

## Visual Artist/Creative Practitioner – Dorset AONB

Stepping into Nature (SiN) is seeking 2 artists / creative practitioners to deliver the creative elements of the project 'Your Season of Stories' funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The total fee will not exceed £4,000 and is inclusive of all fees and expenses, including materials, essential travel will be

**Deadline for applications Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 noon (12pm)**

## Information for Applicants and Person Specification

The contract is awarded by Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and will run between September 2021 – May 2022. The Creative Practitioner will work as part of the team including 2 lead artists, SiN project staff, external designers, and filmmakers.

This commission offers the opportunity for two artists to co-deliver creative workshop activities and create artwork for a creative resource based on the seasonal memories, traditions and stories gathered during these workshops. This creative resource will be published and widely distributed to help inspire people to create their own seasonal stories.

### Consisting of:

1. **Co-design and facilitate** a series of seasonal and nature inspired community engagement sessions. The main aim of these sessions is to increase social contact, mental stimulation, creative confidence, and connection to nature for older people, people living with long term health conditions and carers. Artists will receive all relevant awareness training for example dementia awareness, delivered by the SiN team, to support them when delivering to our audience, broadening skills, experience, and confidence to engage with a more diverse audience in the future. Each session will be supported by at least 1 core artist and where required, a member of the SiN team.
  - i. 2 x (90 minutes) online sessions for the general public to attend.
  - ii. 8 x (90 minute) online and/or in person sessions for pre-existing community groups
  - iii. 4 x (60 minute) conversation walks for the general public and/or pre-existing groups.
2. **Create** a minimum of 4 own commissioned content reflecting on the seasonal discussions held during the community engagement sessions which will be used in the creative resource (available in print and online).
3. **Co-design and lead in** a minimum of 1 "how to videos" (3-5 minute) to help people watching create their own seasons of stories and to promote the project. A film maker will be recruited to assist in the production of this video.

- 4. Participate and be interviewed** for an evaluation video which will tell the story of the impact of the project. All the sessions will be filmed and documented as evidence will be gathered throughout the course of the project by a professional filmmaker.

## Timeline

Contract period will be 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2021 - 1st May 2022. This will consist of 2 main activity phases:

### Community engagement phase Sept 2021 – December 2021

The commissioned artists will join two core artists to:

- Co-design and deliver all community engagement sessions Sept-Nov 2021
- Work with the core creative team and SiN team to produce the content for the creative resources. All content must be produced by December 2021 to handover to designers.
- Between December and March, the creative resource will go through several drafts until we reach the final version.

### Creative phase March 2022 – May 2022

- Creation and launch of “how to” videos
- Launch creative tool 1st May 2022
- There may be an opportunity for further work with Your Season of Stories to deliver additional workshops using the resource.

### Following your initial contract:

There will be an online public gallery exhibition of work from the engagement workshops from the 1st June 2022.

## Background

### Your Season of Stories

**This is a new social engagement project led by SiN** to gather seasonal memories, traditions and thoughts from targeted communities living in Dorset. We will co-produce, what we are calling, a ‘creative tool’ to help spark connection to nature in others for improved wellbeing.

The project already has two core artists on board who have helped design the project. The core team includes a poet and storyteller and we are looking for two visual, audio or any other media artists to help facilitate and produce co-created content for a creative tool.

This final content will support target audiences that find themselves challenged by the isolation and anxiety. Our target audiences are:

- Older people
- Anyone living with a long-term health condition such as dementia
- Unpaid Carers
- Anyone vulnerable to isolation, loneliness, experiencing low confidence or those that may have limited connection to the natural and cultural landscape.

Stepping into Nature will share the resource to wider communities digitally and as a printed pack, through their website and via partner organisations including Dorset Council to reach the intended audience.

Further background info:

Stepping into Nature - [www.stepin2nature.org](http://www.stepin2nature.org)

Martin Maudsley - <https://martinmaudsley.co.uk>

Sarah Acton - <http://sarahacton.co.uk/>

## **Who is eligible**

### **You will be:**

- A visual artist and working in any media suitable for print and online resources
- Dorset resident or normally work across the County
- Experienced in delivering socially engaged arts
- Responsible individual with commitment to their work
- Have excellent communication skills and ability to work with the public
- Enjoy working as part of a creative team
- Have a commitment to equality and diversity

**We encourage proposals from people currently underrepresented in the arts, in particular, individuals from different ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities, people from the LGBTQ+ community and people from other minority groups.**

## **How to Apply**

Please supply an emailed expression of interest detailing your approach to the brief, your experience working with communities and what you can bring to the project. Please do not exceed more than on the A4 page.

Please also send your CV.

If you have existing examples of digitally available content that you have produced please provide links.

Email your application proposal to: [stepin2nature@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:stepin2nature@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

We will invite short-listed applicants on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> for interviews by zoom on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.