



## Youth-led Artist's Commission Call

Artswork, working in partnership with young cultural changemakers at Playland, Portsmouth, is seeking an experienced **mural artist** to work collaboratively with young people aged 16 to 30 to co-create a mural or a series of smaller murals for our youth-led creative space. We want the artwork to help make Playland feel more welcoming, cohesive and reflective of the identities, ideas and experiences of the young people who use it. The artwork should contribute to a space that feels more like a home for young people, while remaining versatile enough to accommodate exhibitions, performances, workshops, meetings and other youth-led creative activity.

Young people will be central to the creative process. We are not looking for an artist to arrive with a finished concept or simply deliver a predetermined design. We want to appoint someone who can listen, facilitate creative exploration, share their skills and artistic expertise, and work with young people to develop and realise artwork that feels meaningful to them and to Playland.

**A fee of up to £5300 is available for the delivery of this work to include artist's time, materials, construction costs, installation costs, travel, expenses and VAT.** Any proposed costs for specialist fabrication, equipment or external contractors should be clearly identified in the application and agreed with Artswork in advance.

**Deadline: 5pm 16 November 2026**

### Context

Playland supports young people aged 16 to 30 to develop creative projects, build skills and create opportunities for themselves and their communities. At Playland, young people have opportunities to lead workshops in creative skills and practices of their choice and to turn their ideas into reality, whether that means developing an exhibition, leading a community project or exploring a new area of creative practice. For many, this represents their first experience of facilitating or leading creative activity.

We are currently exploring ideas around third spaces, community cohesion, belonging, and the future and legacy of Playland through listening consultations with young people. The findings from this work will help inform the development of the space and the creative commissions taking place within it.

We want Playland to remain a flexible environment that supports a wide range of activities, while becoming warmer, more cohesive and more reflective of the young people who use it.

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The mural commission will form part of this wider transformation, alongside a separately commissioned interior designer and a young person leading a window-design commission. We are looking for an artist who can work collaboratively across these strands to help create a space that feels connected, welcoming and youth-led.

## **Brief**

We are looking for a mural artist to work with Playland's young cultural changemakers and the Artswork team to develop and deliver a mural, or a series of smaller murals, informed by young people's ideas, interests and experiences.

The artwork should contribute to a stronger sense of identity, belonging and ownership within Playland. It should respond to the character and purpose of the space, complement the wider interior design and work within an environment that needs to accommodate a variety of creative and community activities.

The artist will be expected to lead an inclusive and engaging creative process, supporting young people to shape the artwork and, where appropriate, participate in its creation. We welcome a range of artistic approaches and visual styles, provided they are responsive to the space, the young people involved and the practical requirements of the commission.

The commission will include:

- Reviewing findings and materials from Playland's listening consultations to understand the ideas, experiences and priorities emerging from young people.
- Planning and facilitating an inclusive co-creation process that gives young people meaningful influence over the development of the artwork.
- Working with young people to explore visual ideas, themes, imagery, colour, materials and techniques.
- Sharing artistic skills and knowledge through workshops, mentoring and practical creative activity.
- Developing an agreed mural concept or series of smaller murals that responds to the space and the ideas generated through the co-creation process.
- Working collaboratively with the commissioned interior designer to ensure the artwork complements the wider design, including its colour palette, materials, layout and overall atmosphere.
- Considering how the artwork can contribute to a welcoming, accessible and inclusive environment, taking account of different sensory needs and the experiences of neurodivergent young people.
- Identifying suitable surfaces, materials and installation methods, taking account of durability, maintenance, health and safety, and the existing condition of the space.
- Working with Artswork to develop a realistic plan for delivering the artwork within the agreed budget and timetable.

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- Supporting young people to participate in the making and installation process where appropriate and safe to do so.
- Completing the agreed artwork within Playland by the end of January 2027, working collaboratively with Artswork, the interior designer and any relevant contractors or suppliers.

The final artwork and its location will be developed through the co-creation process and agreed with Artswork. Applicants are welcome to propose approaches that make the most of the space and the opportunities offered by mural-making, rather than assuming that a single large-scale mural is the only solution.

Applicants are not expected to produce designs or speculative creative work as part of their application.

By the end of the commission, the agreed artwork will have been completed and installed within Playland.

The finished work should:

- Contribute to a warmer, more welcoming and cohesive creative space.
- Reflect ideas, interests and priorities identified by Playland's young people.
- Give young people a genuine sense of ownership and connection to the artwork and the wider space.
- Be developed through an inclusive, engaging and meaningful co-creation process.
- Complement the interior design and relate thoughtfully to the wider environment.
- Be appropriate for a space used for exhibitions, performances, workshops, meetings, events and everyday activity.
- Be durable, practical to maintain and suitable for its intended location.
- Be achievable within the agreed budget and timetable.
- We recognise that the final artwork will evolve through collaboration with young people and the practical process of making and installing the work.

