

Cement Fields

New Art North Kent

This Must Be the Place Micro-Commissions

Cement Fields is inviting submissions for a new strand of micro-commissions for two North Kent based artist and/or artist collective to develop self-guided, site-specific research that responds to Ebbsfleet Garden City and its communities.

The micro-commissions are an extension of *This Must Be the Place*, a pioneering three-year creative programme, co-led by young people from Ebbsfleet Garden City and the surrounding areas together with commissioned artists, to produce site-specific research and artworks. A core aim of the programme is to co-create a framework to support radical, youth and art led placemaking.

This micro-commission is an opportunity for artists to develop an area of their practice in response to the UK's first new garden city for 100 years, and to forge relationships with communities in the area.

Location: Ebbsfleet Garden City, North Kent

Dates: January 2021 to June 2021

Eligibility: Artists and/or artists collectives based in North Kent or those with a meaningful connection to the area

Audiences: Young people, residents and communities in and around Ebbsfleet Garden City (including Swanscombe and Northfleet), national and international arts audiences

Application deadline: Deadline for applications is 9am Monday 18 January

Micro-Commissions

These micro-commissions are some of the first projects from the three-year programme in partnership with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, and a core aim of this commission strand is to offer artists space to develop and experiment with elements their practice.

Embedded within this is introducing young people and communities in and around Ebbsfleet Garden City to *This Must Be the Place*, developing a strong cohort of young people to work with placemaking in the new garden city, and to engage young people and communities in co-created participatory artworks which are discursive, experimental, collaborative and experiential.

The micro-commissions will take place between January – June 2021 and will include a public presentation of elements of the programme during *Estuary 2021* (22 May – 13 June 2021). Exact dates of the micro-commissions are flexible and to be discussed.

Brief

A public is a group that connects around “a text”. A text can be more than letters or a piece of writing. It can be different materials like a song, a sound, an image, a place, or prose. They are where shared memories and experiences become spaces for learning and connecting to each other, if only for a moment.

With a sensitivity to the changing geography, publics and communities of North Kent, particularly Ebbsfleet Garden City, we invite you to:

- Explore the new garden city
- Reach out to communities or publics of your choice
- Develop and share your research in response to the landscape, the histories of the area, or the histories of people who call Ebbsfleet and the surrounding area home

We encourage that the artistic research includes dialogue with cultural partners and makes use of resources such as archives or specialist knowledge specific to, or relating to the locale.

Your research will be led by your creative practice and areas of interest. We recognise that the capture and presentation of this research will develop over the course of the commission and likely take various forms that reflect the different ways of creative working.

This research is to be undertaken throughout the micro-commission and will be presented at agreed intervals to partners. There will be a public presentation of the micro-commission during *Estuary 2021* (22 May – 13 June 2021). This could be an artistic intervention that exists online or in the public realm. It could be your research to date or a completed art work.

Outcomes

1. Undertake a research period to explore the new garden city; meet and get to know communities and develop an artistic response to the brief; consider potential sites, technologies, and ways of working that take COVID-19 into account
2. To engage with the other stands of *This Must Be the Place* through a creative programme of activities, e.g., a workshop or research trip to engage with the core group of young people. We recommend that you allocate half a day for the workshop/site visit and half a day for preparation.
3. To develop, share and present your artistic research as informed by the garden city and people who live in and around it, the form of which is not prescribed
4. Work with Cement Fields to ensure a wide number of young people, residents and partners engage with the project
5. Participation in the project evaluation and research methodology to be shared nationally

Budget and fees

For this micro-commission you will receive a freelance fee of £2,000 and a production budget of £1000 (inclusive of VAT). The fee is for approximately

10 project days and should include planning, contact with communities, partners and the core *This Must Be the Place* youth cohort.

Please note that the production budget also covers the presentation of your work at *Estuary 2021*.

Cement Fields are happy to assist with funding applications that you may make to further develop their work for this commission.

An additional project budget allocation for travel to and from the site to be agreed between the artist and Cement Fields.

How to apply

We appreciate that responding to project briefs and application questions at the invitation stage is resource consuming for artists. With the additional strain of maintaining a creative practice during these unprecedented times, we aim to make the submission process as light as possible.

Therefore, we invite you to share a few notes, doodles and images of what you would like to do during this micro-commission and who you would like to meet.

We suggest that you use 1-5 sentences to respond to each of the following:

- Introduce yourself to us (who you are)
- Tell us what part of your practice you would like to develop
- Outline how you would go about meeting people in the area and what kind of groups you are interested in
- Share a basic plan of how you would use your project days

While this is not essential to add to your submission, we also invite you to think about your experiences of:

- Working with young people or intercultural communities
- How your work would exist in public spaces and outside of a traditional gallery

The submission can be a word document, PDF (no larger than 5MB), or a short audio/video clip (no longer than 1 minute).

Please also include your name, pronouns, phone number and email address. You may also include your CV, although this is optional.

Email your completed application to info@cementfields.org.

The deadline for applications is 9am Monday 18 January.

