



CULTURE, HERITAGE & ARTS ASSEMBLY.

ARGYLL & ISLES



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



EVOLVE ARTS & TOURISM GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Open call for arts commissions in Dunoon/Cowal, Isle of Bute, Oban

BACKGROUND

The Culture, Heritage & the Arts Argyll & the Isles (CHARTS) is a membership guided body that exists to support, promote, profile, and strengthen the region's arts sector and create opportunities for creative practitioners across all artforms.

Evolve Arts and Tourism will create new programmes of work across Argyll and Bute to help mitigate the socio-economic challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. This will include three area-based commissioned programmes/ residencies, across Dunoon/Cowal, Oban, and the Isle of Bute.

The project will support partnership development and welcomes the potential use of new / underutilised spaces to exhibit / show work. Artists of any discipline may apply with an emphasis to be consumer facing and development of ideas will be supported by a dedicated project manager.

The key aim of this project is to respond to the negative impacts of Covid-19 on our creative communities and demonstrate new possibilities and delivery mechanisms to reinvigorate the sector. This also aims to support Place economy through artists collaboration with colleagues in the hospitality and tourism sector and we will be working closely with Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative to support the success of commissions.

While commissions target named areas, the project in its entirety will also disseminate learning and include virtual workshops and webinars highlighting cultural tourism topics, open to CHARTS members across Argyll and Bute. Successful applicants will be expected to help co-design and contribute towards these events.

The project will be promoted with the CHARTS led Wander Argyll year-around tourism and marketing branding campaign and will be supported by CHARTS Steering Group members across the three targeted localities.

CHARTS is a SCIO registered in Scotland: SC049113

The overall aim of the project is to:

- Generate new collaborative opportunities
- Develop new and/or promote existing work & present in new spaces – commercial tourism and hospitality premises, underused and empty spaces/urban outdoors/rural and natural environments
- Raise profile of artists/collectives taking part and their partnership businesses as appropriate
- Build sustainable relationships with tourism and hospitality providers
- Support and promote the existing ecommerce of successful applicants to assist to build audiences and invite higher earnings
- Maximise use of underutilised spaces/ support hospitality and tourism initiatives coming out of lockdown
- Disseminate experience for the overall benefit of the CHARTS membership via workshops and webinars; increasing peer to peer connections, audience reach, profile & commercial prospects
- Help shape future of cultural delivery across the region and boost the economic recovery of the sector

COMMISSION OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE:

A] Financial Support

There is a commission allocation of up to £9,000 per geographic area to enhance practice and local economy. This may include individuals or arts collectives in each area to develop programmes of work of up to three months in length.

The scale/level of projects to be supported will be based on regional response this open call.

B] Promotional Support

Awardees will:

- Have their work highlighted via the Wander Argyll micro-site linked to Wild About Argyll, supported by the Argyll and Bute Tourism Cooperative and across the CHARTS network.
- See <https://www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk/wander-argyll/>. The micro-site will undergo transformation to highlight bespoke arts commission offers and experiences

- Be expected to make a recorded presentation of their work and take part in regional dissemination event/s to CHARTS members; webinars and workshops
- Be supported by a dedicated Evolve Arts and Tourism project manager, working closely with commission collaborating agencies and CHARTS partner bodies

C] Other Key Factors

The project will include:

- Emerging Artists – further meeting impacts of the pandemic which is known to include young artists returning to Argyll and Bute, the project across the total of the three targeted areas aims to include up to 25% participation by emerging artists, either recently graduated or under 30 years old.
- Removing Barriers to Engagement- locations and venues named in commissions will be welcoming and encourage socially inclusive audiences/response.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- It is expected that all applicants will be members of CHARTS. Membership is free([link here](#))
- This commission opportunity is open to artists and makers of any discipline living in the targeted areas or with collaborators resident in the named areas the project seeks to highlight and in which the programme will take place; Dunoon/Cowal, Isle of Bute or Oban
- Individual artists or small groups of artists may apply for projects lasting *up to* three months
- All applicants must be registered as self-employed and over 18 years of age

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR (Criteria)

Evolve Arts and Tourism is designed to be consumer facing and profile building and was developed from recent member-research where around 50% of participants stated that they depended on tourism/ visitor supported retail for their livelihood.

Commissions for up to three months in duration can take place between **August 2021** until **February 2022**. Please explain why it makes sense for CHARTS to invest during the time you propose for your idea and the impact then for your geographic area e.g., is any other event or festival happening at the same time that your idea might link into.

We want to hear about:

- Proposals illustrating collaborative potential to work with local hospitality / tourism initiatives and/or businesses in ways that would aim to support collaborative creative and tourism/hospitality industries in the targeted areas to survive and thrive
- Your work, your ideas, and how your plans have been impacted by Covid 19

- How proposals would show ambition for partnerships and any impacts you would envisage to last beyond the duration of the project
- Who you aim to work with, as well as how your idea for collaboration has developed
- Did you or anyone named in your application, participate in the cultural mapping project carried out by CHARTS and the Innovation School at Glasgow School of Art during lockdown, or attend associated topic-based workshops or webinars? Please let us know if this has influenced your idea

QUALITY

Selection decisions will be based on written applications, CVs, and supporting images submitted. Clearly written text will help us understand your work and what you are wanting to do. Should you require to make your application in a different format, please contact us to discuss.

Your supporting material / images should be carefully selected and good quality, to show your work. Remember to include titles, dates, materials, dimensions and, where appropriate, the venue the work is shown in.

PLEASE GIVE A CLEAR BUDGET that has a clear plan of how the funds may be used. Make sure the costs of the project are accurate and realistic.

RISK

Due to Covid we are all now used to thinking about risk. We want to know the risks you perceive in your proposal and how you will mitigate them.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHARTS is committed to operating in an environmentally sustainable manner and will work to ensure that members we support do the same. We want to know how you consider the environment in your project.

As a member of the Argyll and the isles Strategic Tourism Partnership Group, CHARTS is working closely with colleagues to particularly address environmental and travel issues. All participants will be asked to adhere to the CHARTS Environmental Policy.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications will go to a panel meeting that will make decisions on who is supported. The selection panel will be made up of invited arts, culture and tourism professionals currently supporting CHARTS projects and without conflict of interest in this project.

In advance of the panel meeting, the panel will read and consider your written application. During the meeting the visual and written material is reviewed and discussed against the criteria. The recommendations for awards are based on these discussions and the final decisions of the panel cannot be changed.

Alongside your application, you must complete an Equalities Monitoring Form. This provides us with essential statistical information about who you are so that we can understand who receives funding. The Equalities Monitoring Form is anonymous and will, be processed

separately from your application. Data is managed confidentially, has no bearing on your application and is processed in accordance with Data Protection laws and GDPR. If you do not know some of the information or if you prefer not to provide it, you can fill in the 'Prefer not to answer' box.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M UNSUCCESSFUL?

These funds are competitive which means that not all applications that meet the criteria will be funded. Being turned down is not necessarily a comment on the quality of your work, but rather the strength of your proposal compared to others being considered.

CHARTS will consider the overall demand for this project in its ongoing delivery and fundraising for future opportunities.

TO APPLY:

Applicants should use the Evolve Arts and Tourism Application Form, which may be typed or hand-written. If hand-written, it should be completed legibly in black ink.

Please forward your complete application to info@chartsargyllandisles.org
Please also contact this address if you need assistance or to book to attend an application support session online. These are being held on **Wednesday 30th June at 12 noon and Thursday July 1st at 7pm.**

Deadline for applications: 6pm, 14th July 2021.

Applicants will be notified by Friday 23rd July on the outcome of their application.

