

# Sustainability

## as an Artform

### OPEN CALL

**Are you a visual artist based in the North West of England?**

The Festival of Hope Sefton is looking for a visual artist to help us create and deliver four online workshops with young people based on sustainability and hope.

This is a paid opportunity for the artist to support a group to create a series of sustainable models for an exhibition at The Atkinson.

Deadline: 31st August 2020

Delivery: 7th Sept-7th Nov

To apply please email [seftonyoungproducers@gmail.com](mailto:seftonyoungproducers@gmail.com)



# Open Call for “Sustainability as an Artform”

## Commission Opportunity for Sefton’s Festival of Hope

We are looking for a visual artist from the North West to work with us to create and deliver a series of online workshops with young people based on sustainability.

It is the project’s intention to develop knowledge around sustainability and create a series of models for outdoor spaces (i.e. a park, garden or community space) using household and recycled materials.

## Who are we?

We are Sefton’s team of Young Producers working on a ‘Festival of Hope’. We are organising an online and socially distanced IRL event made by and for young people, encompassing themes of hope and heritage in relation to Sefton. **Sustainability and empowerment** are important themes of our festival; **we want young people’s ideas to be listened to and heard.**

We are leading on a variety of projects aiming to encourage community participation and engage with young people in our local heritage organisation, The Atkinson, culminating in a **Takeover event** on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

For this commission, we would like the successful artist to work collaboratively with the project’s lead producer **Max Regan – a biochemistry graduate** – the team of Young Producers, The Atkinson and Southport Eco Centre to create a fun and rewarding programme of online workshops. It is important that these workshops reflect our messages of **hope, heritage and empowerment.**

## Why?

When Covid-19 interrupted our plans to host a large-scale, outdoors festival event, we adapted our approach by moving our plans online and by thinking creatively about how to platform young people’s creativity and learning.

During lockdown, **nature became more important to us than ever.** We noticed the birds in the sky, how spring turned into summer, how nature made us feel and the sense of quiet without rush hour or traffic. **We want to reflect on this period and think about our impact on nature and how we might change our ways.**

Now, as we are coming out of lockdown, we are hosting a socially distanced **Takeover** of The Atkinson where we will be sharing the outcomes of our work over the last 6 months. We foresee that this workshop commission will be important in **creating quality outputs made by young people to exhibit during the Takeover.**

## Artist Brief

We would like to commission **an experienced artist/educator** to work collaboratively with us, the commissioners, Sefton's team of Young Producers, in partnership with The Atkinson and Southport Eco Centre.

You will be supported by **Max** to co-create the programme for the workshops, where he will share his knowledge in sustainability and recycling. **You are not expected to have a background in science or sustainability – although an interest in this area is desirable.**

We would like the successful artist to co-create a programme of **4 workshops** with us, the Young Producers, which will then be delivered with a group of 14-18-year olds. **The successful artist should have experience in using recycled materials to create models and/or artworks.**

We want the people involved in the project to feel a sense of achievement and explore their own creativity along the way. Therefore the artist should be **skilled in delivering workshops, collaborating with young people and online collaboration.**

**Hope and heritage** – and the artist's interpretation of these themes – must be central to the application and may go so far as thinking about **Sefton's past, present and future**. Especially after the last five months of **lockdown**, it is our priority to reflect the **importance of sustainability** that has been awakened during this time.

## Remarks from Max

“One of the aims of these workshops is to reduce waste by using recycled materials. These materials can be collected from local businesses and individuals involved with the festival.”

## Outcomes

We would like the artist to deliver the following outcomes:

- The development and delivery of **4 workshops** to create sustainable models using recycled materials
- An artwork that responds to the workshops incorporating and crediting all young people involved in the process which will be exhibited at the **Takeover** event on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October until the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Timeframe

1. Deadline for application: **Monday 31<sup>th</sup> August**
2. Designing and planning workshop programme with Max Regan, reporting to Young Producers and festival coordinator: **7<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September**
3. Proposed delivery dates (TBC): **26<sup>th</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> November**

## Support

The artist will report to **Max and Lisa** and **Sefton's team of Young Producers** via the team's email address, who will approve all designs. The group are supported by the Festival Coordinator, Hope Hub lead and Project Producer, who will support the artist as necessary.

If required, volunteers will be recruited to support the successful artist to facilitate the workshops and this will be undertaken in line with social distancing measured informed by the government and appropriate national bodies.

## Desirable experience

- Experience in designing and delivering educational programmes
- Experience of working with young people
- Experience of working collaboratively to co-create projects
- Experience in using recycled materials to create models and/or artworks
- Able to work online and over video calls
- Able to install in a safe, socially distanced manner (guidance will be provided)
- Able to travel to Bootle and Southport
- Have Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance or be willing to obtain it

The chosen artist must be willing to apply for an Enhanced DBS Check. Due to the short time frame, having an up to date DBS check in place would be preferable.

## How to apply

To apply, please send a brief proposal (up to 800 words or 5 minutes if recorded) and a 2-page CV or brief visual portfolio detailing your relevant experience.

Your proposal should include:

1. What you are proposing to do and how it will respond to the theme of Hope and Heritage
2. A description of what you feel you would bring to the project and how your experience supports this
3. How you will ensure that the online workshops are fun for young participants
4. Confirmation of your availability to complete the project in the timeframe
5. A budget breakdown including your daily rate

**\*You may also want to illustrate your idea using 1 image or sketch of what you are proposing.**

Applications can be written, filmed, or audio recorded. They should be sent to the festival coordinator at [emmafestivalofhope@gmail.com](mailto:emmafestivalofhope@gmail.com) with the young producer email address CC'd [seftonyoungproducers@gmail.com](mailto:seftonyoungproducers@gmail.com) in with **Sustainability as an Artform** in the title of the email.

Any questions can be sent to **Max, Lisa and Emma Curd** using these email addresses, who you can also arrange a phone call with via the above emails.

## Artist fee

The budget for this project is: **£1000** (including expenses & dependent on experience). The fee covers all work relating to the project, the artist will work on a self-employed basis.

## Selection process

The commission will be selected through an open call. Artist applications will be shortlisted by a panel of Sefton's Young Producers who will then be in touch to ask any further questions, if necessary, before selecting a final artist. **Applicants will be notified within two weeks of applying.**

## Background for The Festival of Hope and Hope Streets

The Atkinson, in collaboration with Curious Minds and Blaze, is working with a group of Young Producers to create the **Sefton's Festival of Hope** a pioneering festival that places young people at the heart of design, making, programming & production. Follow us on instagram using the following tags: **@festivalofhopesefton** and by using the hashtag **#festivalofhopesefton**

Find out more here: <http://festivalofhope.co.uk/sefton-the-atkinson/> and here: <https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/exhibition/festival-of-hope-2020/>

**The Festival of Hope** is co-produced by **Blaze**, a youth led arts charity that exists to support the next generation of creative producers. Part of a larger project called **Hope Streets**, supported by **National Lottery Heritage Fund** as part of their **Kick the Dust** programme.

