



Call out: Artist in residence for youth-led project in Sandown, to include the redesign of murals at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary

Artswork in partnership with the Bay CE Secondary School and Forest Edge School, is looking to commission an Isle of Wight-based professional creative as artist in residence for the schools, to work with the students between October 2025 and March 2026. The artist and students will co-create one or more creative interventions – including repainting of the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary murals – that make a positive difference to the town.

Up to £14 000 is available for this work. This includes the artist's time, materials, installation costs, travel, expenses and VAT. In putting forward their proposal, it is for the artist to determine how the budget is allocated to deliver the proposed project. Applications from groups of artists are welcomed.

Deadline: 10:00 Wednesday 3 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. The programme is particularly keen to engage with young people who are underserved in terms of community and creative engagement.

The artist in residency model has been chosen because this project aims to engage with up to 500 young people at the Bay CE Secondary School, but it will be led by two small cohorts – approximately 20 students from Bay CE Secondary School with SEND and/or difficulty engaging with school, and up to 8 students from Forest Edge School.



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Brief

- The residency will run from 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026. It is expected that the artist will have the equivalent of at least 20 days working directly with students.
- Over the course of the residency, the artist will run regular workshops with the core cohort at The Bay CE School to plan and deliver the project.
- The artist will support these children to achieve digital badges in areas such as Communication, Teamwork, Voice and Community.
- In addition, the artist will offer opportunities for engagement to the wider school community, with the aim of up to 500 students having some level of involvement with the project over the course of the residency – this may be through enrichment sessions, after-school clubs, assemblies and one-off events.
- The artist will also run regular sessions for students at Forest Edge School and support these children to achieve digital badges in areas such as Communication, Teamwork, Voice and Community.
- There will also be several sessions run for the Tiger Teens group at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary.
- The project will listen to what the young people have to say about the town and use this to create a positive difference. When we asked them what they liked about the town, the beach was a recurring theme. They told us they found Sandown friendly, hopeful and said it ‘has potential’, but they also found it scruffy, boring, rundown and full of litter. Some found it unfriendly and even ‘scary’. When it comes to change, they wanted more colour, more kindness, a safer place and less litter.
- There may be multiple creative outcomes from this project, but the main one will be the co-created redesign of the 14 murals at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, working in partnership to meet the students’ objectives of helping to create a more colourful and tidier Sandown; increasing the appeal of the town to both visitors and residents.
 - The artist will develop a process to ensure full involvement of the students in the planning, design and installation, at the same time working with the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary to deliver a professional outcome that ‘sells’ the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary and Sandown to the wider public. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary would like to soften the harsh exterior of the fort, creating a welcoming and exciting façade that draws people to visit.
 - It is a requirement of this commission that the final design promotes respect for animals and features some of the Sanctuary’s charismatic megafauna rescue animals (e.g. bears, tigers, lynx etc) as well as native species (e.g. red squirrels, sea eagles, choughs, white claw crayfish etc.)

- Other themes that might be explored include the interaction of people with the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, its place in the wider community of Sandown/local environment and environmental sustainability

Proposed timeline and dates for sessions

10:00 Wednesday 3 September 2025: Deadline for applications

Thursday 4 September:	Shortlisted applicants informed and presentation timeslot confirmed
10:00 – 12:00 Tuesday 9 September:	Selection presentations – Bay CE School students choose the artist they want to work with
1 October 2025 – 31 March 2026:	Artist in residency – a minimum of 20 days working with students at the Bay CE School and Forest Edge School, with timetable for workshops to be agreed with school staff, in conjunction with Artwork
Monday 16 February 2026:	Final designs submitted to the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for approval before painting the mural
31 March 2026:	Deadline for installation and completion of the commission

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 except where the weather delays the installation in which case we will agree a revised installation timeframe in discussion with The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, the Artist, the participants and the programme partners.

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 e.g. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary.



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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. Any acknowledgements will also include credits for the programme partners.

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 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 Artswork'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:

- 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 the public, community groups and 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
- The 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)

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@artswork.org.uk by **10:00 on Wednesday 3 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 between **10:00 – 12:00 on Tuesday 9 September 2025**. 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



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