



Youth-Led Artist's Commission Call

With funding from South Western Railway CCIF, Artswork, in partnership with Lionheart School, is looking to commission a local professional creative to work in collaboration with students to co-create a work or works for Sandown Station, reflecting on 200 years of rail travel and its impact on the local community and environment. The final outcome is not determined – and may only be determined once the artist starts working with the students – but we would be particularly interested to receive proposals that allow for exploration of materials associated with railway stations, such as tiles, enamel, iron and steel and concrete and/or allow for collaboration with industry. Other approaches and outcomes are also welcome, but we will not be commissioning a mural for this project.

Up to £5000 is available for this work, to include the artist's time, materials, installation costs, travel, expenses and VAT. The artist should determine how the budget is allocated to deliver the proposed project in their submitted proposal.

Deadline: 10:00 Tuesday 2 September 2025

Context

The Young Cultural Changemakers Programme is putting creative place-making power in the hands of young people. Young people across the southeast are empowered to lead on significant creative projects in their local area, transforming their lives and those of their neighbours. Working with local communities and with a range of partners, we are listening to the views, experiences and ideas of children and young people and supporting them to explore creative ways to make change happen in their areas.

Young people have expressed concerns about antisocial behaviour at Sandown Station and the surrounding area. Artswork has secured funding from South Western Railway to enable students at the Lionheart School to work with a professional



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creative to make work or works for the station, that will contribute to a larger project aimed making the station a more welcoming space for other young people and the wider community. By increasing young people's sense of ownership of, and pride in, the public realm, we hope to have a positive impact on antisocial behaviour/vandalism etc.

Brief

- The chosen artist will run creative workshops with Lionheart School students, reflecting on 200 years of train travel and its impact on the community and environment of Sandown in particular, and the Isle of Wight in general.
- We envisage 12 regular Friday morning workshops taking place between October 2025 and February 2026, with the exact timetable being agreed between the artist and the school.
- We want this to be a youth-led project, with the artist looking for opportunities to engage the students in decision-making and leadership roles.
- At least two of the workshops will be intergenerational/reminiscence workshops with older people.
- The final outcome is not determined – and may only be determined once the artist starts working with the students – but workshops might include an exploration of materials associated with railway stations, such as tiles, enamel, iron and steel and concrete and/or allow for collaboration with industry.
- The outcome from this project will contribute to a wider project aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour at Sandown Station and making it feel like a safer space for the whole community.
- The artist will support the children to achieve digital badges in areas such as Communication and Teamwork.

Proposed timeline

10:00 Tuesday 2 September 2025	Deadline for applications
Friday 12 September	Successful applicants informed and pitching timeslot confirmed
09:00 – 12:00 Friday 19 September	Selection – the students choose the artist they want to work with
Friday 3 October	First co-creation workshop with students
Friday 27 March 2026	Latest date for installation of work at Sandown Station

The applicant artist(s) may suggest amendments to the timeline in their proposal, but the endpoint for the installation and completion of the commission is fixed.

Intellectual Property

The commission is a co-creation between the creative(s) and the young cultural changemakers. Legal title and ownership of the work is retained by the creative(s) until payment of the final instalment of the fee is made. Once payment has been made, ownership of the work will transfer to the site owners.

The creative(s) retains the right to be credited in any communications, photographs, film, promotional materials or reproduction in any media. Any reproduction or media is guaranteed for non-commercial purposes.

Contracting

The successful artist(s) will be issued a Contract for the work. Payment will be made in two instalments, one on commencement and one on completion.



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Requirements

- The artist will be responsible for their own insurance and must have Public Liability Insurance cover of at least £5million whilst working on the project and for six years after its completion. It is the responsibility of the Artist to ensure that any individual or organisation they work with or who is involved with the installation has Public Liability Insurance cover of at least £5million on the same terms.
- The commissioned artist(s) must hold an up-to-date DBS check. Applicants are advised to obtain basic checks (completed within the last 6 months) and to confirm this is in place as part of their proposal submission. Basic checks can be obtained here: <https://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record>. A further Enhanced DBS check will be required as part of any Contract for this work.
- Approval of the final designs will be dependent on the artist's ability to demonstrate that the works meets all health and safety, maintenance, technical and durability considerations.
- The proposed design should have a minimum lifespan of 12 years.
- Where relevant, materials should be vandal-resistant and cleanable as required by the setting in which the artwork is installed.
- As part of this contract and before commencing work with young people for this project, the artist must undertake training in the delivery of Artsworld's digital badges that form part of the Young Cultural Changemakers programme.

Artist Specification

We are seeking a creative or creatives who can fulfil the following criteria to demonstrate their ability to engage meaningfully with the process as well as to create an outstanding final piece of design. These criteria will be scored as the basis of awarding the commission:



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- A proven track record working with children and young people and in sharing skills with them
- Experience working collaboratively with a broad range of community partners
- A proven track record in substantive community consultation processes resulting in clear community ownership of the finished piece
- Demonstrable experience creating excellent, diverse art works that stimulate engagement with public and community groups especially children and young people
- Experience working in diverse materials and media to respond to the needs of specific places, communities and briefs
- A defined relationship to Isle of Wight. The successful artist will be based in the place-making area and be able to complete the work without long distance travel
- Significant track record of delivering commissioned art successfully to time and to budget
- Artist(s) must be available to work with the young people on the dates and at the times set out above (though some amendments may be possible)
- Delivery of at least two Artsworld digital badges will be part of this programme

To submit a proposal

To apply please send a short (2p A4 maximum) expression of interest responding to the Artist Specification above and a CV which can include up to 5 images or a link to a website.

Applications must be received by email to petarainford@artsworld.org.uk by **10:00 on Tuesday 2 September 2025**. Applicants will be scored against the criteria above by the selection panel.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their ideas to the students, on **Friday 19 September at Lionheart School, Albany Road, Newport PO30 5HZ**. Please let us know if we can offer any access support to facilitate your attendance.



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Artswork

Artswork is a charity that empowers young people through creativity, so they can build a better future - for themselves and others.

We run programmes and projects that pave the way for work in the creative, cultural and heritage sectors. We give young people the means to make an impact in their communities, amplify their voices and help them find creative solutions. We provide placements and pre-employment training that could unlock creative careers young people might never have imagined - and much more.

Artswork aims to engage artists and facilitators that are representative of the communities and children and young people we support. We expect our team and those working on our behalf to commit to our Anti-Discrimination Charter which can be accessed via our website. <https://artswork.org.uk/resources/artsworks-anti-discrimination-charter>

Thank you very much for your interest.

www.artswork.org.uk

Lionheart School

Lionheart School is a Pupil Referral Unit providing specialised alternative provision for some of the most vulnerable students on the Isle of Wight.

- they work with students from 11 to 16 who require additional help with their social, emotional, or mental health needs
- they support to children who for whatever reason, are unable to attend school
- they aim to ensure that pupils return and re-integrate into school as soon as possible

They also support pupils who have a medical condition which prevents attendance at school for a considerable time but does not prevent learning. This includes:

- pupils who need tuition whilst in hospital
- pupils who are phobic or suffer from anxiety related difficulties
- pregnant and school age young mothers



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