



Bristol Green Capital Partnership - Just Transition Creative Commission

Introduction

Could the transition to net zero be a once in a generation opportunity to tackle systemic inequalities and improve the quality of life for people locally and globally?

The importance of a 'just transition' is increasingly gaining traction. It recognises that climate action and social justice are interlinked and need to be tackled together. As Bristol, the UK and the world continues to decarbonise, efforts must be made to ensure this happens in a way that improves rather than worsens existing inequalities. Bristol.

Bristol is internationally renowned for its creative sector and this profile brings an opportunity to highlight the issues of climate justice on a global scale. Bristol Green Capital Partnership and the Community Climate Action Project partners believe creativity has an important role in helping make conversations around climate more relevant to people and their lives. Artists and creatives have an ability to engage the public with climate and societal issues in new and different ways. By meeting people where they are at; responding to the issues directly affecting communities and using creative processes that are accessible and connect both with people's hearts and their heads, creativity has the power to inspire more, and more diverse, people with climate and nature action and climate justice.

Commission brief

Bristol Green Capital Partnership would like to commission an artist/creative(s) to explore the theme of just transition as part of our Community Climate Action Project. The commission is supported by the National Lottery Community Fund – Climate Action Fund. The commission will comprise two main elements:

- Engagement with diverse communities across the city on the theme of just transition to codevelop ideas and content (we can support collaboration with the 12 community partners participating in the Community Climate Action Project)
- Development of new, dynamic creative content on the theme of just transition, developed through community engagement, which is sharable and can engage and inspire the wider Bristol community.

Aims of the commission

The aims of the creative commission are to:

- Help make the theme of just transition more accessible / relevant / relatable to a broad audience
- Be rooted in / connect with local audiences in Bristol (especially those who haven't traditionally been involved in climate activism)

- Connect more, and more diverse, people with the climate and climate justice conversation
- Develop engaging creative content on the theme of just transition which can be shared widely through Bristol Green Capital Partnership and partner comms channels for ongoing impact
- Provide an opportunity for diverse local creatives to engage with the theme of just transition
- Enthuse, inspire and motivate climate and nature action within diverse communities
- Positively engage audiences with climate and nature issues on a more creative/emotional level (we'd like this work to look and feel quite different to more traditional climate engagement)

Themes we would like the commission to explore

- The positive opportunity/benefits of combining climate, nature and social justice aims and how they are inextricably linked
- That a just transition is about all of us and includes all of us and we can all be part of the solution (individuals, communities, businesses, decision/policy makers, academics)
- It is the existing (historical) systems, thinking and status quo that has contributed to both the climate and nature crises and social inequality – we need new ways of thinking and new, diverse leadership and insights to create solutions
- Reference to the specific relevance of just transition in Bristol, e.g. the existing deep inequalities, the city's dark history (wealth generated from the city's role in transatlantic slave trade) but also Bristol being a place of progressive environmental and social ideas and a strong desire for change, inclusivity and reasons to be hopeful
- The potential benefits coming from a just transition: community connectivity, sharing, reduce inequalities, health, wealth, nature and hyperlocal benefits for communities

Tone / how we would like the creative commission to feel

- Positive, inspiring and empathetic
- Challenging and thought-provoking
- Inclusive, representative and relatable
- Acknowledging the significant challenges (climate and social) whilst being hopeful about the positive change we can make collectively if we all put our minds and hearts to it
- Exploring the local / global connection
- Connected to our core values of impact, collaboration and courage ([see our organisational vision](#))
- Delivered in line with the [Community Climate Action Project's 'Ways of Working'](#)

Themes we'd like the commission to try to avoid

- Attributing blame to any one specific person or group for the status quo (re. inequality and climate change)
- Dwelling or focusing on the 'sacrifice' required to transition to net zero
- Extreme doom / negativity about the consequences of not acting

- Positioning the challenge of achieving a just transition as insurmountable, impossible or someone else's responsibility
- Misanthropy and eco-fascism (focusing on issues such as overpopulation, for example)

Target audiences

Engagement / co-development phase

The commission should directly and proactively engage with diverse communities across the city during the development phase. Bristol Green Capital Partnership directly collaborate with and can provide links to the following community organisations: ACH, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Heart of BS13, Eastside Community Trust, Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, Bricks Bristol, Hillfields Community Garden, Knowle West Media Centre, Southmead Development Trust, The Vassall Centre, Windmill Hill City Farm and Ujima Radio.

Wider dissemination of creative outputs created

- Local residents
- Local, and regional level decision makers e.g. Councillors, One City Environment Board, local MPs, cabinet members, the West of England Combined Authority, local and regional mayors
- Bristol community groups, community leaders/influencers including faith leaders and representatives of different demographic groups
- Climate and creative sector leaders, networks and organisations locally, regionally and nationally
- Community Climate Action Project partners and funders

How we would like audiences/participants to feel through engagement with the commission

- Galvanised and hopeful about being part of a collective city effort for positive change on climate and inequality
- That just transition is an issue that is important and meaningful to them, their organisation, their community and their city and something they want to be proactive on
- That the experience of being involved felt inclusive, friendly and relatable
- That diverse and representative voices around the table are essential to ensure the transition to net zero in Bristol is equitable and creates positive new opportunities for those who need it the most (and does not simply recreate/compound existing inequalities)
- That everyone's efforts are important and valued, acknowledging that many different people from different communities are doing positive work on climate, nature and climate justice who sometimes aren't credited

Format of creative content generated through the project

We are open to any format of creative content providing it can fulfil the brief and be accessible, including film, photography, spoken word, performance, graphic design, music, craftivism, graffiti, interactive / participatory events and engagements, digital and pervasive media approaches.

