

[space]

Open Call: Artist Commission at SPACE

Application deadline: [Sunday 30 January 2022, midnight](#)

SPACE invites artists to submit a proposal for a new project to be made in dialogue with older people based in Ilford. The commission will include activity that older people can engage with, either in-person or remotely, that will inform a commissioned solo exhibition as part of SPACE's exhibition programme.

This community-focused project is suitable for an artist with experience developing participatory and socially engaged art projects with older people.

We are looking for a project which will attract a wide range of participants, as well as visitors to the exhibition. This project is in the third year of a three-year programme supported by Mercers' Charitable Foundation and Creative Europe, through *Who Cares?*, a two year project focusing on care practices.

Who Cares? is made up of five organisations dedicated to artistic production in Europe, which include Idensitat (Spain), SPACE, Rupert (Lithuania), Grey Area (Croatia) and Centro Huarte (Spain).

Together we are working on a common project to explore new ways in which to engage our audiences, incorporating care practices in the infrastructure and programmes of our respective organisations.

Project dates

- April to Dec 2022 (including exhibition)*

Artist fees

- Exhibition artist fee of £1,500 paid on completion of the exhibition

Production

- Up to 15 days for activity with older people at £200 per day (total maximum fee £3,000)
- Weekly half day activity for older people over a three month period
- Flexible working days and hours for planning and for making the exhibition
- £1,500 for exhibition activity planning and materials
- £7,000 for exhibition production and materials

Exhibition duration

- Minimum of 2 months

Additional workshops

- Deliver 3x drop in family friendly workshops on a Saturday based on the exhibition (total fee £1,000 = £750 for workshops and £250 for materials)

Total fee

- £14,000

Reports to: Head of Community Engagement Programmes

About SPACE

SPACE is a leading arts organisation and artists studio provider. Our vision is to provide space, resources and platforms for professional visual artists to develop their creative



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[space]

practice, enabling them to make innovative and ambitious work.

Established by artists in 1968 and dedicated primarily to supporting artists in London, SPACE provides 800 artists and micro-businesses with affordable studios and a further 700 annually with professional development support. Additionally, SPACE engages 22,000 people annually through dynamic public programmes including artist commissions, exhibitions, residencies, events, workshops and learning projects.

SPACE has developed a reputation for its impactful work with the community through our Learning and Participation Programmes and Gallery exhibitions. We want to continue to build on this work and this project will be key in bringing the voices of our people and communities into the heart of what we do now and in the future.

This project will support opportunities for diverse groups to engage with contemporary arts through a range of public programmes, workshops and events, supporting exchange and intercultural dialogue and ensuring that SPACE is a consistently welcoming social space for artists, audiences and community to visit and enjoy.

About this Open Call Commission

SPACE invites artists to submit a proposal for a programme of artistic activity to be made in dialogue with a maximum of 30 older people local to the Ilford area, aged 55+. The commission will include artist-led activity with which older people can engage, in-person and remotely. The artist-led activity can include workshops but it is not limited to this format. All proposals will be considered as long as the activities are conceived with a sensitivity to the inclusion of older people. The resulting commissioned solo exhibition is not bound to represent the outcome from the activity with older people, but the collaboration and activity will inform the research for the commissioned exhibition.

A small group of older people will be involved in the selection process, choosing the artist to lead the project that they are most interested in. Once the artist and activity is selected, it will be advertised and participants will be brought together through SPACE's Ilford community partners.

For general information, Ilford has a higher-than-average proportion of older adults for London. This outer east London borough is one of the most ethnically diverse local authorities in the UK. Respondents to the 2011 census stated that 34% were born outside the UK and 65.5% identified as belonging to an ethnic group other than white British, with most from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Redbridge has the sixth lowest proportion of white British residents in the UK, who make up 34.5% of the population. The borough is low on cultural provision and SPACE is the first and only public contemporary art space.

Objectives for the commission

- To be relevant to Ilford and the area surrounding the borough of Redbridge as well as to SPACE artists and audiences
- To attract new and diverse audiences
- To offer activity for older people that enables greater social activity, learning, sharing of skills and knowledge across generations
- To pilot a model of working collaboratively with older people and strive to increase a sense of community belonging, resulting in a more positive outlook on life

Exhibition planning and delivery

- Research and produce a solo exhibition that is informed by the collaborative research with older people, yet is not merely documentation and representation of the activity
- Be mindful that workshops need to feel inclusive and accessible (workshops where participants can dip in and out and possibly have some workshops delivered at home via Zoom for those who may have mobility

[space]

issues)

- Be mindful that the exhibition must appeal to and inspire audiences

Key tasks and responsibilities

- Plan and develop activity for older people (up to 15 sessions, weekly or intensively)
- Closely monitor the project's budget with the Head of Community Engagement programmes
- Organise materials for the activity where appropriate
- Work closely with the Head of Community Engagement programmes to produce a final report, including input on qualitative and quantitative data collected from all participants
- Liaise with Head of Community Engagement programmes to ensure there is ample documentation of the activity
- Ensure that health and safety, safeguarding and equal opportunities policies and procedures are adhered to

Person specification

This community-focused project is suitable for an artist with experience developing participatory and socially engaged art projects. SPACE encourages applications from a broad range of communities and industries, especially those who are under-represented in the cultural sector. We are committed to creating equal opportunities that are accessible and welcome to all.

SPACE recognises that there is a lack of diversity in artists who benefit from artist development opportunities. We welcome applications from minority groups and artists who are disabled, LGBTQI+, who are underrepresented within our commissions programme.

This opportunity is open to emerging artists including: individual artists, collaborative groups or collectives who have not previously had a substantial solo exhibition in London and do not have a forthcoming solo exhibition in London. The term 'emerging artist' includes the self-identified emerging artist or emerging practice and/or experimental artist-led initiative. There is no age limit for applicants and the call is open to all emerging artists regardless of their 'official' qualifications.

Essential

- Excellent quality of art practice
- Genuine desire to work with older people and awareness of the issues that inhibit their access to art
- Prior experience of working in a public or community context
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Awareness of safeguarding specific to older people

Desirable

- DBS checked

Application details**

Part I

- 500 word statement outlining your proposed activity for working collaboratively with older people, including how the activity will unfold weekly or over an intensive period in-person or remotely
- Images and descriptions of two relevant projects (max 2 pages)
- 500 word statement outlining your proposed exhibition
- 1 page CV including your website link and 2 references

Part II

- A shortlisted selection of artists will be contacted for an in-person studio visit and interview

[space]

Please submit your application as a single PDF by email to
exhibitions@spacestudios.org.uk email subject: **Open Call 2022 – Mercers/WHO CARES?**
And your name by **Sunday 30 January 2022, midnight.**

Please note that due to the involvement of the group of older people in the selection, this can slow down the shortlisting and interview process. Due to the volume of submissions, only those who have been shortlisted will be contacted.

** Due to the uncertainty around the coronavirus crisis we may have to change the schedule. ** We advise that applicants take note of the objectives and description of the commission.*