

Commissioning Call - Freelance Curator & Project Manager

Hope – Youth Voices for Change

A flagship exhibition showcasing young people’s creative solutions to some of our biggest current problems.

Artswork is a charity that empowers young people to lead change through creativity. We do this through youth-led creative commissions that respond to young people’s concerns and ideas for improving their lives and their communities.

We are seeking to **commission an experienced Freelance Curator & Project Manager** to lead the development and delivery of ***Hope – Youth Voices for Change***, a major exhibition at **Mall Galleries, London (8–24 January 2027)**.

This is a high-profile opportunity to shape and deliver a nationally visible exhibition that amplifies young people’s creative responses to urgent social issues.

Fee: £15,000 (inclusive of travel, expenses and VAT)

An additional production budget of £15,000 is available for exhibition production and installation.

About the project:

Hope – Youth Voices for Change is a flagship exhibition of work by or led by young people, made as part of youth-led changemaking commissions enabled by Artswork in multiple communities. It will explore young people’s creative solutions to four key issues; all already identified as major areas of concern by young people:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Climate and environment
- Community cohesion and belonging
- Youth employment, skills, and future opportunity

There are three spaces in Mall Galleries, so the exhibition could be grouped thematically, or themes could be woven throughout the whole experience.

The exhibition will feature the outputs of some of the many youth-led creative changemaking projects led and delivered by young people in communities across the South of England over the last few years. There are short films, physical visual art

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objects, and many works in the public realm that we'd want to showcase in the space through photography or film / projection.

There is also potential for new material to be created by children and young people in all the communities we work in, which could be combined into a new piece of work that brings together hundreds of young voices and their ideas about how we tackle big issues.

The exhibition must have engaging experiential elements, so that visitors go on a meaningful journey around the project's key aims, which are to:

- Amplify young people's voices on issues that matter to them
- Engage media, policymakers, ambassadors, and philanthropic supporters in Artswork's mission
- Communicate that young people are a vibrant part of finding solutions to society's biggest problems (they are not the problem)
- Position Artswork as a national leader in youth-led creative changemaking practice

The commission:

We are commissioning a **single freelance practitioner / curator with strong project management experience and experience of working with young people** to lead both the **curatorial vision** and **project delivery** for this piece of work.

Fee: £15,000 (inclusive of VAT)

Contract period: Fixed term freelance commission, covering development, delivery, installation, and de-installation (indicatively July 2026 to January 2027).

Working pattern: remote working with online meetings (particularly with Artswork team and members of our Youth Board) with some travel around the south-east of England and to Mall Galleries in London.

Skills needed and scope of project:

Curatorial Leadership:

- Work with Artswork colleagues and our Youth Board to support the development of an overall curatorial approach and detailed plan for showcasing this work in the most effective way
- Liaise with Artswork's 6 Placemaking Creative Producers around the youth-led changemaking projects and commissions already delivered by young people in Arun, Rushmoor, Slough, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Dover, as well as those currently underway this year, to see how these can be showcased within the exhibition

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- Work with Artswork’s Placemaking Creative Producers and Youth Board on a potential new piece that brings together contributions from multiple children and young people across multiple communities, addressing the big issues of the exhibition in one single experiential piece
- Liaise with Artswork colleagues and young people to produce interpretation for the exhibition

Project Management and Delivery:

- Develop and manage a detailed project plan, including timelines, milestones, and dependencies
- Produce representations of work in the public realm (e.g. film and photographs of project outcomes), devise effective methods of sharing or displaying other creative outputs (e.g. short films already produced), plus produce any new work showcasing multiple young voices
- Coordinate logistics including transportation, installation, and de-installation – Mall Galleries provide technicians to give practical assistance with installation and lighting
- Act as the main point of contact with Mall Galleries and ensure all venue requirements are met
- Work closely with Artswork’s team to ensure delivery on time, within scope, and aligned with agreed budgets

Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement:

- Work collaboratively with Artswork staff, young people, artists, and partners
- Support engagement with high-profile ambassadors, patrons, and public figures where appropriate – potentially speaking with them at events
- Liaise with marketing and PR colleagues to ensure curatorial content aligns with communications and media activity

Quality, Inclusion, & Risk:

- Maintain high artistic and production standards appropriate to a prestigious public gallery
- Embed safeguarding, accessibility, and inclusive practice throughout the project
- Identify and manage risks, contributing to mitigation planning where needed

Reflection & Legacy:

- Contribute to learning, documentation, and reflection to support Artswork’s future funding, advocacy, and profile-raising work

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Who we're looking for:

We welcome expressions of interest from curators or creative producers who can demonstrate:

Essential:

- Significant experience curating high quality exhibitions or creative programmes – this exhibition must be both engaging and of high quality as well as being a meaningful expression of young people's ideas and solutions to some of society's knottiest problems
- Strong project management experience on complex, multistakeholder projects
- A track record of working collaboratively with organisations and with young people and supporting youth voice or co-production
- Excellent organisational, communication, and relationship management skills

Desirable:

- Interest in or experience addressing social justice issues through creative practice

Our values:

Artswork is committed to access, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We particularly welcome expressions of interest from practitioners who bring lived experience, underrepresented perspectives, or alternative curatorial approaches.

To submit a proposal:

To apply please send a short (2pp A4 maximum) expression of interest responding to this commissioning call and a CV which can include up to 5 images or a link to a website.

Applications must be received by email to louisegovier@artswork.org.uk by **12 noon on Tuesday 9 June 2026**.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of senior team members and Youth Board members. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an **online interview on Wednesday 24 June 2026**.

We would expect to confirm the appointment and move to contract shortly afterwards, enabling work on the project to begin in July 2026.

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