

# CITY FELLOWS

## City Fellows - Artist Brief

### Overview

City Fellows supports ambitious and experimental projects co-created by the people of Bristol. We are looking for bold ideas from artists, creative thinkers and instigators working within their communities.

We're interested in ideas that address overlooked histories, current conversations, and dreams for what we need next. The aim of the work is to collectively understand the world we live in and to find ways to imagine the future together.

We're looking for early stage ideas, and artists who are ready to grow those ideas with us – across the 9 month process of City Fellows, we will work together to develop your ideas for a new work; behind closed doors, through public workshops with the community and through experimental research. We're open to different approaches to developing new work, this should include some public moments (including an artist talk or discussion to introduce the idea to Bristol – and a scratch showing or 'first draft' in late 2019/ early 2020).

### Programme Outline

- Support 2 x artists co-creating new projects with communities through an open process, including workshops, scratch showings and public presentation in early 2020.
- Present a public programme of walks, meals, conversations and performances that build and develop the key themes of the programme.
- Support a researcher-in-residence to work alongside the selected artists, participating communities and Arnolfini.

**Deadline:** Sunday 26 May 2019, midnight. We are unable to accept applications that arrive after this deadline.

### Key details for artists

- Selected artists will be paid a fee of £5000 with an additional production budget managed by Arnolfini, to be used to develop the work.
- The fellowship will take place over a 9-month period, beginning in June 2019.
- Artists will receive mentorship and professional development through a dedicated support programme involving artists and curators both locally and nationally.

The artist fee is calculated at an annual salary of £28,363 a year. This figure can be used to project the time required to dedicate to this project however this opportunity is offered on a freelance basis and it is the artist's responsibility to manage their time and workload.

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## **Information for applicants**

### ***What themes and ideas are we interested in?***

Our aim for *City Fellows* is to use art as a tool to question and discuss the issues at stake in our city. We're interested in projects that directly address Bristol exploring the knowledge, histories and experiences that exist here. We're interested in projects that can act as catalysts for change.

Projects can take different forms, from performance in public space, to participatory actions and installation, through to pop-ups for social impact. We're interested in experimental ideas in many different forms; your idea doesn't have to look like an artwork you've seen before.

The programme will explore how art can be used as a civic tool, helping Arnolfini to reconsider the city and our role within it. Collectively the commissioned projects will build a shared civic imagination, asking what does Bristol see when it imagines its future?

### ***What do we mean when we say co-creation?***

There is no single model for this work, however all projects will be grounded in dialogue and collaboration with a community of people. Some projects might work closely with one small group of collaborators throughout the process, whilst others will work with different groups at different times. All projects should consider:

- What is the experience for those who are collaborating? How involved are they in decision making? How does the project consider learning and skills exchange?
- Who has the power to make decisions? What is the role of collaborators or participants in the making of the work? How will the work be co – owned with the community on completion?

Applicants are invited to define what community means in this context. It could be the people who live on a particular street, a pre-existing group or club or something completely different.

### ***What's Arnolfini role in this process?***

Arnolfini will act as a producer, supporting the artist to shape their project. This will involve:

- Collectively setting goals and realistic timelines for the project. What are we aiming to achieve and how will this be measured?
- Supporting the artist by introducing them to key networks that can offer project support.
- Guiding and producing all outcomes, to ensure they reach a wide and engaged audience.
- Looking after budgets and production, including managing all freelance creatives who join the process.

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## *Who are we looking for?*

We are committed to supporting artists in Bristol and will prioritise applications from those who can demonstrate an existing commitment to working collaboratively in the city. We are interested in applications from a wide range of artists and define artists as all creative thinkers, organisers and makers. We welcome applications both from individuals and collectives.

Please note, the selected artist must be outside of higher education and practicing as an artist for at least two years. It is mandatory that all applicants are based in Bristol, or have a demonstrable history of working within the city and its many communities.

As part of City Fellows, we require artist participants to commit to taking part in several public showcase moments to be designed by Arnolfini.

## **Timeline**

- **Applications Close** – Sunday 26 May, midnight.
- **Artist appointment – W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> June** - Artists will be appointed through a series of informal meetings with a panel of selectors including artists and curators with a background in co-creative arts practice, to include [Dr Shawn Sobers](#) (Artist, Anthropologist, Associate Professor of Lens Based Media, UWE) and [Common Wealth Theatre's Rhiannon White](#), visual artist [Harold Offeh](#) and a member of Arnolfini's Programme Team.
- **Artist R&D phase – June-August 2019** – The initial phase will involve support & mentorship from Arnolfini's programme team, alongside guest artists and experts. It is a phase for the selected artist to explore and set the model for their project. Who is the community will you be working with and what questions are you looking to collectively explore?
- **Public showing – September 2019** – At the end of the R&D phase, artists will present an initial scratch or test event, presenting their work and ideas.
- **Production Phase – Oct-Dec 2019** – Following the scratch event, artists will commit to a period of production, developing their project based on the learning so far.
- **Final project outcome and Public showing – January-March 2020** – The project will culminate with a public presentation of the work, to be held at Arnolfini (unless otherwise essential and negotiated.)

