

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Grottos Sensory Show

Artist Brief

Introduction

We are seeking an experienced artist to create a large-scale immersive installation to be exhibited in the Stables Gallery at Orleans House Gallery from 4 July to 30 September 2019.

We are looking for proposals that will transform the gallery into a space that responds to the notion of Grottos, offering the visitor a multi-sensory, interactive and playful experience. We would like an element of the exhibition to be co-curated by the public. The exhibition should be accessible to all, and enjoyable for adults as well as younger visitors.

Artists will have access to the gallery space for a month prior to the exhibition, to use as their own 'laboratory' / studio to work, create, experiment and test ideas in. We are keen for audiences to be part of this process, contributing to the installation before, during and after the opening. There is the potential for the exhibition to utilise additional space outside the gallery and other areas of the site subject to agreement.

The exhibition will form part of our summer Grottos season, linking to an exhibition exploring Alexander Pope in the Main Gallery, a programme of engagement activity for adults and children and an outdoor installation.

The Theme

Our summer Grottos season focuses on spaces and places: real and imagined, historical and created. Richmond is home to some of London's most famous Grottos (Pope's Grotto, the Grotto at Marble Hill House and the Shell Grotto at Hampton Court Palace). We want to use these mysterious, magical, secret spaces to explore our relationship with the artificial and the natural world, whilst inciting questions about safe spaces, sanctuaries and retreats. We would like the Grottos season to surprise visitors, encouraging them to discover new spaces and consider things from a new perspective.

Background

Evolved from the popular Art Play exhibition series at Orleans House Gallery, this year's exhibition will embrace the sensory. The exhibitions are designed to be

interactive, imaginative and fun, encouraging families and young people to share, see, do, make and create. Orleans House Gallery has a thriving arts education programme working with children, young people, families, schools and adults through both formal and informal learning.

We have been inspired by Stephen Wright's *House of Dreams*, *The Playground Project* at the Baltic, Meow Wolf's *House of Eternal Return*, Ernesto Neto's *GaiaMotherTree*, Kate Beynon's *Room of Lucky Charms* and Diébédo Francis Kéré's *Sensing Spaces* installation at the Royal Academy. We welcome proposals that inspire a similar sense of creativity. We are open to new ideas and imaginative use of media.

Orleans House Gallery is managed by Richmond Arts Service which is part of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council. The Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery provide art for everyone, facilitating a range of high quality accessible arts provisions for residents of and visitors to the borough.

Objectives

- To attract children, families and young visitors to Orleans House Gallery over the summer, including where possible first-time visitors
- To diversify audiences
- To involve children, families and young people in co-creating the exhibition
- To be relevant to the Borough of Richmond and surrounding area and to our service vision (attached with this brief)
- To pilot a new model of working collaboratively with artists and audiences through the process of exhibition making

Artist outputs

- Artistic direction of the project
- Curate, plan, build, and install a large-scale sensory interactive installation exhibition to be open to the public from 4 July
- Creative use of the gallery 'laboratory' space from 3 June to 4 July, involving visitors where appropriate
- Provide ideas that support a participation programme delivered to groups of young people, children, and families by the arts service as part of the season
- To design an element of the installation that will be contributed by members of the public prior and /or during the exhibition
- Images and copy for promotion and marketing
- One public 'meet the artist' event for children and young people

- One introductory talk about the exhibition process before the exhibition opens and one tour of the exhibition for staff and volunteers within the first week of the opening
- Deinstallation of exhibition, and responsible disposal or sustainable re-use of materials
- Ensuring the exhibition is compliant with Health and Safety regulations
- Suggestions of a creative way to collect feedback from visitors welcomed

Timeline

21 March	Deadline for Proposals
w/c 25 March	Invite to interview / Artist Selection
w/c 1 April	Contract artist and meeting with project team
April - July	Participation programme
From 3 June	Exclusive use of Stables Gallery space
From 3 June	Introductory talk for staff & volunteers & 'meet the artist' event
Thurs 4 July	Exhibitions open and private view
w/c 8 July	Artist Tour for staff and volunteers
4 July-30 Sept	Exhibition open
30 Sept	Deinstallation

Artists will receive

- An artist's fee of £4,000 to cover the outputs listed above
- A separate materials budget of up to £1,000 - receipts to be provided
- Exclusive use of the Stables Gallery as a studio space throughout June during gallery opening hours
- Installation support from 1 person on the 24, 25 and 26 June (however the installation must be planned by the artist)

Please note the artist fee is inclusive of all additional expenses incurred.

Proposals

We welcome proposals from artists who have a minimum of 3 years of professional experience. We are open to proposals from artists and makers working across a range of disciplines.

We invite creative and innovative proposals that give a clear indication of the proposed approach to the project. Please consider the attached service vision when creating your proposal.

Proposals should include:

- A brief summary of your creative practice (max 500 words) and a CV
- A description of your approach to the exhibition and the thinking behind it, including your approach to the use of the gallery space beforehand and the public participation element
- Evidence and examples of similar projects and work undertaken previously
- Up to 5 images in support of your proposal
- Details of your public liability insurance status
- Details of your DBS status
- Budget – your budget should give a breakdown of estimated costs for different elements of the project

Deadline for proposals: 21 March 2019

Proposals should be emailed to

Elizabeth.FraserBetts@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

How to find out more

If you would like further information about the project or have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Fraser-Betts.

Elizabeth.FraserBetts@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Arts Service Vision

Vision:

We make an accessible place where people feel empowered to be creative - they share, do, see, make and create as part of their normal lives. What they produce is relevant for Richmond and west London and contributes something new to London and UK culture.

What our services do:

People meet and connect through culture (virtual as well as real space) - and across current barriers.

High-quality art and new revelations happen because of our services.

We will create a bigger and more effective creative sector, increasing the number and range of users engaging with arts and culture over the next 5 years - but not necessarily by delivering services directly.

What our services feel like:

The experiences and opportunities we create are personal, intimate and collaborative.

Our offer connects back to the green spaces, history, the landscape and openness of the area. Not necessarily by showing it, but by giving the feeling of 'a good view' after a 'good walk'.

Everything we do creates moments of 'astonishment' 'reflection' 'discovery' and 'surprise' - we're fun.

How we do it:

We influence, lead, partner, facilitate, and deliver. Most of our impact is through things we don't directly deliver or do alone. We produce the mechanisms that result in new art and creativity that could only come from here.

We provide things you can't replicate by finding facts on the internet or through a book.

Our projects focus on the impacts we aspire to, and apply new ideas and solutions.

We are innovative and prepared to take creative risks, and we bring people together in unexpected groups and ways - we set them creative challenges and provide the space for them to be creative.

If we can't do it well - then we don't.