

Press Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 18 June 2020 (10am)

Season for Change announces an open call for four £10,000 commissions for UK-based artists underrepresented in climate conversations.

Season for Change, led by Julie's Bicycle and Artsadmin, is launching 'Common Ground', a programme of four £10,000 commissions and an accompanying professional development programme for UK-based artists, makers or creators. Common Ground focuses on creative climate leadership, justice and equitable participation within the climate movement.

Season for Change is a nationwide programme of artistic and cultural events that celebrate the environment and inspire urgent climate action. Throughout 2020, Season for Change will build towards a live programme of creative work and amplified campaign in spring 2021.

The climate movement is urgent and essential – however, it has not always been representative of those most affected by the impacts of environmental change. In order to challenge existing imbalances in the climate movement, Common Ground will commission four UK-based artists to work with communities and groups of their choice that are underrepresented in climate movements. Common Ground invites applications from artists who identify as Black, Asian and minority ethnic/POC, refugee, D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, working class and/or LGBTQI+, however will not expect or require them to explore their identity in relation to these groups through the commission. The programme will support artists who may not have responded directly to environmental concerns before, but have a clear sense of the people, communities and environmental challenges they want to work with.

Common Ground will run from September 2020 to April 2021. The commission offer for UK-based artists, makers or creators working across all art forms includes:

- A cash award of £10,000 to support the creation of a new, participatory work;
- Artist development programme to develop artistic practice and leadership within the climate movement;
- Advocacy and marketing support through Season for Change's and partners' websites and social media;
- Support for access requirements.

The **Common Ground Artist Development Programme**, which sits alongside the commissions, will:

- Connect the commissioned artists to one another to share and develop their practice through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, individual and group coaching and creative mentoring;
- Deliver environmental leadership training to support the sustainability of their practice and presence within the wider creative climate movement;
- Provide bespoke professional development that empowers them with skills, knowledge and opportunities to raise the voice of the communities they work with in the mainstream environmental movement and achieve impact, through facilitated workshops, coaching, group work, peer learning, and guest speakers.

The four new commissioned works will be showcased as part of Season for Change's nationwide programme, which also includes:

- 10 participatory commissions with partners nationwide that engage diverse audiences with the climate crisis;
- Free online events and resources to empower artists and cultural organisations to take action and inspire their audiences and communities;
- A national campaign of events about climate change and the environment involving over 250 artists and arts organisations across the UK.

Application process

The deadline for applications is 10am on Thursday 30 July 2020, and selection will be complete by the end of August 2020.

Season for Change will be hosting two online briefings on Thursday 25 June at 3pm and Tuesday 7 July at 11am for applicants to find out more about the Common Ground commissions, meet the Season for Change team and ask questions about applying.

Read the full opportunity, FAQs and information on how to apply here:

www.seasonforchange.org.uk

Follow Season for Change: [Facebook](#) | @jointheseason_ on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

Information for editors

Press Contact

For more information, interviews and images, contact:
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About Season for Change

Season for Change is a nationwide programme of artistic and cultural events that celebrate the environment and inspire urgent climate action.

In November 2020, the UK had planned to welcome over 170 countries for COP26, the UN's climate negotiations to discuss the Paris Agreement: the most important international agreement on the climate crisis. In light of Covid-19, COP26 has been delayed until November 2021 – but our plans for Season for Change are pressing ahead with a new timeline and a programme co-curated with over 30 partners.

Throughout 2020, Season for Change will continue to build towards a live programme of creative work and amplified campaign in spring 2021. Season for Change will showcase the creativity and leadership of the UK's cultural sector on the most important issue of our time. In the uncertainty of this current moment, we are certain of one thing: arts and culture can still mobilise people to act for climate justice.

Season for Change is led by Artsadmin and Julie's Bicycle, delivered in collaboration with over 30 partners and supported by Arts Council England and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Join Season for Change online:

www.seasonforchange.org.uk | @jointheseason_



Season for Change lead organisations

Founded in 1979, **Artsadmin** nurtures the innovative, experimental and unusual, collaborating with artists to create work ranging across contemporary performance practices.

Everything we do is underpinned by our core values. We aim to be:

- Sustainable. Raising awareness of environmental issues through the arts and seeking greener ways of working;
- Collaborative. Developing long-term relationships with diverse audiences, artists and partners;
- Bold. Encouraging artists to take risks, supporting radical approaches and promoting experimentation.

www.artsadmin.co.uk

Julie's Bicycle is a London-based charity that supports the creative community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability. We believe that the creative community is uniquely placed to transform the conversation around climate change and translate it into action.

We have two key objectives:

1. Advocate to and for culture to publicly inspire action on climate change and sustainability. We will equip cultural professionals and artists with the knowledge and confidence to speak out and together on this issue, using their creativity to influence one another, audiences, and the wider movement.
2. Support the Paris Agreement Goal to limit global warming to below 2 degrees by focusing on energy, the major source of carbon emissions for the cultural sector.

www.juliesbicycle.com

Common Ground Programme Partners

Application Panelists

- **Deborah Williams**, Director, [Creative Diversity Network](#). CDN share, discuss and profile the work that the UK broadcasters are doing around the diversity agenda.
- **Jo Verrent**, Senior Producer, [Unlimited](#). Unlimited is an arts commissioning programme that enables new work by disabled artists to reach UK and international audiences.

- **Dijana Rakonic**, Dijana Rakovic, Senior Producer, [Counterpoints Arts](#). Counterpoints Arts is a leading organisation in the field of arts, migration and cultural change.

Artist Development Programme Partner

Metal works to provide the catalyst that can transform the potential of people and places, exploring the impact of art and artists' practices on civic and civil society. Metal produces a diverse multidisciplinary programme of international and UK artists in residence and runs a wide range of events, exhibitions and participatory arts projects.

www.metalculture.com

Ends.