



## Youth-Led Artist's Commission Call

Artswork in partnership with Medina College and the Isle of Wight Virtual School is looking to commission a local professional filmmaker to work in collaboration with students to co-create a film or films around the theme of 'Listen Up!' – a call by students to have their voices heard. This programme is funded by Arts Council England and Creative Island.

**Up to £5000 is available for this work, to include the filmmaker's time, equipment, travel, expenses and VAT.** The artist should determine how the budget is allocated in their proposal to demonstrate how they will deliver the proposed project.

**Deadline: 10:00 Tuesday 28 October 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.

The 'Listen Up' project is part of Creative Island's 'Can You Hear Us?' Place Partnership programme, a year-long series of activities designed to celebrate the Isle of Wight as a forward looking and ambitious set of distinctive communities. A place in which young people can flourish and which nurtures creativity by everyone across every part of the Island. A range of developments are planned over the next year culminating in a series of events in Autumn 2026.



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## Brief

The chosen filmmaker will run creative workshops with Medina College students to make a film or films around the theme of 'Listen Up!' – a call by students to have their voices heard. The students have told us that they don't feel listened to by adults:

- "Adults treat kids like we don't know how we feel"
- "Adults don't always listen to young people's opinions/feelings"
- "The adults don't listen to us and we normally have to shout to get our point across"

We envisage regular workshops taking place between November 2025 and March 2026 (approximately 30 hours), with the exact timetable being agreed between the artist and the school. The workshops will explore advocacy through film and allow the students to develop their ideas around the issues and themes they wish to advocate for. Themes that have already emerged include not feeling heard / understood in school:

- "Teachers don't get me"
- "When the teachers don't listen to me, I have to shout at them to make them listen to me"
- "Teachers see me as troubled"
- "I didn't get a fair chance"

Another theme is lack of opportunities for young people on the Isle of Wight:

- "No places for kids to go and hang out on the Island"
- "The Island poses a huge threat of poverty, leading to younger generations becoming deprived"
- "I think there should be more job opportunities for young people"
- "Activities for younger generations become dull, and uneventful for children"

But the project should also allow space for other themes to develop.

The workshops will allow participants to experience and develop a wide range of filmmaking skills. This is a youth-led project, with the artist looking for opportunities to engage the students in decision-making and leadership roles.

The final outcome will be one or more short films that will form part of 'Listen Up!', a touring youth-led film festival, as part of the 'Can You Hear Us?' Island of Culture celebrations in Autumn 2026.



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The artist will also support the students to achieve digital badges in areas such as Communication and Teamwork.

### **Proposed timeline**

10:00 Tuesday 28 October	Deadline for applications
Thursday 30 October	Successful applicants informed and presentation to students timeslot confirmed
09:00 – 12:00 Wednesday 5 November	Selection – the students choose the artist they want to work with
November 2025 – early March 2026	Regular filmmaking sessions – timetable to be agreed with Medina College
16 March 2026	Film(s) launched at Virtual School conference attended by 180 education, social care, health professionals plus carers and adoptive parents. The theme is the belonging and the power of relationships.

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 Artswork.

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.



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## 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.

## 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 films will be dependent on the artist's ability to demonstrate that the works meets all copyright and permissions considerations and that consent for image and audio use are in place
- As part of this contract and before commencing work with young people for this project, the artist must undertake training in the delivery of Artswork's digital badges that form part of the Young Cultural Changemakers programme.

## Artist Specification

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

- 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



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- Demonstrable experience creating excellent, diverse art works that stimulate engagement with public and community groups especially children and young people
- A defined relationship to Isle of Wight. The successful artist will be based on the Isle of Wight 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](mailto:petarainford@artsworld.org.uk) by **10:00 on Tuesday 28 October 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 **Wednesday 5 November at Medina College, Fairlee Road, Newport PO30 2DX**. Please let us know if we can offer any access support to facilitate your attendance.

### Artsworld

Artsworld 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.

Artsworld 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://artsworld.org.uk/resources/artsworlds-anti-discrimination-charter>

Thank you very much for your interest. [www.artsworld.org.uk](http://www.artsworld.org.uk)



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