



Youth-Led Artist's Commission Call

Artswork in partnership with young cultural changemakers in Arun and West Sussex Youth Justice Service are looking to commission a local professional artist or collective of artists to lead a series of workshops in collaboration with young people from the service. These will share a range of art skills and techniques and build towards the design and creation of an artistic intervention for the young people's Waiting & Consultation Room in the local Custody Suite.

A fee of up to £5970.00 is available for this work to include the artist's time, travel, expenses, workshop materials and VAT.

A separate production budget for the production / installation is available of up to £7500.

Deadline: 10:00 on Monday 6 July 2026

Context

The Young Cultural Changemakers Programme is putting creative place-making power in the hands of young people. Young people across the south east 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.

Brief

Artswork Young Cultural Changemakers programme is working in partnership with young people in the West Sussex Youth Justice Service to design an artistic intervention/s to transform the experience of the Waiting & Consultation Room in the local youth custody suite (please see images below). Young people have described the current room as plain,



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boring and basic. The space is 'too white' with 'nothing to look at' and nothing to do or feel interested in while waiting in the space.

They would like to transform the space to make it feel more youth-friendly, exploring qualities like adding colour, interactive visual elements that can be explored, details or features that can hold your interest, that might change over time and that can encourage a calmer state without being too 'cute' or 'friendly'. (One user described a wish for 'cat energy' - 'independent without trying too hard'.)

The brief is to work over the summer holiday period through small regular weekly 90 minute – 2 hour sessions attended by young people (aged 11 – 18) with their key workers. Each session will be run twice, allowing 2 separate small groups (c6 young people) to engage separately.

Sessions would like to explore a range of art-making techniques that might include:

- Line drawing
- Paint pouring
- Stencils and street art styles
- Patterns and print making
- Watercolours
- Clay / modelling
- Other art forms according to participants / lead artist/s interests

Sessions will have three ambitions:

- To build towards a considered and ambitious youth led design or designs for the space that will be 'pitched' to the building management toward the end of the programme and which meet all Health & Safety requirements for a Custody Suite waiting room.
- To develop young people's skills in communication, confidence and using their voice (these skills will be digitally badged with full training provided to support digital badge delivery)
- To share art making skills with key workers attending which may be used in other Youth Justice contexts after the project

Some planning / provision for working at home on some of the sessions for young people who are not able to join group work would be helpful (a separate budget will be provided for materials for at-home working)

The final art work may be created / installed by the commissioned artist, potentially with young people from the group, or contracted to be professionally fabricated (the commissioned artist will be expected to provide final design files for production). It may feature pieces created during the workshop sessions or be an entirely standalone concept, developed from the young people's ideas.



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Timeline 2026:

Monday 6 July	Deadline for applications
Tuesday 7 July	Shortlisting
Friday 10 July	Interviews
Monday 13 July	Appointment of artist

Monday 20 July – Monday 31 August

Workshop programme with young people from local Youth Justice programmes: 6 x weekly sessions to be held in Bognor Regis, on a time-table TBC, comprising 2 x 90min / 2 hour workshops for 2 groups of 6 young people each week (will be scheduled same-day).

September	Presentation of artist & young people's designs to the Youth Justice Team
September	Sign-off of final design
October	Fabrication / making / co-creation phase
October	Installation of art work
November	Official opening

Please note, the artist may suggest amendments to the timeline in their proposal, but the end point for the installation completion is a set timeframe.

Intellectual Property

The commission is a co-creation between the artist and the young cultural changemakers. Legal title and ownership of the work is retained by the artist until payment of the final instalment of the fee is made. Once payment has been made, ownership of the art work will transfer to West Sussex Youth Justice Service.

The artist 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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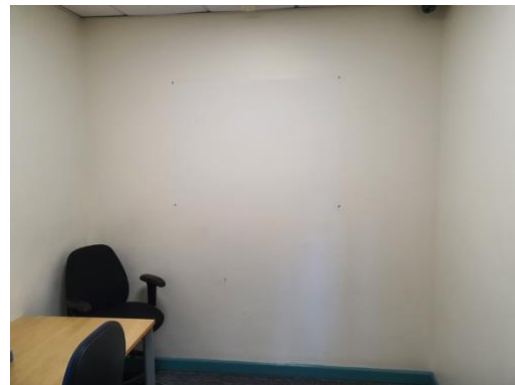
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Contracting

The successful artist 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.
- 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 – close liaison with the Youth Justice staff team will be required.
- The art work must be low maintenance and have a minimum lifespan of 12 years
- Materials should be vandal-resistant and cleanable as required by the setting in which the artwork is installed
- The artwork should be designed to meet the needs of the Waiting & Consultation Room environment (see images below)





Artist Specification

We are seeking an artist or artists 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 art. These criteria will be scored as the basis of awarding the commission:

- A proven track record working effectively and meaningfully with hard to reach young people and in sharing skills in an educational context
- Experience working collaboratively with a broad range of community partners
- Demonstrable experience delivering interesting art workshops for young people that inspire engagement and build skills
- Track record producing professionally finished work in diverse materials and media to respond to the needs of specific places, communities and briefs



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- A defined relationship to Arun. The successful artist will be based in or near 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
- Someone who is friendly, talented and can listen to young people.
- 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> An Enhanced DBS check will be required as part of any Contract for this work

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 rebeccaeast@artswork.org.uk by **10:00 6 July 2026**

Applicants will be scored against the criteria above by the selection panel which aims to include young people involved in the project.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on **Friday 10 July 2026**. Interviews are likely to take place online – please let us know if we can offer any access support to facilitate your attendance.

Enquiries

Any questions about the commission should be directed to Beccy East, Creative Placemaking Producer, rebeccaeast@artswork.org.uk

Please note my working days are Mondays and Wednesday – Friday



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Artswork

Artswork works to empower young people through creativity, giving them the opportunity to explore and fulfil their potential in a future that we are all making together. As an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, we work across three strands:

- Activate Young Cultural Changemakers - Putting creative place-making power in the hands of young people
- Activate Creative Careers - Building an equitable and sustainable pathway to creative careers for young people
- Activate Creative Learning - Growing creative approaches to learning in classrooms, workplaces and communities

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/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Anti-discrimination-charter.pdf>

Thank you very much for your interest.

www.artswork.org.uk



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