

# we the curious

## Make Space: Artist Call Out

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Photo credit: Paul Blakemore



### Co-creating with the people of Bristol

We The Curious is on an exciting journey as we transform our ground floor to create a series of exhibitions based entirely on the questions of people around Bristol. Together we're exploring the city's curiosity through multidisciplinary work. We're on the lookout for a series of artists to join us on this adventure in a project called Make Space - a new participatory exhibition development approach with some of our key community partners.

## Background and Context

We've been travelling around Bristol collecting residents' curious questions that capture what curiosity looks like in the city. The variety of these questions is huge - from big existential ones like "If I took myself apart one atom at a time when would I stop being me" to the quirky - "Do crabs think people walk sideways?" Nearly 10,000 questions have been taken through a rigorous and open shortlisting process to whittle them down to seven that will frame and focus the ideas for our new ground floor exhibits. Each of the seven chosen questions will be explored by a cluster of multidisciplinary, interrelated exhibits. For example "Are we the same person as we were at birth?" could be explored through an interactive topology of cell lives, psychology tests, a theatrical piece looking at cultural identity.

As we begin the design process we've invited key community partners to get involved - Make Space will pair them with creative practitioners to co-design an exhibit to respond to a question and sit within these collections of exhibits. Our aim is to diversify the voices and people engaging with our cultural institution and making creative decisions within it. Make Space is a participatory programme embedded within the exhibition design journey and will act as an opportunity and catalyst for under-represented voices to get involved in science and the arts as we begin unpacking contemporary science issues through exhibition development.

The creative possibilities are very open and we want this to be led by creative practitioners and the groups as much as possible. It could be anything from an interactive object, game or sculptural piece to a dance, song or film. All that we ask is that it fits within a 1.5/1.5m square footprint within the gallery and there is some kind of presence of the piece on gallery (either the work or object itself, or through documentation or design work if it sits elsewhere).



Image credit: Paul Blakemore

### **Community partner's statement:**

For this particular call out we're looking for an artist to work with a Creative Careers group from Creative Youth Network. Creative Careers draws participants from Bristol, South Gloucestershire & North Somerset. The group have developed the following statement for themselves and how they like to work.

**“Creative Careers is a careers development and social group for young people aged 16-25. We want to learn skills and find new ways to express ourselves creatively. It is important for us that we work collaboratively with an artist to explore our responses to our creative question.”**

For this project the group will be developing an exhibit exploring ideas about health and illness. The group are interested in working with visual artists, designers, animation artists or filmmakers. This list isn't exhaustive, but gives you an indication of the areas the group would like to work in on this project.

