

Introduction

[Live & Local](#) is a Rural Touring organisation and a Band 2 National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) of the Arts Council England (ACE) that works with a range of other funders and partners.

Live & Local contributes to improving the quality of life in rural communities across the East and West Midlands by enabling arts activities through community engagement. Success stems from its partnerships within the participating communities and working with professional artists and a widely skilled staff team and Board. The organisation's greatest asset is a network of approximately 300 voluntary groups from a wide range of rural and other communities, without whose support this activity would not happen as they choose and run the events.

In 2020 as a response to the impact of Covid on the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals Live & Local was awarded funding from Warwickshire Creative Health Alliance to develop Live & Local LivingRoom. This pilot project paired artists with a wide range of different community groups across Warwickshire to remotely co-produce artworks which were then shared in the wider community and across the Live & Local network.

Although this initial project was a response to the Covid 19 lockdown in Spring/Summer 2020, it became evident that LivingRoom presented opportunities for people to participate in arts activities and develop relationships with professional artists (albeit remotely) in a unique and engaging way, regardless of Covid restrictions and social distancing. The success of the 2020 project has meant that we are now rolling out to all the counties across the Live & Local network.

Live & Local are inviting proposals which meet the brief below from professional artists and companies from a range of different artforms, but particularly those who have either worked on the Rural Touring circuit previously or who have a desire to do so in the future. The programme will focus on artists and companies who are based in the East or West Midlands.

The Project

Through a series of micro-commissions, we will engage artists/companies to create bespoke performances for a community with whom they are paired. Live & Local will identify suitable community groups from our network in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and will match them with successful artists/companies.

Community involvement in both the creation of (through research/discussion/consultation or participation) and reaction to the artworks is key to the success of this commission. We want the participating community groups to connect with different people within their community including those who are particularly isolated, vulnerable or need to maintain enhanced social distancing.

Live & Local: LivingRoom will work with different communities with a range of start dates beginning in February 2021.

We will pair each community with professional artists, who might be singer/songwriters, bands, poets, theatre companies, spoken word artists, dance companies or visual artists. The artists will hold conversations and/or workshops or other remote engagements with members of their paired community, and this will be used in the creation of a short work. This might be a series of songs, dance, a short film, a selection of poetry, a storytelling piece, or a physical artwork.

Engagement with the community must adhere to the relevant Covid Safe guidelines and legislation at the time and allow activity to continue during a state of national or local lockdown.

The company/artist will work with the community by accessible and appropriate remote means. This may be through digital applications such as Zoom, but could also include telephone conversations, letters, CDs and DVDs through the post.

The final work will be shared with the community via on-line channels (such as You-Tube or Facebook) and/or in a non- digital format to enable people who do not have access to digital content to also share in the work. This might include a touring book of poetry, DVD or CD of the work or direct story telling sessions by telephone. Whatever the type of work, the intention is for it to involve different members of the community and then be shared as widely as possible throughout the community in a way which complies with the social distancing measures in place at the time.

The Brief

Project proposals should meet the following criteria:

1. Can be delivered (even partially) in a non-digital way for audiences who do not have access to the internet;
2. Are created in partnership with a particular community (where the community are involved/engaged through the creative process) and are as inclusive as possible for those living within that community;
3. Are flexible and can be adapted to some extent to reflect the needs and interests of the community;
4. Can be successfully delivered in-line with social/physical distancing requirements (including for those individuals who are Shielding; and
5. Take no longer than 12 weeks to complete including production and sharing of the final piece.

As these are micro-commissions, we anticipate that the resulting artwork(s) will be relatively small scale (for performances this could be around 10 minutes).

We welcome proposals from the following disciplines/artforms as well multi artform proposals:

- Theatre
- Music
- Dance
- Poetry (written or performed)
- Storytelling
- Comedy
- Visual artworks (including photography, painting, sculpture etc)
- Work for Children & Young People

Proposals should be fully costed (including materials) with an indication of the number of artist days.

The fee offered for successful commissions will be in the region of £700-£900 depending on the individual project ideas.

All commissioned artists will require public liability insurance (£5million) and all successful projects will be expected to be delivered with robust GDPR and safeguarding (including digital safeguarding) policies in place. Guidance on digital safeguarding can be [found here](#).

This brief is fairly open as we hope to attract a range of project ideas from a diverse range of artists and companies.

The deadline for proposals is **5th February 2021 at 5:00pm**. Proposals should be submitted via [our online form](#). We will aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their proposal by **12th February 2021**.

As this project involves pairing artists with communities who are still to be identified, a successful application does not guarantee being paired and contracted.

For more information or an informal discussion, please contact community@liveandlocal.org.uk to arrange a chat with a member of the Community Engagement Team.

Live & Local
Jan 2021