Please note, this timeline is approximate and is subject to change as the project is developed to fit the requirements of those involved.

Alongside the two artist commissions, there will also be a small public programme of events devised by Arnolfini to connect and support the work as a whole.

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## **How to apply**

To apply, please submit

- A proposal (no more than 2 sides of A4) containing the following:
  - A theme or topic you are keen to explore – where has this idea come from and why does it interest you? What is the community you work in, your relationship to them?
  - An idea of how you plan to carry out the project – who will you collaborate with? What's your existing relationship with this group? What is the role of these collaborators?
  - Potential outcomes – please think about public outcomes, as well as the learning outcomes for those involved.

Please ensure that your project plan reflects and references that 'information for applicants' available in the document.

- A CV (no more than 2 sides of A4). This should include:
  - All relevant experience including both artistic and community-based work.
  - Some examples and documentation of previous work (no more than 4 sides of A4, sound recording or video no longer than 3 minutes).
  - Evidence of community discussion; this could be letters of Support from any community-based partners that you are planning on collaborating with during the course of this project. Letters must include partner contact details.

**Please also fill out an Equal Opportunities form [at this link](#) – this will not be attached to or used to assess your proposal, but helps Arnolfini understand how we can better work with artists and communities that make up our city.**

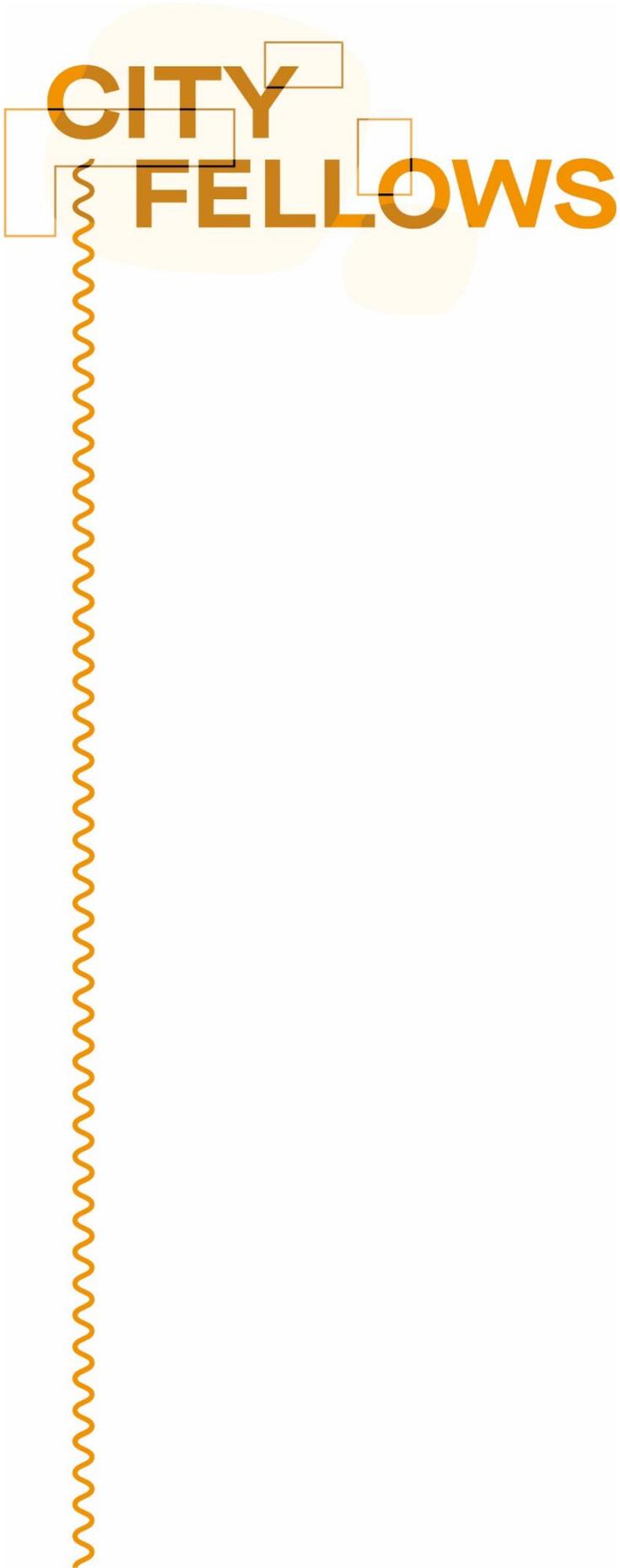
## **Accessibility**

If you would like to submit your application in another way, for example by video instead of writing, please do get in contact with us via email - [programme@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:programme@arnolfini.org.uk) with the subject line 'City Fellows Application.' We're happy to discuss the best way to meet your requirements.

## **Need further information?**

If you have further questions related to the process, please email [programme@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:programme@arnolfini.org.uk) with the subject line 'City Fellows Application.'

*City Fellows* has been made possible through generous support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation.



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