

Season for Change

UK-wide cultural programme celebrating the environment and inspiring urgent, inclusive action on climate change



Season for Ex-Change illustration by Lily Kong, 2020

- **Season for Change** is a nationwide arts commissioning and events programme in response to the climate crisis, running from 2020 to Spring 2021.
- From 26 October – 13 November, **Season for Ex-Change** will be a digital events programme to equip organisations and individuals with ideas and tools to embed climate action and climate justice in their work.
- Season for Change has revealed the four artists chosen for the **Common Ground** commission initiative, focussing on underrepresented voices within the climate movement
- The programme aims to mobilise artists and cultural organisations to put climate action at the heart of their creative practice and programming, and platform voices that are historically excluded from the conversation.

Season for Change is a UK-wide commissioning and events programme inspiring inclusive action to confront climate change through arts and culture. Led by Artsadmin and Julie's Bicycle, and supported by Arts Council England and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the programme runs from 2020 to Spring 2021 and aims to showcase cultural leadership on the future of our planet.

Co-created with partner organisations, including Apples and Snakes (London), Cambridge Junction (Cambridge), Contact Theatre (Manchester), East Street Arts (Leeds), Happy Museum (UK), Manchester Museum, Metal Liverpool, Watershed (Bristol) and artists across the UK, the public programme, which will take place from February-May 2021, will feature major participatory commissions, digital content, performances, exhibitions, talks, film screenings, and workshops. Four 'Common Ground' artist projects are among the major commissions.

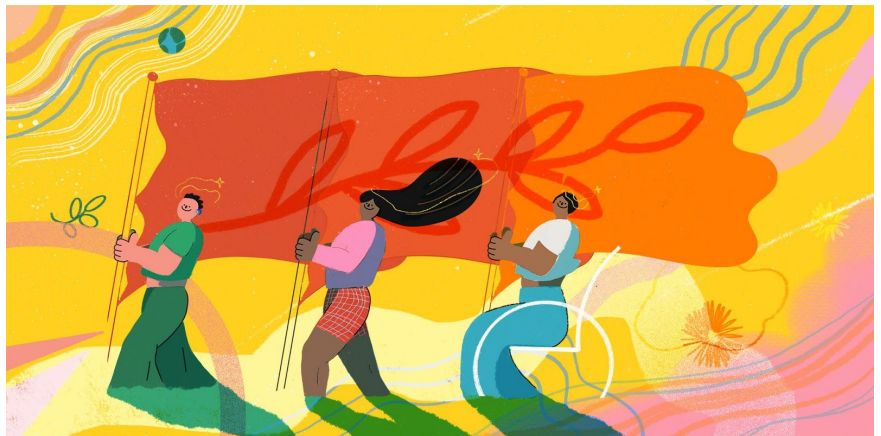
Season for Ex-Change: From 26 October–13 November 2020, cultural and environmental professionals and groundbreaking artists will lead a free digital events programme dedicated to inform, inspire and mobilise the arts sector to come together for urgent, inclusive action on the climate and ecological crisis.

The three-week series of workshops, discussions, presentations and performances will explore issues ranging from ethical fundraising to climate justice in arts programming, producing

sustainable events, the future of fashion and sustainable cities, and current public perceptions of climate change. The programme will support organisations and individual artists to connect with peers and identify how you can take part in the Season for Change programme in 2021.

Salome Wagaine, Season for Change Programme Manager says: *"We're excited to launch Season for Ex-Change and are looking forward to the conversations we hope it will spark. The variety of events represent the wide-ranging and inclusive approach to talking about climate change and climate justice. Our aim is to help refocus the lens where talking about the environment and sustainability is concerned and hear directly from those groups and communities who are and will be most adversely affected if we continue as we are."*

Nicholas Serota says: *"Arts and culture, now more than ever, play crucial roles in all of our lives. I believe in their power to bring communities together, create more inclusive societies and ultimately make the world a better place – which includes building a more environmentally sustainable future for everyone. 'Season for Change' raises awareness and champions innovation, bringing the cultural sector together to drive real change. I'm very pleased that the Arts Council has been able to support the programme, and congratulate Julie's Bicycle and Artsadmin in bringing together this thought-provoking digital project, especially during the circumstances of the pandemic."*



'Take a stand for climate', Season for Change illustration by Lily Kong, 2020

Common Ground Commissions

Running until April 2021, the Common Ground initiative supports four UK-based artists and makers to create collaborative works centered around underrepresented communities in the climate movement. Applications were welcomed from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (people of colour), refugee, D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, working class and LGBTQI+ creators.

Ahead of the UK hosting COP26 – the UN's climate negotiations – next year and in the context of the COVID-19 – which has disproportionately impacted marginalised communities, mirroring global social and environmental inequalities – Common Ground will challenge imbalances in the climate movement and promote climate justice.

Through games co-created with young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system, to a travelling project with an intergenerational group of people of African heritage and British farmers, the Common Ground projects will explore the impact that climate change is having on communities often excluded from the climate conversation. Each artist will receive £10,000 towards their project and will be supported throughout with a professional development programme.

