

Somewhere in Ely

A project with
**Babylon
ARTS**

Artist Opportunity

PLEASE NOTE: This is a revised document with a new project timeline in-light of Covid-19. The project is still happening but with a delayed schedule.

Who?	<p>Artists, makers, creators, performers, practitioners and collectives.</p> <p>We particularly welcome expressions of interest from artists or groups with experience of site-specific, interactive or socially engaged work.</p>
What?	<p>Somewhere in Ely is a project in partnership with Babylon Arts exploring community commissioning of art.</p> <p>We are looking for artists to respond to the creative brief with ideas for temporary artworks, performances, interactions and site-specific works. In total 3 artists will be commissioned to create work to share with the wider public in Autumn 2020. 1 artist has already been identified, but we are looking for 2 more proposals to fund.</p>
Where?	<p>The project is taking place in Ely, Cambridgeshire. We are looking for work that local people can see, enjoy or interact with in public locations in the city.</p>
How much?	<p>£1800 commission – plus an additional expenses budget of up to £300</p>
When?	<p>Deadline for proposals: Friday 22 May, 12 noon</p> <p>4 shortlisted artists/ groups will be invited to share their ideas with the public through an online video pitch. In June/ July the local community in Ely will then vote for their favourite. The commissioned artists will create work to share with the wider public in October 2020.</p>
How to apply?	<p>Please refer to the Creative Brief for full details about the project, what we're looking for and how to apply.</p> <p>If you have further questions please get in touch with Amy Wormald on alwormald@gmail.com</p>

Somewhere in Ely

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Creative Brief

[Revised 5 May 2020 in-light of Covid-19]

Background

Somewhere in Ely is a project initiated by artist Amy Wormald, in partnership with Babylon Arts. It is funded by Arts Council England through the National Lottery, with support from Ely Markets and Ely College.

The project involves communities in the process of commissioning new temporary art works. 3 artists will be commissioned to create work to share with the public in October 2020. 1 artist has already been identified, but we are looking for 2 more proposals to fund.

About Ely:

Ely is a small city in Cambridgeshire with a population of approximately 20,000 people. Ely is perhaps most renowned for the Cathedral, known locally as *the ship of the Fens* because of its prominent position above the surrounding flat landscape. Ely is easily accessible by train, road and river, and is a popular tourist destination. The city centre has a mix of retail, commercial and leisure, and most of the city's residents live within walking or cycling distance to the centre.

The city has undergone rapid growth in recent years, with a significant amount of new housing development. There is a vibrant community with many groups, clubs and activities for residents of all ages and interests.

Project Partners:

- Babylon Arts work across West Anglia to develop creativity and connect communities with arts and culture. Babylon Arts run a gallery space by the river in Ely, an independent cinema, a broad range of community-engaged arts projects and is the lead partner in delivery of the CPP funded MarketPlace programme. www.babylonarts.org.uk
- Ely Markets are a location partner for the project. There has been a market in Ely for 800 years and today the market continues to thrive and innovate. Each week tens of thousands of shoppers come to shop for local produce, crafts and street food from all over the world. www.elymarkets.co.uk

- The Isle of Ely Arts Festival celebrates arts and culture in East Cambridgeshire by promoting the best of local and community performances alongside highly acclaimed professional performers and artists. In light of the circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 virus, the organising committee have decided to cancel the Festival in 2020. The work produced as part of Somewhere in Ely was initially going to be shared as part of the Festival. The delayed project schedule means that the work will now take place in October and, although there is no Festival, we still intend to promote to Festival audiences through social media and our networks. www.isleofelyartsfestival.org.uk/
- To inform the Creative Brief we have spoken to local community groups as well as students from Ely College. These local residents will be part of the decision-making process, helping to select the artists who are offered commissions.

Details

We invite proposals from artists, makers, creators, performers and practitioners of all kinds in response to the creative brief. We are looking for temporary artwork that will excite, inspire and entertain a diverse audience of all ages during the Isle of Ely Arts Festival.

Your artwork proposal could take the form of:

- site-specific work or installation
- a performance or physical act
- an intervention or participatory activity
- an interactive work for members of the public to explore

In terms of theme we want to keep the brief as open as possible. Project manager Amy Wormald has been talking to Ely residents about the kind of art and activities they would like to see in the city. Lots of ideas and artforms have been discussed, but several key words emerged in conversations as being important. We are therefore looking for proposals that connect with one or more of these themes:

- **community**
- **touch**
- **connection**
- **environment**

You are free to interpret the words or themes in your own way.

