

# SLOW THE SMOKE

## Artist Brief

May 2022

### Call Out

Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC) are looking to commission an artist to creatively interpret / communicate data from the citizen-science air quality project, *Slow the Smoke*.

We are looking for an artist who has:

- Experience of working with data and interpreting different data sources;
- Experience of or interest in working in community contexts;
- A working process that allows for collaboration and iteration;
- Passion for and strong skills in creating tangible lasting outcomes that tell powerful stories;

We will consider proposals from artists working in any medium as long as they can create lasting shareable outcomes that tell clear data stories / communicate messages that the community want to say. For example, you might be a graphic, digital, data, visual, sound, sculpture or socially engaged artist. You do not need to be based in Bristol for this commission, as we can support remote collaboration.

We particularly welcome and encourage applications from those currently underrepresented in the arts sector; particularly any applicant who identifies as working-class, a person of colour, transgender, non-binary or genderqueer, D/deaf, visually impaired, disabled or neurodivergent.

### Context

Slow the Smoke is a research project focused on better understanding the impact of different sources of air pollution on people and environment in the Ashley ward, Bristol UK. The partners are Bristol City Council and University of West of England. The project is funded by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which is interested in understanding specifically the emissions from a growing source: solid fuel burning i.e. wood burners and stoves.

The project involves data and people. The people involved in the project are 10 citizen scientists, who have built, installed DIY air quality sensors at their homes and attended data workshops to make sense of their own sensor data. The sensors were installed in November 2021 and measure particulate matter. The data is available open source, you can look at the

data [here](#). (NB: Bristol City Council is also installing a high accuracy air quality sensor in St Werburghs towards the end of this year).

The other people involved in the project are the wider community of Ashley. We have run workshops with families in St Pauls, exploring how they are affected by poor air quality. Through these workshops we have mapped issues and ideas for solutions and gathered messages of what people want to say with the data.

We will be holding more workshops to engage a wider group of people in the community – including a simulation in Minecraft for young people and a Creative Session bringing developers, creatives and the community together – to share the collected data further and go deeper with solution mapping and creating a clear community message for action.

The project will have a final event and exhibition in Autumn 2022 to showcase work made by the commissioned artist alongside the outcomes from the different workshops.

## **The Commission**

We are looking for an artist to creatively work with both the data collected from the air quality sensors and the stories / ideas collected from people through previous workshops to communicate a clear message(s) that the community want to share, in order to help effect change.

The selected artists will:

- Work on the project from July-October (this can be remote working)
- Work with KWMC producers to ensure material from the citizen scientists and individuals / groups in the Ashley Ward are incorporated into the outcome
- Test their work during its development with the community collaborators, and incorporate feedback.
- Share the work as part of an end showcase in Oct
- Be supported by KWMC producers to develop the work

## **Timeline**

The commission runs from July – October 2022, with a showcasing event end of October 2022.

- Early July: Briefing with producers
- July: Optional attendance at a Creative data workshop on Saturday, 9 July (this will be a chance to meet the community, learn about the project and ideas – you will not be leading any activity, just being a participant)
- August-September: making and testing with feedback from community
- End October – showcase

## Fees and Support

- Artist fee: £2,000, inclusive of VAT.
- Additional materials and fabrication budget available to be agreed by KWMC producers.
- Additional budget available to fund access needs.

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 throughout to work in a way that works best for you.

### How to apply:

**Application deadline:** by midnight Friday 24 June 2022

**Interviews** (via video call or in person) between Thursday 30th June-Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Commission start date:** Early July, date to be negotiated with selected artist

Please email your application to: [annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk](mailto:annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk). Including:

- 1.) One Word or PDF document (no more than 2 sides of A4, font size 12) that includes:
  - Your contact details (email and phone)
  - A little bit about your background / relevant experience / personal motivations
  - Why you are interested in the commission and any initial ideas
  - Relevant links to examples of your work

- 2.) Please also complete our online anonymous Equalities Monitoring Form:  
<https://airtable.com/shrQjjEgK6UpHId22>

The information you share will not be stored with, or linked to, your submission. Completing the form helps us understand whether we are reaching people from a range of backgrounds through our promotion of this opportunity.

**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. Mail: [annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk](mailto:annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk) to discuss.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Annali on 0117 903 0444 or [annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk](mailto:annali.grimes@kwmc.org.uk)



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