***Season for Change: Breathing Canterbury* - commission information & how to apply**

**Background**

The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge is home to an art museum, library, temporary exhibition spaces, visitor information centre and café situated in the heart of historic Canterbury.
This award-winning facility provides state-of-the-art exhibition galleries, excellent educational facilities and a varied programme of events for all ages.

As part of our vision, we believe in the power of museums, recognising their transformative nature, promoting good and active citizenship, supporting the wellbeing of individuals and communities, shaping the distinctiveness of the Canterbury district as a place. Our ethos is to enable individuals to explore, learn, participate and create using the permanent collections, special exhibitions, community engagement programme, educational activities and library for inspiration, learning and enjoyment.

The project will meet our Community Engagement Objectives to establish The Beaney’s national profile as a 'Therapeutic Museum'; embed The Beaney at the heart of the local community using our collections, extending our reach, developing audiences and increasing engagement; develop the Front Room Gallery programme supporting and encouraging creative's from all practices to work with our hard to reach groups in targeted projects that resonate with our local communities and visitors; inspire the next generation of East Kent’s creative community of pioneers, artists, makers and writers; and encourage communities to take an active role in Canterbury’s present and future story.

The Beaney is a partner in the ACE-funded national Happy Museums Project, which provides a leadership framework for museums to develop a holistic approach to wellbeing and sustainability. The HM Project re-imagines the museum’s purpose as steward of people, place and planet, supporting institutional and community resilience in the face of global financial and environmental challenges. The Breathing Canterbury project is part of Growing the Green Beaney towards the Green Tourism Award and is part of the Happy Museums’ Season for Change project - in 2018 over 150 arts organisations are coming together to programme events, conversations and performances under the banner Season for Change. The season will be about inspiring creative actions on climate change and will run from June to December 2018 encompassing the shortest and the longest night. There will be a huge variety of events right across the country and the organisers intend to build on this with a 2020 Season for Change. Both seasons will link into the global COP talks (responsible for the Paris Climate Agreement) and aim to raise public interest and conversation about our environment.

The theme of *Breathing Canterbury* focuses on the arrival of the air quality issue back on the Green agenda (eg a major study published by the medical journal The Lancet on 20 October 2017) suggesting that:

* 1 in every 6 premature deaths is linked to pollution across the globe
* In the UK, about 8% of deaths are estimated to be linked to pollution - making the UK 55th out of the 188 countries measured (behind the US, Germany, France, Spain and Italy).
* But the study's co-author, Richard Fuller, president of Pure Earth and co-chair of The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, says it is "a problem that can be tackled and can be solved." The Beaney is keen to be part of promoting and enabling this!

**Commission**

We are offering an artist’s commission for a project to run from February to September 2018, including content generated by the local community, and curation of an exhibition from July to September in the Front Room Gallery (home to the Beaney’s health & wellbeing programme).

We are seeking a creative practitioner whose application can demonstrate relevant experience in working inclusively with community groups (and possibly schools) and with the ability to turn the project work into an exhibition in the Beaney Front Room gallery to open in July 2018. They also need to show understanding of the brief, and creative and inclusive approaches to interpreting it. The exhibition could include a stand-out installation in the gallery and/or use a film and graphic work on the walls which invite further community participation and dialogue with visitors.

The successful candidate will:

* establish a positive and productive partnership with community partners between February and September 2018, using the project to embed The Beaney at the heart of the local community using our collections, extending our reach, developing audiences and increasing engagement. The Beaney team can assist with introductions to schools and community groups.
* work independently and have the necessary experience, skills and contacts to research, develop and deliver a partnership project that explores the theme, referencing The Beaney’s own collections.
* Produce content culminating in an exhibition in the Front Room, on time and on budget
* include workshops with the community groups and coordinate dates for the workshops/visits
* manage any volunteers they need to deliver the project
* ensure all photographic subjects have given their written permission for their image to be used in documenting the project
* agree the final exhibition outline with the Programming & Engagement Manager
* deliver work ready for installation
* evaluate the project both during and after delivery, including the collection of qualitative and quantitative data
* be available to attend a launch event shortly after the installation

Success of the project will be measured by:

* At least 2 school/community groups signed up by the end of March 2018, with scheduled days for workshops (in school, community venues and/ or in the Learning Lab) and allotted time to work on and deliver the project as part of our objective to deliver a distinctive, diverse and excellent learning programme.
* positive qualitative feedback from participants and visitors which demonstrates their new understanding of the issue and provides the means to share ideas for making change both nationally and locally. This will include the use of at least 2 different creative feedback mechanisms for visitors to engage with and participate in as part of the exhibition (generating a minimum of 500 responses), and images used via press and social media (including weekly tweets from the Front Room account)
* budget and time managed effectively, meeting our objective to make the best use of available resources to develop a resilient museums service
* evaluation report delivered within a fortnight of the end of the project
* An exhibition of work, delivered and presented to a high standard in the Front Room gallery at The Beaney, attracting a minimum of 5000 visitors, as part of our objective to broaden our appeal and work with us to build a larger, more diverse an engaged audience

**DETAILS:**

Canterbury Museums & Galleries will:

* provide workshop space in The Beaney Learning Lab for the workshops
* be a point of contact for the creative facilitator
* provide a member of staff to assist with the installation and takedown of the exhibition

Key dates include:

* project start: late February 2018
* Artist’s creative input and workshops completed in good time to prepare for the exhibition 21 July to 30 September 2018
* installation dates: 18-20 July 2018
* an open morning in the first week of the exhibition
* exhibition takedown 1-2 October 2018

**PAYMENT:**

£4000 (in 3 staged payments) to cover delivery of 8 half-day workshops; 2 days installation & takedown; 6 days for planning, preparation, exhibition co-ordination, & evaluation; materials; and travel expenses.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Please submit a current CV, an overview of your relevant experience, and your project outline (max 500 words) to **thefrontroom@canterbury.gov.uk**with *Breathing Canterbury* - *Creative Commission* in the subject line, **no later than midnight on Wednesday 7 February**

If successful two references, PLI (up to £5 million) and DRB/CRB will need to be provided.

**CONTACT:**

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Canterbury Museums and Galleries

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