

Artist Opportunity: Bloomsbury Festival in a Box

Budget: £2,000

Stage one project proposal deadline: 5pm 28 July 2017

Bloomsbury Festival and the University of London are seeking to commission an exciting and original artistic response to materials associated with their 'Festival in a Box' project. The new art work will be programmed as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2017 (18-22 October).

Please read on for information about Bloomsbury Festival, the 'Festival in a Box' project and a full Artist Brief.

BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL IN A BOX

Established in 2006, Bloomsbury Festival is a celebration of arts, music, performance, and heritage events which takes over the streets, parks, public and private buildings of Bloomsbury for five days each autumn. The festival brings together artists and academics, scientists and dancers, or musicians and publishers, to make new projects and to inspire and learn from each other. Each year, it attracts an audience of around 20,000 people.

Initiated in 2013, in partnership with Age UK Camden and the School of Advanced Study, University of London, Festival in a Box is a scheme that offers people who can't get out to the Festival an opportunity to participate in an enjoyable cultural event. At present the participants are predominantly 'socially isolated' adults living with dementia.

Artists, together with trained staff from Age UK Camden's Dementia Befriending Service, visit participants in their own homes and during these visits participants are encouraged to engage with different art forms. Creative activities are planned with the participants in advance of the visits and are tailored to their interests.

Some participants have lived in the Bloomsbury area for many years, so the project is not only an opportunity for them to actively engage with community life, but also to participate in re-narrating the history of Bloomsbury itself. Since 2013, a small but significant archive 'Festival in a Box archive' of photographs, artworks created on visits, writing and other materials relating to peoples' lives and memories in Bloomsbury has been accumulated. This small community archive of over 1,000 items is housed at the University of London's Senate House.

Further background on the Bloomsbury Festival is available here:
<http://bloomsburyfestival.org.uk>

Read more about the Festival in a Box project here:
<http://festivalinabox.blogs.sas.ac.uk/about/>

To see photographs of the box, and some photographs from participant visits, please visit:
<http://festivalinabox.blogs.sas.ac.uk/archive/>

2017 FESTIVAL COMMISSION

Each year, Bloomsbury Festival hope to commission one new piece of work based on the Festival in a Box project. This artwork will be programmed during the festival in October. We hope that this will raise the visibility of the project, and provide a way of integrating the stories and memories of 'socially isolated' people back into the community, making them a key part of the explosion of creativity that is the October festival.

In 2017, the School of Advanced Study at the University of London has provided funding to support an original artwork based on the Bloomsbury Festival in a Box.

Proposals are invited for projects that will respond creatively to materials and stories gathered in the Festival in a Box archives to create a new static artwork, performance, film or other creative response that will form part of the festival programme in 2017. We are open to all types of proposal, but projects should respond to the core objects of the commission, which are:

- To creatively respond to the stories gathered in the archives and to make them accessible to a broader community
- To create a high quality and original piece of new art that will have a legacy beyond the festival itself
- To create a piece of work that will be interesting and meaningful to the original participants in the Festival in a Box project, their families, friends and carers
- To respond to the 2017 Bloomsbury Festival theme 'Independence'

Bloomsbury Festival can assist in promoting the finished artwork as part of the festival, ensuring that it is seen by a significant cross-section of our festival audience of around 20,000. The festival will also assist in finding a venue for the artwork using our network of 100 local partners.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

A degree of flexibility in the commissioned piece will help it to fit the already developed 2017 festival programme. Examples of suitable pieces might include (but are not limited to):

- A film that could be screened at multiple sites at various times throughout the festival
- A pop up performance that could be accommodated at various times at throughout the programme

- A pop-up installation or exhibition (including participatory installations) which could feature at one or more festival 'hubs'

The Bloomsbury Festival programme goes to print on 22 August. Project details will therefore have to be sufficiently developed by this stage to feature in the programme. The timeline from submitting your design proposal, to selection and submission of details will be tight and is not flexible.

Total budget inclusive of artist fee and materials = £2, 000

We anticipate that approximately 50% of the budget would be spent on Materials and 50% on artist fees however, providing the project is completed satisfactorily, the management of the budget is at the selected artist's discretion.

Please see below for information and photographs of the 'Box', examples of materials in the archives and details of how to apply for the commission and a timeline for the project.

