

Season for Change - Common Ground Commissions

Season for Change are delighted to launch **Common Ground**, a programme of four £10,000 commissions for artists, makers or creators, and a professional development programme focused on cultural climate leadership.

The imbalances that exist within the climate movement unfortunately mirror environmental inequalities overall. Therefore, our focus for this programme are artists who belong to one or more of the following groups: Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic group in the UK (a person of colour), refugee, D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, working class and LGBTQI+.

An easy read version of this call out is available from our website.

About Season for Change

Season for Change is a nationwide campaign focusing on artistic and cultural practices that celebrate the environment and inspire urgent climate action.

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.

Common Ground

Common Ground is a key element of the Season for Change commissions programme. It is an opportunity for four UK-based artists to create artistic work that prioritises and centres communities and groups that have been less represented in the climate movement.

Facilitated by Artsadmin, Julie's Bicycle & Metal, Common Ground will run from September 2020 to Spring 2021. The commission offer includes:

- Cash award of £10,000 to support the creation of a new work (including fees for producing support). This can include work that has been through a phase of initial development which is now ready for the next stage of support.
- Professional development programme of tailored sessions to develop artistic practice and cultural leadership within the climate movement.
- Advocacy and marketing support through Season for Change's and partners' websites and social media
- Support for access requirements.

Our priority for commissioning is to challenge existing imbalances in the climate movement, by supporting artists and creators who may not have responded directly to environmental concerns in their work before, but do have a clear sense of the people and communities they want to work with and have as the eventual audience for their work.

You may talk about your work in different ways: community-centred, participatory, site-specific or site-responsive, political. It may be that none of these words best reflect your interests or style. Our focus is in supporting people making ambitious work with a compelling central question for their commission, regardless of the terminology they might use around it.

We are aware that the ongoing crisis is disproportionately affecting members of the communities we're targeting for this opportunity. Access support is available for all applications, including alternative formats and tailored support. If, for access requirements, you'd prefer to have a meeting with one of our team to talk through these guidelines please contact info@seasonforchange.org.uk.

Common Ground Artist Development Programme

Alongside the commissioned activity, we will facilitate a programme to:

- 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;
- deliver 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.

Delivering and presenting your work

A key part of the commission is the presentation of the work. In the original plans for the programme, this would have happened as part of a physical showcasing of works with partner venues.

Given the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the ways we will be working will change. In the application questions, we will ask how you imagine your work being presented to an audience in early 2021, mindful of current social distancing

measures that could be extended. Shortlisted artists will be invited to expand on their plans as part of an informal interview to get to know your work, plans and ambitions better. Should rules around mass gatherings relax during the time of the programme, we will work with the selected artists to rethink how they will showcase their commissions.

Who is it for?

In order to do some work to ensure the environmental movement is more representative, we are prioritising artists who belong or identify with one or more of the following groups:

- Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic group in the UK (a person of colour) refugee, D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, working class and LGBTQI+

We do not expect or require your commissioning ideas to explore your identity in relation to these groups.

We welcome applications from artists who:

- Are currently based in the UK
- Are working across any artform including, but not limited to: dance, literature, music, theatre, visual arts and combined arts
- Are at any stage of their career
- Work either on their own or as part of a company, collective or group

How to apply

There is a two-stage process:

1. Online application
2. Informal interview for shortlisted artists.

Online application

Please apply online at apply.artsadmin.co.uk

If you would prefer to submit your application in an alternative format for access reasons, (for example, by video), please do get in touch in advance of the deadline: info@seasonforchange.org.uk |

It is possible to edit your application on the online portal in multiple sessions. You will receive a confirmation email when your application has been submitted.

Your online application must include:

1. Your name, address, phone number and email
2. A written statement (maximum
3. An initial budget (template provided)
4. URL link to a site containing/referencing your work
5. Video and/or sound files of your work (up to a maximum of three minutes per file)
6. CV in PDF format (maximum two sides of A4)

Application Questions

The online form asks applicants to address the following:

1. **Tell us about the work you make, including reference to any key works and achievements.** (300 words)
2. **Why does working on climate justice matter to you? Why does the Common Ground opportunity feel right for you at this time?** (300 words)
3. **What would you like to explore in your commissioned work? What form do you imagine this taking?** Include details of organisations or partners that could help you present or develop your work, as well as the audiences or communities you have in mind. In keeping with the spirit of this programme, we expect the budget, and your commission, to include ideas for making your work accessible. Please indicate how you would use the commissioning fund using the text box below; there is an opportunity to upload your budget along with your CV in a later section of this application. (500 words)
4. **What support would you require to achieve the aims of your idea?** This could include being linked to organisations, artists or activists that interest you; professional development in particular areas such as marketing, or access support. Please note, we are not in a position to offer producing services for this commission. (300 words)

In addition, there will be a set of questions to ensure we are reaching our priority groups for this opportunity, as well as which part of the UK you are based in and how you found out about Common Ground.

Application Advice

Please read the FAQs that accompany these guidelines.

If your question isn't answered there, please feel welcome to get in touch at info@seasonforchange.org.uk and we will do our best to help.

We can answer queries about the application process by phone or email but cannot read draft applications or view supporting material in advance.

Selection Process and Criteria

All applications, including the supporting material, will be reviewed by a team of assessors. The application review process will take place in three stages and will be conducted by the Season for Change team as well as an external panel of artists and industry professionals. Applications will be considered following these criteria:

- Application form completed and the material requested have been submitted
- Your proposed artistic idea is relevant to Common Ground's aims
- Evidence of your commitment to climate justice and curiosity within your artistic practice

We aim to reach decisions by August 2020 and will notify all applicants by phone or email unless for any reason you request otherwise. Keep us informed of any changes to your contact details during the assessment period.

Feedback

The Season for Change team can offer feedback to all shortlisted applicants by email, phone or Skype. We aim to include roughly 15 artists on the shortlist. We cannot offer detailed feedback to all applicants because of time limitations but we welcome artists to take part in our open access strand of professional development, that will run throughout autumn.

Application Timeline

Thursday 18 June: Common Ground application portal opens and open call launches

Thursday 25 June (3pm) and Tuesday 7 July (11am): online briefings on the programme

Thursday 30 July (10am): Application deadline

Mid August: Shortlisted artists will be invited to expand on their plans as part of an informal interview.

Week commencing 31st August: All applicants notified of outcome by email

Throughout September: Feedback available to longlisted and shortlisted applicants

14 September: The 4 selected artists begin the Common Ground programme

Spring 2021: Showcase of 4 commissioned works. A date will be announced closer to the time when we better understand how Covid-19 will impact our capacity to gather.

Join Season for Change online:

www.seasonforchange.org.uk | @jointheseason_



Further information: Season for Change Management Organisations

The lead partners on Season for Change are **Artsadmin** and **Julie's Bicycle**.

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.

[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.

Steering Group

- **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**, Project Manager, [Counterpoint Arts](#). Counterpoints Arts is a leading national 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