



Artist Brief

May 2021

'Come Together' is an exciting new programme of public events, training and co-creation. Designed to support artists and communities develop skills to create new spaces, experiences, and connections that enable us to 'Come Together'.

2020 has highlighted that 'hybrid' (physical plus digital) approaches to making and sharing art and culture are increasingly important. But how ready are we to navigate this new context?

As we tentatively come out of lockdown, what can we learn from the ways we stayed connected through the pandemic to build more inclusive spaces and experiences together? What could these spaces look and feel like? How might they mix the digital and the physical? What could you imagine...?

Call Out

Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC) is looking to commission a cohort of creatives to explore these questions and be part of a unique residency in Knowle West, Bristol this Summer-Autumn 2021.

We are looking for artists working with any medium, but they must:

- have experience of working with people in community contexts;
- be excited to work with Knowle West residents (remotely or in person);
- be looking to develop new ways of mixing digital and physical practices;
- be based in the South West Region.

As this project is exploring how to co-create more inclusive hybrid (physical plus digital) spaces, we particularly welcome applications from people who have lived experience of finding digital or physical spaces to be ableist, ageist, racist, classist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic.

The Commission

The four selected artists will:

- Engage with the Come Together project's overarching questions and themes ([read the full programme outline](#))
- Be in residence in Knowle West from July-October (remotely or in person)
- Be part of a supportive cohort of creatives developing ideas and projects in parallel, offering peer support and feedback to one another
- Participate in training workshops and learn new skills in how to mix digital and physical practices
- Work collaboratively with individuals or groups in Knowle West to co-create inclusive hybrid spaces and experiences for coming together
- Test their co-created work in contexts across the UK supported by national partners including: Grizedale Arts, MAIA Group and Onion Collective
- Share the work as part of a national showcase
- Participate in professional and skills development to become more confident in hybrid arts practice
- Be coached and supported to develop your practice
- Work with embedded digital storytellers to share the process

Possible themes

We are looking to commission artists to engage widely in the programme's overarching questions ([see project outline](#)) and make work, with specific people or groups in Knowle West, around a related topic, theme or challenge of shared interest.

The Knowle West neighbourhood is full of stories, characters and a rich living heritage that is all too often overlooked and under-valued by those looking in from outside. Through the pandemic the Knowle West community have come together through COVID emergency support groups, food projects, online knitting circles, live-streamed music festivals, new Facebook gardening groups, outdoor markets and more. Some residents have commented that being able to access things virtually has connected them in new unexpected ways and others have felt more isolated due to issues such as not having access to the right devices.

You might want to explore ideas around coming together to: grow, eat, make, dance, play, or something completely different. You will have time to co-develop the project with the community in the first month of the residency.

KWMC is connected to many existing groups and individuals in the neighbourhood and will provide support to embed and connect you to the community.

Timeline

The commission runs from July – September 2021, with a showcasing event in October 2021.

- July: immersed in Knowle West, co-developing ideas with groups or individuals
- August - early September: making and testing with community collaborators
- Late September - early October: preparing work for the showcase
- October – showcase and sharing learning

Training, mentoring and professional development runs throughout the programme.

Fees and Support

- Artist fee: £3,000 each inclusive of VAT.
- Additional budget available to fund: creative collaborators, community collaborators, materials and access (such as travel, BSL or translation).

Artists will be supported by:

- KWMC arts team and wider staff
- National partners: offering feedback and testing work in their contexts
- Digital Storytellers: embedded in the project from the start
- Inclusion partners / critical friends: supporting the project throughout
- KWMC: The Factory: supporting with digital fabrication (laser-cutting and CNC cutting, 3D printing and digital embroidery)
- Community partners / Knowle West Alliance: connecting with the community
- Business development: supporting business potential of newly created work
- Being part of a cohort of people with different lived experiences, expertise and at different stages of their careers

You can work remotely or in person. For those wanting to work in Knowle West, KWMC are able to offer desk space, printing support and access to the KWMC: Factory digital fabrication maker space as part of the commission. We support flexible working practices and KWMC producers will support you to work in a way that works best for you.

How to apply

Follow this link to send us your written, audio or video application:

[Apply here](#)

Application deadline: by **9am, Monday 28 June 2021**

Interviews (via video call or in person) on: Thursday 1 or Friday 2 July 2021

Commission start date: w/c 5 July 2021

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.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Georgia on 0117 903 0444 or Georgia@KWMC.org.uk.

To find out more

Q&A drop-in

Friday 11 June 2021, 10am – 11am

Join us on zoom to hear more about the project and ask questions. Email Georgia@KWMC.org.uk to receive a link and book a place.

Project Night

Thursday 24 June 2021, 6-8pm

A chance to find out more about the project, discuss initial ideas and eat together.

Email Georgia@KWMC.org.uk to book a place: via zoom or in person at KWMC

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