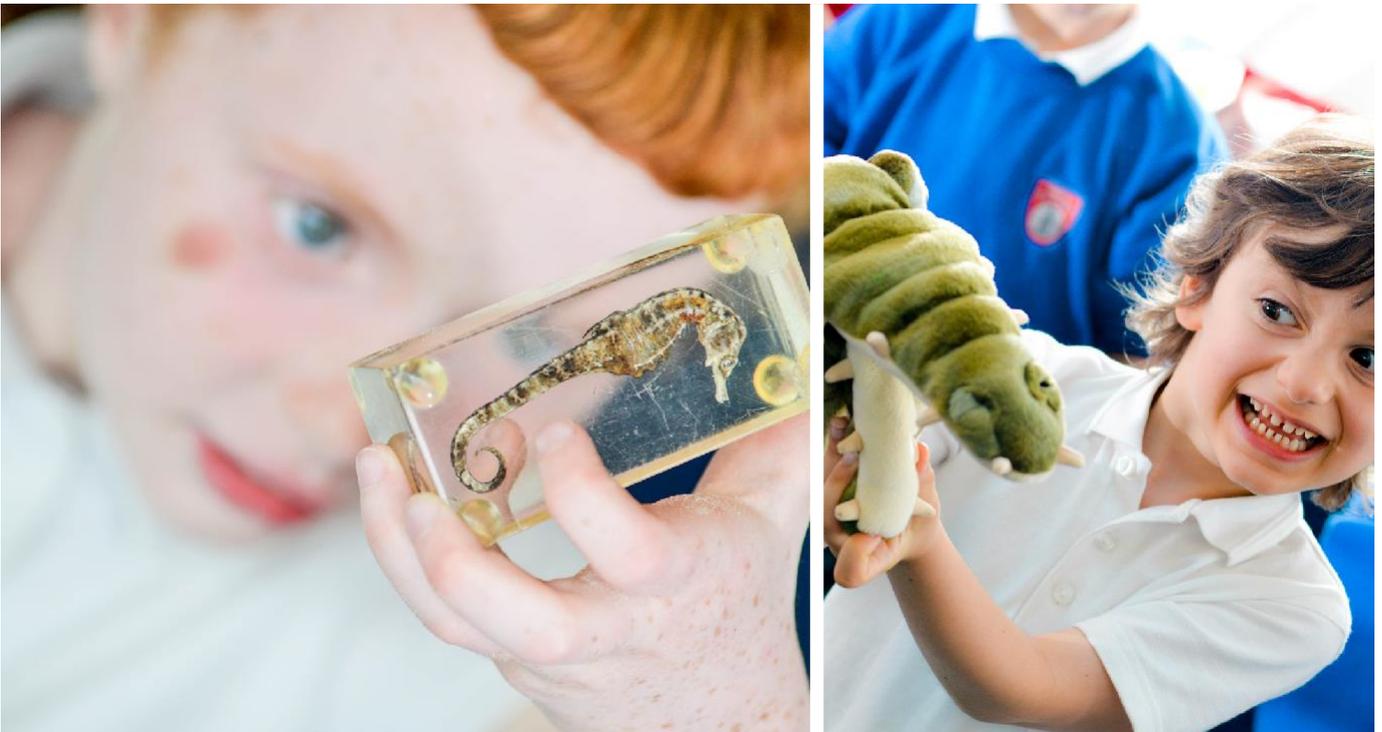


Image credit: Paul Blakemore

## Project Structure

Between January 2020 and March 2020 you'll be connected with the Creative Careers group to develop a piece that responds to one of the shortlisted questions mentioned previously. The Creative Producer from We The Curious and a member of staff from the community partner will be on hand to support you during each of these engagements. The Creative Careers group tend to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, during the day, so it is important you are available on these days to participate fully in the project.

### Key elements of the project schedule include:

#### **Between four and six ideas generation and development sessions.**

Through a series of ideas generation workshops over January and February you'll use your practice and knowledge to work together and unpick the selected question. By the end of this first set of sessions we hope there will be rough ideas for you to begin working with the groups to form a creative response. After this there will be a brief period of reflection before meeting again in February to begin finalising designs.

#### **Two sessions at We The Curious developing and refining ideas with our Exhibitions team and our audience.**

After a brief reflection period after the initial ideas generation we'd like to organise a series of structured development workshops with our exhibition team to help the groups finalise ideas making them functional and relevant for our visitors.

#### **Period of designing and making between March and June.**

Once designs and ideas are finalised there will be a making period building up to final installation of the piece in We The Curious in time for programme launch in Autumn 2020.

#### **Installation party**

What better way to wrap up a project than a celebration! This will coincide with installation of the piece.

## Support

### **Budget**

Total project fee for each artist will be £10,000 inclusive of artist fees, expenses and materials. There will be a separate budget for transport and installation of the final piece.

### **Exhibition and engagement design expertise**

Working alongside our exhibitions team there are opportunities to help shape the work, and tap into their expertise of developing piece for our audience. Throughout the project we'd love to be able to connect you with them as much as possible to share thinking, ideas and designs. We also have a great deal of other in house expertise in participatory work, audience engagement and community partnership to offer.

### **Facilities**

Along with the exhibitions and design expertise we also have an in house workshops team who are open to working with partners should their project require it

## Application process.

**Applications should be sent through in PDF format and include the following:**

- \_ A one page overview of past work with key focus on participatory and community practice.
- \_ Brief 300 words on your motivations to work with this group specifically.
- \_ Any images or links to past work.

Please email your application with the subject title: Make Space – Creative Youth Network to Helen Edwards, Make Space Project Producer, [helen.edwards@wethecurious.org](mailto:helen.edwards@wethecurious.org)

**Application deadline: Midnight Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Shortlisting: w/c 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Interviews in person or via Skype w/c 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, exact date TBC**

**Anticipated start date with the group is from mid-January 2020 onwards.**

Unfortunately we do not have capacity to provide detailed feedback to all applicants.

If you have any questions regarding the process of the project please do not hesitate to contact Will Hunter at [creativeproducer@wethecurious.org](mailto:creativeproducer@wethecurious.org)

