GHT
February	Exhibition planning
Late February	Exhibition installation
Friday 28th February - Sunday 30th March	Exhibition open to the public
Saturday 8th March 2025	International Women's Day sharing event and celebration

FAQ's

What even is a SOUP event?

- A SOUP event is a community building event which sees good causes get funding, voted for by the people who matter most, the local residents! Traditionally SOUP events cost £5 to attend and you get soup, bread and an all-important voting token. The money from the door is then what the charities or projects are pitching for. However, for this SOUP event, 'a space' arts will be providing the funding for the bursary and the event will be free to attend. The shortlisted applicants will pitch their ideas and get a chance to network with other community leaders and attendees. After the presentations, the audience will be encouraged to discuss and debate before voting for the project that they want to support.

Can I apply on behalf of my group?

- Yes! We are welcoming applications from individuals as well as collectives or groups, newly formed or established

How can I be sure my project is eligible?

- Please contact us with any questions about eligibility by emailing mia@aspacearts.org.uk or calling 07824326005
- If in doubt, apply! As long as your project is creative, community-focussed and women-led your application will be considered.

What if I've never hosted an exhibition before?

- The 'a space' arts team is here to help. We have built time into the project to meet with you and understand what might be exhibited and how it might be displayed.
- We will also look after all the printing and marketing for the exhibition.

- The exhibition doesn't have to be a 'finished' or 'complete' thing. It might just be a showcase of the work that you do with some images or video of the funded activity. It could also be a workshop space, with tables and chairs for visitors use and engage with a self-led activity related to the project. Or it might be something entirely different! One of the best things about working with creative people is constantly being surprised and excited by new ideas.

What is the Barker-Mill Project Space?

- The Barker-Mill Project Space is 8m long, 3.7m wide and 2m high. It has sliding doors that open into the space and a glass wall at the back that looks down on our cafe space and a beautiful stone archway. It is currently painted grey and has a strip of gallery lighting down the middle of the room which is fully adjustable.



The Barker-Mill Project Space at God's House Tower

How can I submit my proposal?

- You're welcome to submit a written proposal, voice recording, video recording or any other format which best suits your needs and shares information about your project and idea in the best way.

Can any art form apply?

- Absolutely!

About 'a space' arts

Established in 2000, by artists for artists, 'a space' arts is a visual arts organisation leading on a range of artist development projects, including the Arches Studios, God's House Tower, the RIPE programme, along with offering a bespoke range of Artist Resources. The organisation is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For more further information and an overview of our work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk
For project specific information please visit - godshousetower.org.uk and ripesouthampton.org.uk

Access

As an organisation we actively look to reduce barriers for artists applying for our opportunities and commissions, and we are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive.

We offer a range of access support for artists, including alternative formats for information we release and submissions we receive as well as an artist access fund; please contact us so that we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application or project. Please either email us on enquiries@aspacearts.org.uk or call 07824326005.

For more information about this work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk/about-us

Anti-racism

To further our mission we are taking proactive steps to becoming an anti-racist organisation. We have pledged to deliver a number of commitments through our Anti-Racism Action Plan over the next two years along with a series of activities to bring immediate benefits to global majority artists. We feel this combination of working towards long-term change and immediate action can make a real difference to Southampton's global majority visual artists and we plan to continue working on this dual approach.

For more information about this work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk/about-us

Climate Action

As a cultural organisation it is our responsibility to raise awareness, as well as reducing and mitigating our own environmental impact. The environmental impact of this project will be monitored and steps will be taken to reduce CO2 emissions where appropriate.