Access

If you have access requirements and would prefer to apply in a different format, or would like us to make reasonable adjustments to the interview process, please contact: nephertiti@cementfields.org

If required, please submit an access document that includes an outline of your disability access needs. (See www.accessdocsforartists.com for more information)

Schedule

The schedule is flexible and we are happy to work with you to form a timeline that is agreeable. With this in mind, you will be required to input into evaluation points, and present your research at agreed intervals. These dates will be negotiated between yourself, Cement Fields and the other commissioned artists. We will always endeavour to give reasonable notice to sessions held remotely and in person.

Cement Fields will lead evaluation and end of project reflection through regular 1-2-1s and catch ups with the other *This Must Be the Place* commissioned artists.

January 2021

The development of an accepted work plan, project budget and outline – we appreciate that this may be an ongoing process and Cement Fields will assist with this stage.

February 2021 – April 2021

Depending on how you would like to use your project days, this will likely be your research and development phase. During this period, you will be invited to engage with the *This Must Be the Place* youth cohort. While you can connect with any group that you have an interest in, you will need to allocate one day to engage with the youth cohort. This engagement could be through a workshop session, site visit or a presentation of your research and artistic practice. The programme is co-led so it's really important that this session(s) is an opportunity for young people to input and create something that they have ownership of.

Based on the broader *This Must Be the Place* project timeline, a midpoint evaluation will be scheduled in April 2021.

May 2021 – June 2021

Presentation of elements of your work at *Estuary 2021*.

July 2021 – August 2021

Formal reporting will be required for funders which Cement Fields will take the lead on. Please leave a half day to be available to assist with this.

Policy Requirements

- The commission will involve working with young people and communities, including children, and Cement Fields will carry out a full safeguarding risk assessment, and the artist/s will be required to have valid DBS accreditation in place, and adhere to organisational safeguarding policies.
- In line with our organisation's environmental policy, Cement Fields welcomes a discussion on the use of materials, and the carbon impact of any materials and works created. Where possible we adopt a zero waste policy.
- Subject to contract the artist/s will need to provide evidence they are eligible to work in the UK
- Selected artist/s will be asked to provide the details of 2 referees.
- Due to our charitable status, Cement Fields cannot consider work that has any specific religious or party political persuasion.

Equality and Diversity

Cement Fields is an equal opportunities employer and commissioner. We acknowledge the structural exclusion in the arts, and are committed to equality of opportunity for all, and are actively striving to make our organisation more inclusive. Cement Fields recognises the diversity of experiences and histories that contribute to North Kent's unique identity.

About *This Must Be the Place*

Cement Fields has been awarded funding from Arts Council England and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation¹ for *This Must Be the Place*, a three-year community embedded creative placemaking programme co-led by young people. The project will take place in Ebbsfleet Garden City, the UK's first new garden city for 100 years and will explore art and youth-led creative placemaking and 'what works' locally, nationally and internationally.

This Must Be the Place will be co-led by young people from the area together with commissioned artists to produce site-specific research and artworks, providing a framework to support radical, youth and art led placemaking. Young people will have the opportunity to attend and co-lead site-based activities and creative field trips, working with commissioned artists and a wide range of partners including architects, designers, philosophers and policy-makers, helping to build a creatively informed environment that is distinct to and representative of the city's residents.

Through the *This Must Be the Place* programme young people will play a part in shaping shared spaces within the Garden City, and will inform national learning models that will be replicable and scalable across various

¹ *EDC was formed by the government to facilitate the delivery of homes and the creation of the new Garden City. As the planning authority for the new city they work with local authorities and communities to develop the infrastructure and the shared vision for the area and its residents.

contexts. These alternative frameworks for youth-led learning and urban planning will be shared widely through a variety of methods, including national events with other New Town partners, policy-makers, arts organisations, and local voluntary and community sector organisations.

The programme and artworks will work at a variety of scales, from close knit groups to large scale projects, ensuring that there is depth of engagement together with moments for large audiences to create shared experiences. Over the course of the project, we expect to engage with up to 1,000 young people and residents, with audiences of 50,000 at Ebbsfleet Garden City, and a national reach in excess of half a million people by 2023.

About Cement Fields

Cement Fields is a visual art organisation working collaboratively with artists and communities to create ambitious new art along the Thames Estuary, from Dartford to Whitstable.

Cement Fields invites people to collaborate with artists to encounter, research, make, and exchange views on contemporary art, and broadens access to art by creating learning opportunities for young people to develop imagination, skills and find meaningful pathways into creative careers.

Cement Fields has grown out of Whitstable Biennale, a visual art festival founded in 2002 with an international reputation for developing experimental new work, often giving artists their first commission, and attracting over 70,000 visitors to each edition.

Cement Fields is supported using public funding by Arts Council England, the University of Kent.

www.cementfields.org

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Our Values

- **Exchange** - encouraging and enabling collaboration between colleagues, artists, communities and partners; valuing and respecting expertise, welcoming different points of view
- **Generosity** - committed to being inclusive and accessible; ensuring we provide a warm welcome to all
- **Experimentation** - committed to supporting the creation of experimental, ambitious work; encouraging artists, participants and audiences to explore new ideas and take risks
- **Complexity** - embracing challenge and difference; committed to conveying the complexity of artworks and ideas in accessible ways without losing nuance
- **Resourcefulness** - valuing agile and independent thinking; finding creative solutions

Key Contacts

You will be supported to develop and realise your work by the Cement Fields team. For further information, please contact Nephertiti Schandorf, Learning & Communities Producer:

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