BOX AND ARCHIVE MATERIALS:



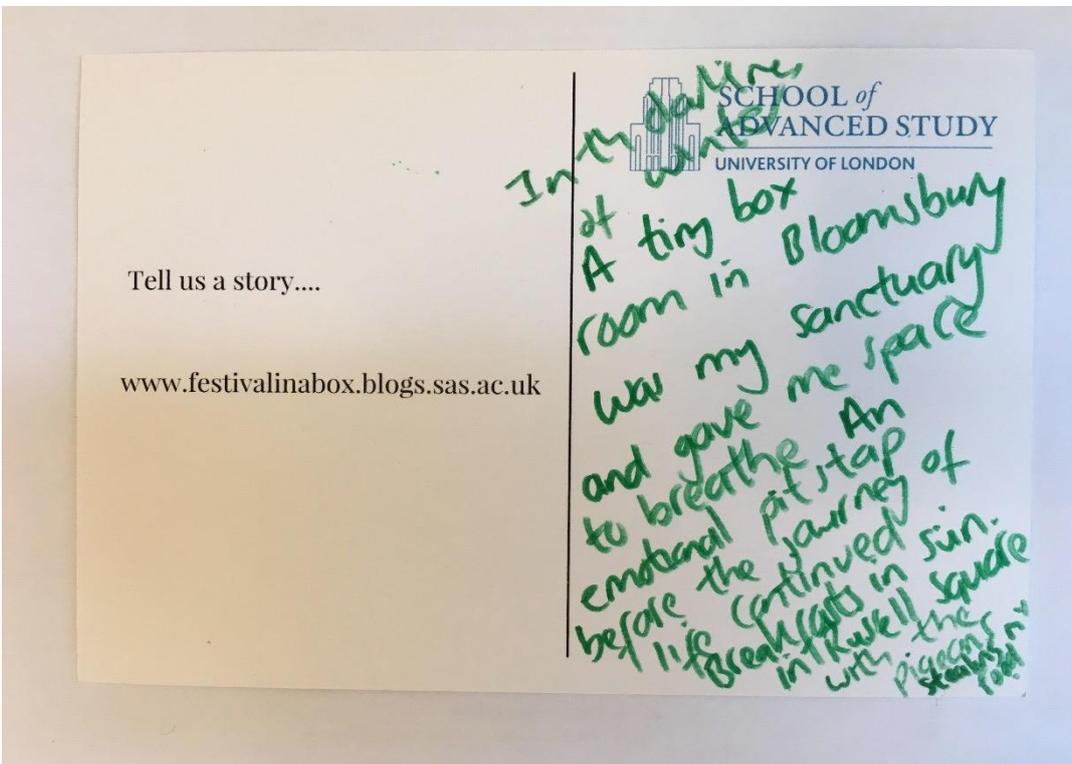
EXAMPLES OF ARCHIVE MATERIALS

Each individual box contains an array of materials including photographs, small artworks created on visits, anonymised transcripts of interviews with project participants and postcards with short stories and memories from lives lived in Bloomsbury and Central London. In total, there are more than 1,000 individual items currently housed in the archive and the collection is growing in line with the project itself. The pictures below give a sense of the range of materials housed in the collection.

Full archive shelf:



'Tell Us a Story' postcard:



Images from visits:



Previous piece of artwork developed as a response to the archive, by Emily Tracey:



ARTIST BRIEF, TIMELINE AND HOW TO APPLY

Stage 1

Artists provide proposals for a creative response to the Festival in a Box archive. The finished piece will feature as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2017

Please ensure that any written proposal supplied alongside designs details your ability to meet the tight deadlines of this project and a rough budget breakdown showing expected expenditure on materials and artist fees.

The total budget inclusive of materials and artists fee is £2,000. The budget will be provided on a basis of 50% upfront and 50% on project completion.

Please also include your CV and any relevant photographs/links showing examples of your work.

The deadline for submissions is 5pm 28th July 2017

Selection

The FIAB team, including representatives from Bloomsbury Festival, Age UK, and the School of Advanced Study, University of London will review all submitted proposals and make a selection no later than **5pm, 2nd August 2017**

Stage 2 (between 2nd - 22nd August)

The selected artist will work closely with the Festival in a Box team, and the Bloomsbury Festival Director to further develop the proposal and ensure it fully meets the requirements of the project.

Stage 3 (22nd August – 18th October)

Artist to build/make/develop the final artwork to the agreed requirements and specifications

Stage 4 (18th - 22nd October)

Delivery of the project as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2017

How to apply:

Please submit:

- Proposal (max 2 A4 pages). *Including what you would like to do, how it engages with the theme, how you intend to create and deliver your idea, any sketches/visualisations of the proposed work*
- Artist CV/Bio
- 6 supporting images of recent work or URLs to 6 works
- Outline budget of how you intend to use the materials budget
- Timeline to indicate key milestones in the production of the work

Documents should be submitted as PDFs to admin@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk by 5pm, 28th July 2017 with the subject line 'FIAB Commission 2017'