## Timeline

- **Application deadline:** 5pm, Monday 16 November 2026
- **Informal visits to Playland:** Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November 2026, by arrangement. Please email [anastasiaalexandru@artswork.org.uk](mailto:anastasiaalexandru@artswork.org.uk) to arrange a visit.
- **Shortlisting:** Thursday 19 November 2026
- **Interviews:** Wednesday 25 or Thursday 26 November 2026 at Playland, Portsmouth
- **Appointment:** Tuesday 1 December 2026
- **Pre-design and co-creation sessions:**

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- Tuesday 15 December 2026, 6-8pm
- Thursday 17 December 2026, 6-8pm - developing and agreeing the final design
- **Workshops and installation:**
  - Tuesday 5 January 2027, 6-8pm
  - Saturday 9 January 2027, 11am-4pm
  - Saturday 16 January 2027, 11am-4pm
  - Saturday 23 January 2027, 11am-4pm
  - Saturday 30 January 2027, 11am-4pm - potential additional session if required

Applicants may suggest reasonable amendments to the working timetable in their proposal. However, the final deadline of **30 January 2027 is fixed**.

The artist should confirm their availability for the proposed sessions and identify any scheduling considerations in their application.

By this date, the agreed mural must have been completed within Playland.

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

### **Intellectual Property**

The commission is a co-creation between the mural artist and the young cultural changemakers at Playland. 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 Playland.

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.

### **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.

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The appointed artist will be required to hold appropriate insurance for the work they are undertaking. Specific insurance requirements will be confirmed as part of the contracting process.

Third-party contractors and suppliers appointed by Artswork will be responsible for holding appropriate insurance relating to their own work.

### **Artist Specification**

We are looking for a mural artist who can demonstrate:

- Experience of developing and delivering high-quality murals or other relevant visual artwork.
- Experience of working collaboratively with young people, communities or participants through a co-creation or participatory arts process.
- An ability to listen to different ideas and translate them into a strong, coherent artistic outcome.
- Experience of facilitating creative workshops, sharing skills and supporting others to participate in artistic activity.
- A commitment to inclusive practice and to enabling young people to influence creative decisions meaningfully.
- An ability to adapt artistic approaches, materials and techniques to the needs of a particular place, community and brief.
- An understanding of accessibility, sensory considerations and the importance of creating respectful, welcoming environments.
- Experience of managing the practical requirements of mural-making, including materials, surfaces, preparation, installation, durability and maintenance.
- Experience of working collaboratively with other artists, designers, community partners and project teams.
- An ability to deliver high-quality work within an agreed budget and timetable.

We recognise that applicants may bring different combinations of skills and experience. We are particularly interested in applicants' approach to co-creation, their ability to support young people to develop their ideas, and how they would balance creative ambition with the practical requirements of the commission.

### **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

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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
- The mural must be low maintenance and have a minimum lifespan of 12 years
- Artswork prioritises second-hand materials and paints and solvents that do not have a negative impact on the environment. We will expect you to source materials in line with our ethical and environmental procurement policy

This is a youth-led project involving young people aged 16 to 30.

The successful applicant will be required to work in accordance with Artswork's safeguarding policies, procedures and agreed ways of working. Any DBS requirements appropriate to the role and the nature of the artist's contact with young people will be confirmed as part of the contracting process. The artist will also be expected to create an inclusive and respectful environment in which young people can contribute safely, confidently and meaningfully.

### To submit a proposal

Please submit:

1. a short expression of interest of no more than two sides of A4, explaining:
  - why you are interested in the commission;
  - how you would approach the co-design process;
  - how your experience relates to the brief; and
  - how you would take the project from design through to realisation;
2. your CV or a summary of relevant experience; and
3. up to five examples of relevant work, or a link to an online portfolio.
- 4.

We do not expect applicants to develop a design for Playland at application stage. We are primarily interested in your approach, experience and ability to work collaboratively with young people.

Please send your application to Anastasia Alexandru at [anastasiaalexandru@artswork.org.uk](mailto:anastasiaalexandru@artswork.org.uk) by **5pm on Monday 16 November 2026**.

Applications will be assessed against the criteria set out in this brief by a selection panel that includes young people involved in Playland.

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Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview at Playland on Wednesday 25 November or Thursday 26 November 2026. Please let us know if you require access support or reasonable adjustments to participate in the application or interview process.

### **Enquiries**

Any questions about the commission should be directed to Anastasia Alexandru, Creative Producer for Playland, [AnastasiaAlexandru@artswork.org.uk](mailto:AnastasiaAlexandru@artswork.org.uk)

### **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](http://www.artswork.org.uk)

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