We are looking for Artists who:

- respond to the creative brief in original and inventive ways
- love engaging audiences through their work
- create accessible art experiences for a wide audience

There are 2 commissions available for £1800 each (plus up to £300 expenses). Young people and the local community will be involved in selecting the artwork they would like to see in the city. We are looking for proposals that explain in plain language what you would like to do and why (please avoid jargon or art speak if you can).

Timescale

<p>Friday 22 May, 12 noon</p>	<p>Deadline for Artist Proposals</p> <p>Note - This deadline has been extended from the previous date of Monday 6 April</p>
<p>25 May – 4 June</p>	<p>Project advisory group will shortlist 4 artist proposals</p> <p>All applications will be considered by the project advisory group, and 4 proposals that best meet the brief will be shortlisted to share with the community.</p>
<p>5 – 14 June</p>	<p>Shortlisted artists invited to share a short presentation of their idea</p> <p>We will be asking for a 5-minute video pitch or presentation that can be shared online for the local community to see. If you are shortlisted we will be in touch to discuss how best to do this. There is a fee of £40 for shortlisted artists towards your time.</p>
<p>15 June – 17 July</p>	<p>Ely community vote</p> <p>The local Ely community will be invited to view the artist proposals and pitches online – and will then vote for their favourite idea. The community vote will decide which 2 artists will receive a commission.</p>
<p>From 20 July</p>	<p>Commissioned Artists announced and contracts agreed</p> <p>Once contracts have been agreed artists can start work as and when relevant.</p>
<p>October</p>	<p>Final artwork to be shared / installed/ performed in Ely</p> <p>Artists can suggest dates, length and duration that suits the proposed activity. Exact dates and times will be agreed at a later date and can be flexible to work for both the artist and the project partners.</p>
<p>October/ November</p>	<p>End of project celebration evening at Babylon Gallery</p> <p>This will be an opportunity to show or share any documentation of the project.</p>

Indicative locations

We welcome applications that offer people an opportunity to see or engage with art in public spaces. For work that is physical or site specific there are 3 potential locations:

Ely Market Place



Ely Riverside and Jubilee Gardens



Waterside and the boardwalk outside Babylon Gallery



Budget

We are offering 2 commissions of £1800 each. In addition there is up to £300 travel and expenses budget. If your proposal requires specialist equipment or materials, a venue or space for making, workshops or activities it may be possible to secure these in-kind through the project partners.

If you are shortlisted to present your ideas to the local community through an online video there is a £40 fee towards your time.

Important information

- The fee listed for the commission is the total available and artists should budget for this to cover all production costs etc, VAT (if relevant) and artist fees.
- Artists should have their own public liability insurance in place before activity commences.
- Artists will be responsible for the installation and take down of their work (if applicable). Should your artwork be an installation, this will remain the property of the artist, brought for display at the festival.

Selection process

Applications will be shortlisted by an advisory group who will be looking for proposals that:

- respond to the creative brief in an engaging and inventive way
- clearly describe a concept or idea that is accessible to a wide audience
- are appropriate for the site and surrounding location
- are realistic and feasible in terms of budget, timescale and practicality
- demonstrate an awareness for safe construction or presentation in a public space

The advisory group responsible for shortlisting applications includes:

- Alex Drury, Faculty Manager, University of Cambridge Faculty of Music
- Amy Wormald, Artist and *Somewhere in Ely* Project Manager
- Claire Somerville, Chief Executive Officer, Babylon Arts
- Colin Stevens, Creative Agent, CPP MarketPlace
- Ian Haynes, Health and Safety Consultant

We will shortlist 4 artists to pitch their idea to the local community through online presentations. **If you are shortlisted you must be willing to create a short 5 minute video pitch of your idea.** We can offer help and support to do this if needed.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer individual feedback on applications, but we will contact everyone who has applied to let you know if you have been shortlisted.

How to apply

We are asking for an expression of interest with as much information as is possible and practical.

Your application should include:

- **Completed Artist Proposal Form**
- **A brief CV (two sides of A4 max)**
- **A small selection of images and/ or materials relevant to your work and this opportunity (please keep emails under 25MB)**

By email: Please send to Amy Wormald on alwormald@gmail.com

By post: Somewhere in Ely, Babylon ARTS, Waterside, Ely, CB7 4AU.

Please note we cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage to any hardcopy application material. You may enclose a *stamped addressed envelope* if you would like material to be posted back to you.

Deadline for Expressions of Interest: Friday 22 May, 12 noon

If you have any specific questions or would like to follow news of the project please contact:

Amy Wormald

Project Manager: Somewhere in Ely

alwormald@gmail.com

www.amywormald.net

Twitter: [@amy_wormald](https://twitter.com/amy_wormald)

Instagram: [@amy_wormald](https://www.instagram.com/amy_wormald)

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