



b-side Festival 2014 - COMMISSIONS and RESIDENCIES BRIEF

Summary

The b-side biennial festival commissions site-responsive work for public spaces in Weymouth and Portland revealing unexpected aspects of contrasting coastal locations and communities.

b-side is offering a number of commission and residency opportunities to create new, temporary, site-responsive work in any media for the next festival in September 2014. The commissions will form the core programme of the festival with artists also contributing to talks and other events.

- All commissions include attendance at an initial residential research week and symposium in October 2013.
- A number of the commissions offer residencies enabling extended research and engagement with the community.
- Awards are for up to **£5500 for commissions** and **£8500 for commissions with residencies**.
- Deadline for applications is **28th May 2013**

The brief

The 2014 festival will take place on Portland. Located just off the coast of Dorset and approached via a narrow causeway, this curious island has a very particular history and ecology offering huge scope for research and inspiration. We are looking for ideas that respond to and reveal all aspects of the island, which may include its relationship with mainland Weymouth.

Applications are invited from artists working across all media; visual art, performance/live art, digital, sound, film, text based work, social media and socially engaged practice.

Proposals for artworks and interventions should be site-responsive and temporary, exploring the fabric, history or contemporary use of the place and aim to intrigue and engage audiences. Work can be for indoor or outdoor locations, made for intimate spaces as well as larger public places or incorporate a route, journey or event. A number of suggested sites are listed at the end of the brief; others will be developed and negotiated in discussion with artists in response to commission proposals. Successful applicants will have access to curatorial support, installation assistance, venue facilitation and help with finding accommodation.

Artists will be selected on the basis of an outline proposal and will then have further opportunity to research and develop the final work. Each commission opportunity includes an introductory residential period in October 2013 allowing the selected artists to research and develop their final proposal. This initial residential period will be an opportunity to get to know the area with talks, walks and introductions to communities and individuals that artists might work with. Artists will have the opportunity for individual exploration of Portland as well as contributing to discussions during a symposium event at the end of the week.

All selected artists will be required to attend and participate in the two day symposium 'Resonant Terrains' hosted at HM Prison The Verne, on the Isle of Portland, 10th to 12th October 2013. This event will bring together artists, curators and those with an interest in the cultural sector, in an enquiry into site-based practice and the role of festivals in the changing landscapes of arts provision.

There are two categories 1: Commissions OR 2: Commissions with Residencies.

- Artists may submit up to three ideas for either category at a range of costs keeping within the maximum amounts stated.
- We expect to commission work across a range of contexts, concepts and costs.
- All commissions offer additional fees for attendance at the initial residential research period, symposium and festival as well as a travel and accommodation budget.

CATEGORY 1: Commissions

Value up to £5500 plus additional expenses

Awards for commissions offer up to £5000 to make work for the b-side festival 2014. This covers artist's fee, materials, production and costs for installation of work. In addition there is a fee of £500 payable to the artist for the introductory research week and symposium and a modest travel and accommodation budget.

b-side expects artists attendance at the 2014 Festival. Past festivals have shown us that audiences and artists get much more out of the experience if the artist is present with their work and able to engage with visitors.

For attendance at the 2014 Festival artists can claim up to

- £500 to cover attendance for 5 days over the 9 day festival period
- A further £300 for installation/de-installation of work

Proposals for work should include a description of the idea including any details of location, site, people, materials, media you expect to be working with or would like to investigate. Also any installation needs technical assistance, maintenance and possible health and safety issues if known. Please state the amount you are asking for and include an outline budget on the application form.

Selected artists will be required to submit a final proposal for work with detailed budget for approval after the initial R&D period.

CATEGORY 2: Commissions with Residencies

Total value up to £8500 plus additional expenses

Artists applying for these awards will make work for the b-side festival 2014, resulting from a period of around 30 days involvement with communities on Portland (Nov 2013 - Sept 2014). These awards allow for extra fees and accommodation costs necessary in building relationships with individuals or communities as part of research or socially engaged practice. The 30 days do not have to be all in one block and can be spread across the R&D period.

Awards for commissions with residencies offer £3000 for the residency plus up to £5000 to make final work for the b-side festival 2014. The commission award covers artist fee, materials, production and installation costs of work with the £3000 covering the extra residential period. In addition there is a fee of £500 payable to the artist for the initial introductory research week and symposium.

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For attendance at the 2014 Festival artists can claim up to:

- £500 to cover attendance for 5 days over the 9 day festival period
- A further £300 for installation/de-installation of work

Proposals for work should include a description of your idea including any details of location, site, people, materials, media you expect to be working with or would like to investigate. Also any installation needs technical assistance, maintenance and possible health and safety issues if known. In addition to describing your idea your application should include an outline of how the residency will inform your work and offer engagement with communities. Please state the amount you are asking for and include an outline budget on the application form.

Selected artists will be required to submit a final proposal for work with detailed budget for approval after the initial R&D period.

How to apply

Application is by email only with proposal supplied as one document in PDF format PLUS completed application form. Your proposal should outline your idea and how it fits with the brief. The application form should include a summary budget giving an indication of costs. Artists may submit up to three ideas at varying costs for either category keeping within the £5000 commission budget maximum. Please complete a separate application form for each idea but include all ideas within the one PDF proposal document.

Please note selected artists will be:

- Required to attend the initial residency and symposium week 8-12 October 2013
- Available for 5 days over the 9 day festival period in September 2014
- Expected to play an active part in audience engagement with their work
- Responsible for transportation, installation/de-installation of their work

Please complete the **accompanying application form** and provide your proposal as **one** document formatted as a PDF to include:

- For category 1 proposals: Commissions - an outline proposal of up to 500 words describing your idea
- For category 2 proposals: Commissions with Residency - an outline proposal of up to 800 words describing your idea and how the residency will inform your work and offer engagement with individuals or communities.
- Any images relating to proposed work if applicable
- A summary of your practice including past work and current projects.
- Images and weblinks illustrating and documenting your current/past work (including sound/film if applicable)
- An up to date CV

Total submission should not exceed 6 MB

Please send your completed application form and proposal by e-mail only to: **proposals@b-side.org.uk**

Please mark your email subject line: **b-side FESTIVAL PROPOSAL** and include your surname in the title of both documents.

Supporting material may be sent by post if required to:

Sandy Kirkby
b-side Festival Producer
The Little Keep
The Barracks
Bridport Road
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1SQ

Please include SAE for return

PLEASE NOTE: PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE, IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS OR WHICH EXCEED THIS LIMIT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Deadline: Applications to be received no later than **5pm on Tuesday 28 May 2013**

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

All shortlisted artists will be notified by 17th June and invited to an interview (via Skype) between 25 -27 June 2013

We regret it is not possible to notify or give feedback for unsuccessful applications

Background Info for Artists

Please see the b-side website for more information on the b-side ethos, the festival and previous commissions and sites go to www.b-side.org.uk

Artists are welcome to develop work for any location on Portland. Places that artists have worked with in the past include:

Chiswell Community Garden
West Weares
The Esplanade and Quiddles café
The Portland Museum at Wakeham
Coastwatch at Portland Bill
Jacksons café - Fortuneswell
Blue Fish Restaurant - Chiswell
Chiswell Cove
Victoria Gardens
Castletown

Further info about Portland

<http://www.dorsets.co.uk/Portland/>
<http://www.portlandmuseum.co.uk/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Portland
http://www.oldukphotos.com/dorset_portland.htm
<http://www.geoffkirby.co.uk/Portland/>
<http://www.isleofportlandpictures.org.uk/Categories/>