

Pitch Your Project

International Women's Day 2026

Open Call



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1. Opportunity Summary

Intro

'A space' arts are looking to award a £2000 bursary to a creative, community-focused, women-led initiative in the SO postcode. Projects will be selected by the community, for the community, at a live event where applicants pitch their ideas to an audience who then vote for the projects they'd like to see awarded the funding.

Fee

There is a £2,000 budget available for the winning project.

Deadline

The deadline for proposals is **Monday 9th February at 9am.**

Questions

If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss your individual access needs, please contact James Hunter, our Outreach & Artist Communities Manager using the details below.

Main Contact

Name: James Hunter

Email: james@aspacearts.org.uk

Phone / WhatsApp number: 07966947871

2. The Brief

Pitch Your Project offers a creative, community-focused initiative in the SO postcode £2000 to fund new activity. Projects are selected by the community, for the community, at a live event where applicants pitch their ideas to an audience who then vote for the projects they'd like to see awarded the funding.

To celebrate International Women's Day, this round of the Pitch Your Project bursary scheme is specifically for women-led initiatives. The winner will receive £2,000 to initiate a new project, or contribute to the ongoing work of an existing one.

Applicants will be asked to prepare a 10 minute pitch to present live during an event at God's House Tower on Friday 6th March 2026.

Audiences will vote for the projects they'd like to see awarded the funding. This will take place during the week following the event - from Friday 6th to Friday 13th March - in order to give online audiences a chance to watch the pitches (which will be uploaded to the 'a space' arts YouTube Channel) and cast their votes.

3. 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. This can be art, film, music, sound, dancing, cooking or anything that's creative in the broadest sense.

4. The Winner 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, including project development, project planning, curation and marketing and comms.
- An exhibition opportunity in Feb - March 2027 to showcase the work that you've done.

5. Runners up Will Receive

- 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, including project development support

6. 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 an 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.

7. The Budget

There is a £2,000 bursary available for the winning project.

A payment plan will be discussed and agreed on when a winning project is announced, before signing an agreement. We can be flexible about when payments are made, working around other income and financial support.

8. Access Fund

We also have a designated 'Access Fund' which is available to community leaders or groups who have access needs with financial implications. However, this funding is limited and is shared across multiple 'a space' programmes and venues. Use of this budget will be agreed with shortlisted artists on an individual basis at the next stage of the process.

9. How to Apply

We are inviting you to submit a short proposal about your project which tells us a little bit about you and your creative background.

Your proposal can be written or recorded and sent via an [online form](#), an email, voice note or a video. Proposals should be around 450 words or less (if written) or 3 minutes or less (if recorded)

Please answer the following questions:

- What is your name?
- What is your postcode?
- Who is involved and how will they benefit (approx 150 words)

- What will you be doing and what will the money be spent on (approx 150 words)
- What is your vision for the exhibition/showcase opportunity (approx 150 words)
- How did you find out about this opportunity?

Word counts are all approximate as we understand it can be more of a barrier rather than a useful tool. Please tell us as much as you want to about you and your ideas so that we can get a true sense of your ambitions.

To submit your proposal please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/UjT47HCTgj> OR contact 'a space' arts' Outreach & Artist Communities Manager, James Hunter by **Monday 9th February at 9am**

You can contact James Hunter by:

- Email: james@aspacearts.org.uk
- Phone / WhatsApp number: 07966947871

10. Shortlisting and Pitching

We aim to shortlist by **Friday 13th February**. At least three projects will be selected and invited to present their ideas in a 10 minute pitch to the public. The public will then vote for which project is awarded the funding.

11. Timeline

Dates and times	Activity
Friday 9th January - Monday 9th February	Open Call

Dates and times	Activity
Monday 9th February, 9am	Deadline for proposals
Monday 9th - Friday 13th February	a space' arts review proposals
Friday 13th February	Successful people notified and invited to prepare their 10 minute pitch, which can simply be a presentation of the submitted proposal
Friday 6th March, 6pm - 8pm	Pitch Your Project event at GHT - voting opens (online and in-person)
Friday 13th March	Voting closes - winner announced
April - July	Funded activity begins
July	Check in meeting with the 'a space' arts team
August - November	Planning starts for the exhibition at GHT
December	Plans finalised
January 2027	Exhibition installation
February - March 2027	Exhibition open to the public

12. Alternative Formats

If you would like to see/hear this brief in a different format e.g. audio or large print, please please contact us so we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application.

You can contact James Hunter by:

- Email: james@aspacearts.org.uk
- Phone / WhatsApp number: 07966947871

13. FAQ's

What even is a Pitch Your Project event?

- A Pitch Your Project event is a community building event which sees good causes get funding, voted for by the people who matter most, the local residents! Traditionally, these events cost £5 to attend, then the money from the door is what the charities or projects are pitching for. However, for this Pitch Your Project 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?

- If in doubt, apply! As long as your project is creative, community-focussed and women-led your application will be considered.
- Please contact us with any questions about eligibility by emailing james@aspacearts.org.uk or calling/messaging 07966947871.

What does a successful application look like?

- Follow this link to read shortlisted applications from previous rounds of Pitch Your Project: <https://drive.google.com/drive/>

[folders/1eOmjB7KBDMm4GStlj4sQcmAN94B-9oum?
usp=sharing](https://folders.1eOmjB7KBDMm4GStlj4sQcmAN94B-9oum?usp=sharing)

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.

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!

Appendix 1

14. Organisational Overview

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 and Tower House studios, God's House Tower, the RIPE programme, along with offering a bespoke range of Artist Resources.

Artist development is at the heart of all of our projects and we deliver our mission of supporting visual artists and inspiring audiences in enterprising ways. 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

About GHT

God's House Tower (GHT) opened to the public in September 2019 with a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and activities. Through inventive and imaginative programming GHT shares and celebrates its' own special Southampton story through the permanent exhibition 'stories behind the stones.' Our changing programme of exhibitions and activities create opportunities for

artists and audiences, open up conversations and create access for those facing barriers to heritage and culture. The programme empowers communities to be creators and develop a lifelong interest in arts and culture, along with diversifying Southampton's creative community and creating role models to inspire a new generation of diverse creative communities in the city.

For more information about GHT please visit - godshousetower.org.uk

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. A new climate action plan is currently in development and is on course to be launched in 2025.

