

***** Call for Data Artists *****

Seeking **visual artists to transform survey data** into a playable/tangible experience

(1) Introduction

Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC) is looking to commission a visual artist with data visualisation / data storytelling skills, who is experienced in creating accessible, playable ways to interact with and understand data. Ideally you will have an understanding of co-design or collaborative / community workshop processes.

KWMC is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) digital arts charity based in Knowle West, South Bristol. Since it was set up in 1996, KWMC has used the arts and digital technologies to support people to imagine and develop ideas about social change, prototype new approaches to addressing people's needs and aspirations, and share learning across the UK and beyond.

(2) Background information

Through the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic KWMC worked with University of Bristol (UoB) researchers to create and conduct a survey exploring digital exclusion and use of digital technologies in the neighbourhood of Knowle West, Bristol UK. 274 households responded to this survey.

The results of the data have been analysed by UoB into a draft report covering topics such as demographics, internet use and access and attitudes to technologies. The emergent findings challenge over-simplified ideas that solving digital exclusion is just a matter of providing the necessary equipment or that it is only the older generation who are not engaging with technology.

The aim is to now make sure this survey data is useful and meaningful to the community. With funding from Bristol City Council, we are organising a community workshop and related activities.

(3) The commission

We are looking to commission an artist to work with KWMC and University of Bristol to:

- **Participate in a virtual workshop on Wednesday 24 March 2021, 1.30-3.30pm**, where data findings will be shared with people in the Knowle West community who are interested in digital exclusion, including: local community organisers, teachers, individuals and activists.

The workshop will be facilitated by KWMC staff and designed to open discussions around the survey data, revealing deeper and multiple understandings and insights, and beginning to explore how the information could be used and shared to start tackling some of the problems.

- **Synthesise key insights and ideas from the workshop and survey data**

KWMC staff can support this process.

- **Create a visually engaging and accessible way of sharing the digital exclusion survey data with the wider Knowle West community.**

Building on and incorporating ideas arising from the community workshop and ideally testing and asking for feedback from the community in the development of the outcome. This could potentially be something gamified or playable and ideally easily shareable on platforms like Facebook.

- Be part of **evaluating** the project and keep a log of time spent

The commission would start in the last week of March 2021 and the final output would need to be delivered by mid-May 2021 at the latest.

As engagement will be remote artists can be based anywhere and do not need to be from Bristol or the South West.

(4) Fees and support

The commission fee, inclusive of VAT, is: **£2,500**

There is additional budget for materials and any access needs, to be agreed with KWMC producers. Travel and subsistence are not included.

The fee would be paid in two instalments over the duration of the commission, the first on receipt of the contract and first invoice, and the second instalment at the end of the project.

The amount of time and which days the artist can work on this commission will be shaped and decided with KWMC producers at the beginning of the commission.

KWMC are able to offer producer, engagement and IT support as part of the commission. The artist will be working as part of a team. KWMC will provide producer assistance including: project management, engagement, introductions to community, internal and partner communications, research assistance, marketing, design and copywriting, and communications and press support.

(5) How to apply

Please send us an email with a PDF (maximum of two pages) telling us:

- about yourself and your practice
- why you are interested in the commission
- links to examples of your work.

Try to keep it short – we don't want this to be a massive task for you.

If you have any access needs that require you to submit your proposal in another format, please get in touch so we can help you find a suitable option. All applications will be assessed according to the same criteria and submitting in a different format will not affect your chances of being selected.

Please apply by 5pm on Monday 15 March 2021, sending your PDF to martha.king@kwmc.org.uk

Selection will be made by Friday 19 March 2021.

We particularly welcome and encourage applications from those currently underrepresented in the arts. We are committed to managing a fair and equitable recruitment process.

Please note, we are anticipating further data visualisation / visual storytelling commissions in the coming year so please do not hesitate to get in touch after 15 March to find out more and/or register your interest. We are keen to connect with people who are excited about helping us tell stories in playful and powerful ways.

(6) Have a chat

If you have any questions and/or it would be useful to have a chat before you register your interest, please do not hesitate to get in contact. You can email martha.king@kwmc.org.uk