

# Aberdeen Art Gallery Micro-commissions

## Facilitator EOI 2020-2021



### Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the role of Facilitator

#### Introduction

Aberdeen Art Gallery (Aberdeen City Council) is Winner of the Art Fund **Museum of the Year** for 2020/21. We want to share our award with Aberdeen's creative community. We are about to launch the first of two rounds of funding for micro-commissions supported by the Art Fund, inviting creative practitioners (artists, makers, musicians, dancers, designers, writers and performers) to submit proposals that respond to the collection, to create new works - through the exploration of identity, intersectionality and representation.

By organising and engaging in discussions with and between creative practitioners awarded micro-commissions and Art Gallery staff, volunteers, audience, the Aberdeen creative community and community of interest groups, the facilitator will be key to the success of the commissioning process.

We use the term **micro-commissions** to set the scene for all involved – the finished works might be small-scale, and the time spent developing and producing does not have to be long and drawn out – this is a chance for you to respond quickly to this opportunity.

#### Expression of interest

To support the commission process, we are now seeking expressions of interest from creative practitioners and those with experience of facilitating projects and conversations with an understanding of the creative sector in Aberdeen. **Demonstrating your Aberdeen-based network and contacts**, you will guide us and awardees through the process, facilitate and contribute to conversations between the Art Gallery staff, volunteers and audience and the creative community, exploring Representation, identity and intersectionality in Aberdeen, within creative practice and identifying self in the museum, archive and gallery collection.

#### Details

The appointment of a freelance facilitator supports the wider programme for 25 days (7-8 days per call out, plus 10 days support for staff development/public engagement programme).

This will focus on supporting AAGM to establish:

- Open discussions with artists about how they wish to be represented
- Open conversations with the local artists' community about how we might work with them in the future and support their practice
- Open discussions with communities of interest about how they wish to see themselves represented and supported to access our services

For more details see **Background** below or contact Rachel Thibbotumunuwe (Learning Manager) at [RThibbotumunuwe@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:RThibbotumunuwe@aberdeencity.gov.uk) for an informal discussion.

### **Fees**

Total fee available £6750 to be invoiced based on a day rate of £270/day as required. Payment terms will be 30 days.

### **Submitting an expression of interest**

Please forward your CV and a brief statement expressing your interest in the freelance contract [Max. 500 words].

Please indicate that you are available for the length of the contract (see **Creative Brief** enc. for full programme calendar), that you have self-employed tax status and have appropriate public liability insurance.

As artist/facilitator you will not be eligible to apply for any of the micro-commission awards as part of the 2020/21 programme. This would not affect any other Aberdeen City Council grant or awards running concurrently or in the future.

Expressions of Interest should be less than 5MB and be sent by email to [AAGMLearning@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:AAGMLearning@aberdeencity.gov.uk) with the subject/title "EOI Facilitator [YOUR SURNAME]"

### **Deadline**

Expressions of interest must be received before **Sunday 6 December midnight**

## **Background**

### **Micro-commissions programme for creative practitioners**

This programme of work delivers against 4 key objectives:

- Supports the local creative sector
- Enhances AAGM's permanent collections by improving representation of locally based practitioners
- Promotes and enhances audience engagement with the local creative community
- Develops staff and collaborative relationships with the local creative sector

By creating a series of small-scale commission opportunities (micro-commissions) we aim to provide more opportunities for the local creative sector, increase the diversity of artists represented in the collection, re-interpret existing collections through new comparative works, give staff the opportunity to learn more about the local creative communities: their practice, challenges and barriers, and ultimately enhance our audience experience through new works that better reflect their own experiences.

Through this programme we expect to:

- Increase our holdings of artists' working locally
- Increase the diversity of artists represented in the collection
- Learn more about the local artist economy and community
- Understand more about the perception of the Art Gallery as an organisation in the local artist economy
- Learn more about what ongoing support would help the local creative community
- Learn how to talk with/reach and support local arts practitioners
- Look back at the existing collection, bringing into focus the work and representation of a wider range of people and then explore such artists, themes and narratives in new ways
- Engage in sector and public debates about the local arts economy, diversifying collections, representation and exclusion/inclusion in the "accepted" art canon
- Increase local audience engagement and widen participation with younger adults

### **Expected outcomes for:**

#### Creative practitioners

- Developing practice
- Access to curatorial expertise and knowledge
- Public platform to share work, research and contribute to events

#### Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums

- New interpretations of collection
- New acquisitions where the finished work is in line with the acquisition criteria of the Collections Development Policy
- Developing links to the artistic community
- New content to diversify the historic collection that is more relevant to the community it serves

#### Staff

- Increased knowledge of collections scope and reach
- Developing confidence around equalities themes and use within our work with the collections and sharing via our public programme

## Volunteers

- Increased knowledge of collection and its interpretation
- Developing skills in public engagement

## Public

- New opportunities to engage with collections and displays via associated programme of events, talks and online
- Increased awareness of artistic practice

For ALL participants (creative practitioners, staff, public), the micro-commissions will increase the likelihood of everyone seeing themselves or recognising something about themselves in the work produced.

Depending on the artwork produced the resulting work may be displayed in the Art Gallery or shared in a public performance, online or in the public realm beyond the Gallery. There are opportunities for single artist displays, group shows, interventions and side-by-side comparisons within existing collection galleries, as well as music, spoken word and dance performances. The micro-commissions created will become part of Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums collections.

## Programme

- 2 open calls over 10 months, managed by curator and learning officer
- Awards for each round 2 @ £3000 and 4 @ £850
- Open discussions with artists about how they wish to be represented
- Open forums with local artists' community about how we might work with them in the future / support their practice
- Open discussions with communities of interest about how they wish to see themselves be represented, supported to access our services

<b>ROUND</b>	<b>Launch/advertise</b>	<b>Deadline for proposals</b>	<b>Select/commission</b>	<b>Receive work</b>	<b>Public display</b>
<b>1</b>	w/c 23 Nov	Sun 3 Jan	w/e 15 Jan	w/c 29 Mar	TBC
<b>2</b>	w/c 5 Apr	Sun 9 May	w/e 21 May	w/c 08 Aug	TBC

<b>Budget</b>	<b>£</b>
Facilitator (supporting & coordinating role x 25 days)	6,750
Micro commission fees – level 1 (4x £3000)	12,000
Micro commission fees – level 2 (8x £850)	6,800
Associated learning and events programme (TBD with artists/facilitator)	6,650
Marketing and promotion (especially designed to reach artists who would not normally engage)	2,800
Training and CPD for staff	3,000
Final publication for Yr1 Programme (including documentary photography)	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,000</b>

## Staff development

The wider project encompasses a training strand for staff and volunteers within the institution, to develop an understanding of the communities we represent and those we currently do not represent well enough. We expect the facilitator to be involved in helping us identify our priorities.

Training will include:

- Equalities training
- Facilitating conversations
- Active listening
- De-colonising the Art Gallery
- Workshops and guidance on use of appropriate language when interpreting artworks
- How to review our existing holdings in the light of equality issues, inclusion/exclusion, representation and mis-representation