We strongly encourage sustainable and ethical practices in the production of any creative content generated in line with our organisational Climate Action Plan and can provide resources and advice to support this.

We are looking for artists/creatives who have

- a passion for climate and nature action and climate justice and some experience of engaging the public and/or communities with these topics
- good collaborative and communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team
- experience of socially engaged creative practice
- the creative and technical ability to produce a high-quality creative outcome to be shared with a wide public audience, live and online
- experience of working with diverse communities in Bristol and beyond on collaborative creative projects
- a current enhanced DBS check and own public liability insurance
- ability to deliver this project effectively on time and on budget, in a freelance capacity (responsible for paying own tax and national insurance).
- willingness to engage in and support monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the creative commission

We are open to working with young and emerging creatives, creative collectives and smaller arts organisations who can effectively work within the management, budget and timescale considerations of the project.

The selected artist/creatives will be commissioned directly by Bristol Green Capital Partnership, who will be the main point of contact and who will provide project management in close collaboration with project partners.

About Bristol Green Capital Partnership

Founded in 2007, Bristol Green Capital Partnership CIC (the Partnership) is a unique partnership of over 1,100 members. Our vision is for a **zero carbon, socially just Bristol where all our communities and nature thrive** and our organisational purpose is to **catalyse collective citywide action towards a zero carbon, socially just and nature-rich Bristol**. We are a small, dynamic and dedicated staff team who co-ordinate diverse projects, events and communications with a broad range of partners and stakeholders across the city. Bristol Green Capital Partnership has organisational experience of collaborating with creatives to engage the public on the themes of climate, nature and community.

Bristol Green Capital Partnership and just transition

The Partnership strongly believes that the transition to decarbonise Bristol and beyond needs to happen equitably, in a way that improves rather than worsens inequalities, that doesn't expect those least responsible for carbon emissions to make the biggest sacrifices, and which creates new opportunities that improve the quality of life for people locally and globally. This view has been strengthened by the last two years of coordinating the Community Climate Action Project with diverse community partners.

- [Read our just transition blog post](#)
- [Read our just transition organisational Statement of Intent](#)

Bristol Community Climate Action Project

The Community Climate Action (CCA) Project is an ambitious, citywide programme funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund. It demonstrates the important role communities can play in achieving the city's climate and nature ambitions,

whilst also improving people's quality of life. These creative commissions form part of the 'creative communications' strand of the project which aims to engage more and diverse people in/with the climate conversation.

- Read more about the [Community Climate Action Project](#)
- Read more about the [creative strand of the Community Climate Action Project](#)
- See more [creative outputs from the Community Climate Action Project project](#)

Key information

Commission fee:

Total commission fee is £10,000 to cover all elements of commission delivery including engagement, development, production, artists fees, communications.

To apply please submit:

- a brief proposal outlining your response to the brief; why you would like to deliver this commission; your suitability to deliver including examples of previous work / clients and a very indicative outline of how you would use the commission budget
- a CV which outlines relevant experience and includes references

Format of proposals

Proposals can be submitted in:

- written format (Max 1 x side of A4/500 words) via email
- film or audio file format (max 5 mins in length) – please submit these via filesharing service e.g. wetransfer (as large files shared by email may exceed our inbox capacity)

Application deadline

To acknowledge that this call out is taking place over the summer when many creatives may be on holiday, undertaking creative work at festivals and events or have additional care/family responsibilities, we have extended the application deadline for expressions of interest accordingly.

Deadline for submissions is 11.59pm on Wednesday 6 September 2023

Please email applications directly to contact@bristolgreencapital.org (email subject ref: JT Creative Commission expression of interest)

Selection process

Following shortlisting in early September, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and partners will invite selected creatives for a short (30 min) informal conversation online with a panel (made up of Bristol Green Capital Partnership staff and representatives of the climate, creative and community sector) before awarding the commission to the most suitable candidate.

Commission timeline

Delivery period: September 2023 – April 2024

- **13 June 2023** - Creative commission opportunity launch at Just Transition Gathering
- **14 June – 6 September 2023** – commission call out open for expressions of interest
- **11.59pm 6 September 2023** – deadline for expressions of interest
- **14/15 September 2023** – anticipated dates for interviews with shortlisted creatives
- **By 30 September** - creative selected, contracts signed, and commission commences
- **1 October – 31 December 2023 (tbc)** - Development and engagement phase
- **1 January – 31 March 2024 (tbc)** – production phase
- **Early April 2024** – creative outputs completed and ready for launch/sharing
- **Mid/late April 2024** – launch and comms campaign to share and disseminate creative outputs

Additional useful links for context/background reading

- [IPPR Fairness and opportunity Just Transition Report](#)
- Dr Alix Dietzel (University of Bristol) [Policy Briefing on Just Transition in Bristol](#)
- [Black and Green Ambassador Programme](#) (co-ordinated by Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Ujima Radio) and [project report](#)
- Climate Promise - [Just Transition and why it's important](#)
- [Bristol One City Climate Strategy](#)
- [Bristol One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#)
- [Climate Outreach - website resources](#)
- [Bristol Climate Hub](#)

This creative commission is kindly supported by the National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund.



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