



We Can Make: artist brief
September 2018

(1) Introduction

KWMC is seeking to work with an artist to support We Can Make, a new programme that is developing an innovative citizen-led approach to delivering affordable homes.

The artist will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team, with a focus on supporting participation with local people and stakeholders, and capturing and sharing the story through mixed medium and platforms.

Artists with experience of working with communities in participative ways, and with skills in graphics, design, moving image, audio, photography, print and text are invited to apply.

We welcome applications from all backgrounds and especially encourage people who are currently from under represented in the arts sector This is a growing area of work for KWMC, and we would welcome expressions of interest from artists who may not be able to take up this particular commission but would be interested in future opportunities.

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 the learning across the UK and beyond.

(2) Background information

Over the last 18 months KWMC has created a test space to explore new citizen-led approaches to creating more affordable homes at point of need. Much more than designing homes as products, **We Can Make** has focused on re-imagining the wider enabling legal, financial, and policy framework so that citizens, using their own assets and know-how, can become the developer themselves. From re-thinking what a development site is, to flat-pack homes, to community bonds, everything has been up for grabs.

Working with the residents and community of Knowle West in South Bristol as a 'Living Lab', We Can Make has brought together local people, artists, architects, policy-makers, academics and industry professionals to collaborate between and far beyond traditional professional silos.

We Can Make has not only dreamt and re-imagined a different kind of housing future, but also begun to prototype that future in practical and scalable ways. This has included building a “Made in Knowle West” home that is beautiful, sustainable and affordable.

Knowle West - its needs, assets and knowhow - are the foundation of **We Can Make**. However, the aim is to create a citizen-led system and set of tools for delivering affordable housing at point of need which can be replicated in other neighbourhoods and cities.

KWMC has secured funding from Nationwide Foundation and Power to Change to support the next phase of development. A report about the project can be found [here](#):

(3) The Commission

Artists and arts practice have been integrated into the We Can Make programme from its inception. We are now looking to extend this work with a new appointment to work with an artist to support the development of the programme.

The role will focus on:

- Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team to develop participation tools and processes;
- Documenting the personal stories of participants in an engaging way, mindful that some participants are in vulnerable situations;
- Engaging and working with the local community in a socially engaged way.
- Developing and delivering a framework and approach for documenting and sharing the story of the project as a whole, and in a way that can be shared on different platforms and with different audiences;
- Supporting the design and development of particular parts of the programme, including the co-design of a Community Design Code, which will help set the rules of any new We Can Make homes.

Key outputs from the commission will include:

- A framework and process for capturing and sharing the story;
- A visual identity and tone for how the story is told and presented that can engage different audiences;
- A series of “episodes” that begin to share the story (for example a podcast, film, animation).

The commission is initially October 2018 – January 2019, with a review and an opportunity to extend the commission.

(4) Fees and support

The commission for the first stage is £2500, inclusive of VAT, with additional budget for materials. Travel and subsistence are not included.

KWMC will provide producer assistance for the project, including project management, community engagement, technical support, access to tech equipment, research assistance, press and communications.

(5) To Apply

Please make a submission in a single Word or PDF document outlining the following:

- Your practice and the way you work;
- Why you are interested in this project and initial ideas;
- How you would approach working in this context.

Please also send: A CV and links to examples of your work.

This is a growing area of work for KWMC, and we would welcome expressions of interest from artists who may not be able to take up this particular commission but would be interested in future opportunities.

Please note, this particular commission is not a straight photography commission. Photography may be part of your practice, but we are seeking a more mixed medium and practice approach.

Please email your proposal to melissa.mean@kwmc.org.uk

Applications should be sent by noon 24th September.

Interviews will be held on 26th September.

(6) Contact

If you would like any further information about this project or have any questions, please contact Melissa on 07984 745 175, or at melissa.mean@kwmc.org.uk.