

OPEN FOR CREATIVITY AND CARE



Artist Brief

June 2021

Knowle West Media Centre are excited to launch a new programme called '[Creativity x Care](#)'. The programme will explore themes of radical care and pleasure activism. It will provide opportunities for creatives to explore and experience nourishing spaces of care that can support, inspire and enable their creativity. This is an ongoing research and development process and we hope that in the future we may be able to offer more opportunities.

Call Out

We are looking to commission four artists/creatives, working in any medium, who want to explore the theme of creativity and care with us. The first round of the programme will explore Care Languages. This takes inspiration from the idea of Love Languages (words of affirmation, quality time, acts of services, gifts, physical touch) which describe different ways of expressing and receiving love. We want to expand this thinking into exploring how we express and receive care for ourselves and others through creative practice.

The commissioned artist/creative will collaborate with Knowle West Media Centre (either remotely or in person) between July – October. They will take part in a Care-Giving Circle - which is an invitation to develop a **practice or act of care** and then gift this to another artist within the cohort of commissioned artists. Knowle West Media Centre staff, South Bristol community members and wider audiences will be invited to experience this as audience members.

This act or practice of care may be something non-interactive, therefore you will receive support to shape it into a participatory experience. As a commissioned artist/creative, you will also have the opportunity to receive an act of care and/or experience from another artist/creative, in turn, creating a 'participatory' Care-Giving Circle. Within this framework we will explore the theme of Care Languages by asking two key provocations.

Artists/creatives could respond to one/both of these questions, in relation to their practice:

What is a creative care practice or experience that nourishes you that you could offer up to others?

What is a creative care practice or experience that you like to offer others, that you would like time to develop?

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

- want to explore an existing practice;
- be excited to work with Knowle West curators and other artists involved (remotely or in person)

Who we would love to work with

We are interested in collaborating with those most in need of these spaces and resources - creative people who are most impacted by oppressive systems, structures and cultures within the creative sector (people who have lived experience of finding the creative sector to be ableist, ageist, racist, classist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic) and who, as a result, are often underrepresented, under-resourced and underserved by the sector.

This opportunity is open to artists/creatives based anywhere in the UK. We are also very interested in working with creative people local to Bristol and in particular, South Bristol and local to Knowle West. We would love to connect with people who are new or not yet present in the creative industries and we have experience of working with emerging artists.

We see this work as being most relevant to artists and audience members who are interested in, or currently take part in, socially engaged and community/ people based creative work or practices.

The Commission

This could and should be an experience/practice that you do to ensure your own care and wellbeing, or that does the same for others, and should be rooted in your creative practice/s. We are really open to what your form of creativity + care looks and feels like.

For example, do you spend time doing your hair a certain way each week? Do you take a specific walk every now and then to bring yourself joy? Do you like to cook food or dinner to show care? Do you like to play music or create a playlist for some to listen to? Do you like to create engaging art activities? Do you like to hold discussion circles or a reading group?

Artists/creatives should also consider how others can publicly participate or learn. For example, can you cook for someone and invite others to dinner? Can you create a listening party?

We will be looking to commission a variety of experiences which could happen across physical space, digital space, or both.

The four selected artists will:

- Engage with the Creativity + Care project's overarching questions and themes (the full programme will be formed and co-created with you, the artists involved)
- Spend time reflecting
- Spend time exploring how their practice can be participatory and engaging
- Participate in the Care-Giving Circle
- Co-create what a sharing of our collective work could look like as part of event/s at KWMC

Your work will also contribute to:

- an A-Z of Care Languages (working concept), a small publication
- to our Blueprint for Care in the Creative Industries, an evolving document featuring the learnings from the R&D and the programme.

Timeline

This commission runs from July – October 2021

Monday 12th July at 9am - Deadline for applications

By Friday 16th July - We will get back to you about whether you have been selected or not

Late July - Group meetup

August - September Commission Development

September and October - Sharings and reflection

Fees and Support

Fee:

- £750 per artist/idea inclusive of VAT (4 x mini commissions are available).
- This fee includes 3 days at £250 per day
- We imagine this looking like Design (1.5 days), Sharing (1 day), Reflection (0.5 days).

Additional Support:

- £50 budget for materials per artist/idea if needed.
- Additional budget available for access (such as travel, BSL, translation etc)
- Programme curators/producers will offer support with participatory practice, connecting with audiences, opportunities for exchange between artists, and overseeing documentation.
- KWMC can offer physical space, marketing and event support
- Being part of a small group of people with different lived experiences, expertise and at different stages of their careers
- Pastoral care

You can work remotely or in person. For those wanting to work in Knowle West, KWMC are able to offer desk space, printing support. 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: <http://bit.ly/CreativityxCare>

Application deadline: **Monday 12th July at 9.00am**

Meet and Greet start date: **w/c 19th July (via video call or in person)**

If you have any access needs that require you to submit your proposal in another format, please get in touch, this can be audio, video, written or anything that suits you. If you have any questions or would like to talk more before you submit your interest - please contact Josephine@kwmc.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Inspirational Resources and Links

If you would like to know more about where our thinking is at, we encourage you to have a browse at the resources below.

MAIAGroup, Wellbeing SZN:

<https://www.maiagroup.co/wellbeing-szn>

ICA, The Politics of Pleasure programme:

<https://www.ica.art/learning/the-politics-of-pleasure>

<https://youtu.be/y-l4fWHVMZg>.

Heart of Glass, Care Compendium

<https://www.heartofglass.org.uk/thoughts-and-news/thought/the-care-compendium-chapter-one>

“Pleasure activists believe that by tapping into the potential goodness in each of us we can generate justice and liberation, growing a healing abundance where we have been socialized to believe only scarcity exists.”

— **Adrienne Maree Brown, *Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good***

“If collective access is revolutionary love without charity, how do we learn to love each other? How do we learn to do this love work of collective care that lifts us instead of abandons us, that grapples with all the deep ways in which care is complicated?”

— **Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice***

“Care’ is also a social capacity and activity involving the nurturing of all that is necessary for the welfare and flourishing of life. Above all, to put care centre stage means recognising and embracing our interdependencies.”

— **The Care Collective, *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence***



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