The projects and artists are as follows:

- **Jennifer Farmer & Zoe Palmer – *The Dream (ing) Field Lab***: Farmer (theatre-maker and facilitator) and Palmer (writer, maker and human ecologist) will bring together an intergenerational group of people of African heritage and British farmers for 3 days of rest, rituals and collaboration to create a climate justice manifesto and a practical field kit, culminating in the development of a travelling immersive installation that explores relationships with the British countryside and what happens when we rest and dream in the rural landscape.
- **Love Ssega – *Airs of the South Circular***
Recording artist, songwriter and producer Ssega will draw on the tragic effects of air pollution in the South Circular and London Boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark to create a four-stranded project bringing the neglected stories and voices of the black community into collective consciousness and public debate. The project will be delivered through the mediums of a recorded EP, visual trailer, pamphlet and comic.
- **Rosa Cisneros – *Roma: Recycle-Reuse-Reimagine***
With a focus on filling a visible gap in the knowledge and understanding of the Roma community, this work by artist-researcher and activist Cisneros aims to inspire vulnerable young people and their families through a series of educational activities and art workshops in South Yorkshire on the importance of both Roma history and recycling. The project will culminate in a lasting legacy in the form of a children's book to be shared with services for awareness of the community.
- **Hwa Young Jung – *Wilding Nature***
Bringing the missing voice and viewpoint of young people at risk of entering, and experience within, the criminal justice system to the forefront of environmental discourse, this work by the socially engaged artist Jung will challenge the ideas of a 'natural state' for humans and non-humans. Workshops with the young people using socially engaged, heavily discursive methods, will focus on the loss of biodiversity and rewilding as one solution to the climate crisis. The final co-produced artwork will take the form of a game.

Love Ssega says: *"My Common Ground commission is focussed specifically on the Black community and climate justice. As a son, cousin, nephew and brother of this community, I feel it's my duty to get the stories and voices that I have both lived with and grown up amongst, into the collective consciousness and wider public debate. I'm looking forward to working alongside the other selected artists."*

Jennifer Farmer & Zoe Palmer say: *"We use acts of radical self-care and joy to nurture and encourage a time to dream and re-imagine our relationship with land, rural spaces and each other. The Dream(ing) Field Lab will be a meeting place, a sanctuary, a crucible, and an imaginarium. For Zoe, who has long been an environmentalist, the project will be a way to weave together her art and ecological activism on the subject of climate justice. For Jennifer, it's also an extension of her work in terms of exploring my relationship with land and growing in relation to being the great-great-granddaughter of enslaved people forced into agricultural labour."*

Róise Goan, Artistic Director, Artsadmin and Alison Tickell, Director, Julie's Bicycle says *"Climate justice is at the heart of Season for Change's artistic commissions, centring voices from communities often marginalised from environmental movements. As COVID-19 increases racial and socioeconomic inequalities, these artists' works are more urgent than ever. Although the COP-26 meeting in Glasgow is postponed until November 2021, Season for Change is pressing ahead to showcase the UK's creative climate leadership in the run up to these critical global discussions about the climate crisis."* – **ENDS** –

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Season for Change continues to build towards a live programme in spring 2021.

Key Programme Dates:

- 26 October – 13 November 2020: Season for Ex-Change
 - 26–30 October – Building an Inclusive Movement
 - 2–6 November – Reimagining Futures
 - 9–13 November – Transforming your story
- October 2020 – April 2021: Common Ground artistic commissions developed in collaboration with communities
- February – May 2021: Season for Change – commissions revealed and open public programme where any artist or organisation can take part

Sign up and find out more:

Season For Ex-Change: <https://www.seasonforchange.org.uk/season-for-exchange/>

All information on how take part in Season for Change can be found on the website and social channels: <https://www.seasonforchange.org.uk> @jointheseason_ #seasonforchange.

Individuals and organisations can access the Season for Change Toolkit here:
<https://www.seasonforchange.org.uk/toolkit/>

About Season for Change

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.

www.seasonforchange.org.uk @jointheseason_ #seasonforchange2020

About Julie's Bicycle

Founded in 2007 to respond to the climate crisis, Julie's Bicycle is working globally across the creative sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and catalyse the green creative economy. Working with over 2,000 organisations, NGOs and governments worldwide, Julie's Bicycle has developed an approach which harnesses the power of the creative sector to communicate the

reality of the climate crisis. Julie's Bicycle advocates for science-based solutions and bold practical action, supporting and advising those who share their vision.

The team blends environmental expertise with arts and cultural sector experience, and the freely available resources constitute the most comprehensive library of good environmental practice developed specifically for the arts and culture sectors anywhere in the world. Designed and developed by Julie's Bicycle, the Creative Green Tools – a suite of carbon calculators and a certification scheme – are the recognised benchmarks for sustainability achievement within the creative industries.

Since 2012, Julie's Bicycle has been the Arts Council England's contracted delivery partner, supporting its funded organisations to report their carbon footprints and develop environmental policies and action plans.

<https://juliesbicycle.com> @juliesbicycle

About Artsadmin

Artsadmin is a producing organisation, which enables artists to create without boundaries, connecting bold interdisciplinary work with local, national and international audiences. The advisory service supports artists at every stage of their development with free advice and opportunities. In London's East End, Artsadmin has established Toynbee Studios, a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work, where new talent is constantly nurtured in the rehearsal, performance and meeting spaces.

<https://www.artsadmin.co.uk> @artsadm

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from the government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk>

About Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) was established by Paul Hamlyn in 1987. He died in 2001 and left most of his estate to the Foundation, creating one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK. PHF use their resources to support social change, working towards a just and equitable society in which everyone, especially young people, can realise their full potential and enjoy fulfilling and creative lives.

www.phf.org.uk @phf_uk