



# Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival



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## Open Call for Commissions

### 2018 Brief and Guidance

#### About the Festival

**The 2018 Arts by the Sea festival will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October.** It is a 8-day celebration of the arts with a weekend of free outdoor events throughout the town. The festival is focused on programming inclusive and accessible events across a range of disciplines, many of which will be free and unrestricted. The festival is delivered by Bournemouth Borough Council with the support of Arts Council England.

Venues for the 2018 festival encompass Bournemouth's gardens, beachfront and pier, as well as over a dozen small gig spaces, theatres, libraries and cafes which participate in the Fringe. The theme for this year is 'New Frontiers' (details below), which invites artists, Fringe organisers and creative partners to explore the tension between ecology and industry.

#### Call for Artists

The festival is inviting artists to apply to create a commission for the festival. Successful artist applicants will receive funding, publicity around their commission and support from the festival's production team and Creative Producer to realise their idea. This opportunity may be more suited to early career artists, though anybody residing in the UK is eligible to apply. We welcome proposals from artists who wish to develop an existing work.

We are particularly interested in **light art, sculpture and installation work** that:

- 1) **Has sufficient scale and impact in the setting of Bournemouth Gardens or Bournemouth Beach.**
- 2) **Is visible at night, as well as during the day (it gets dark at approximately 18:50 during the festival week).**
- 3) **Encourages interaction and exploration of the work.**
- 4) **References or explores the 2018 theme (though this can be subtle, and is not essential).**

***Please note: applicants are not required to show their work for the full duration of the festival, but may choose to focus on a restricted period of time. We would expect the commission to be shown for at least of one full day + evening.***

## **2018 Theme: *New Frontiers***

Innovations in the realm of digital technology are accelerating. The ‘Internet of things’, the automation of traditional services and the ubiquitous nature of big data have transformed many societies over a remarkably short period of time. Technology is generating tools and solutions in many developed parts of the world, yet it has also created its own unique problems - from cyber-attacks to social media addiction and the dark web. With technology unlocking ever-new potential, while generating many unforeseen challenges, how will technology shape the future prospects of the human species?

The 2018 Arts by the Sea theme will highlight both local and global reflections for what may lie ahead. As the pipe dreams of science fiction begin to parallel modern realities, our visions of the future vary. Some argue that the Internet is now the ‘air we breathe’, and will continue to redefine human civilization as developing countries connect. Others predict the continued proliferation of the digital industries as new innovations, such as self-driving cars and even planes, approach on the horizon. In the longer term, breakthroughs in space travel, clean energy and medicine, and the conquering of illness and even death, seem not outside the eventual reach of humanity.

Festivalgoers are invited to join us in exploring visions for the future through a diverse programme of art in Bournemouth’s most iconic locations. This theme also celebrates the evolution of its host town – a town with ambitions to become one of UK’s top 10 digital technology economies by 2020. Fast-becoming a hotspot for digital innovation, and cited as a critical location for growth in high tech businesses in 2017, Arts by the Sea 2018 will engage with Bournemouth’s growing potential for fostering digital creativity.

Experience Arts by the Sea – taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 - for an intriguing exploration of *New Frontiers*.

## Artistic Use of the Arts by the Sea 2018 Theme.

- The theme detailed overleaf is recommended as a springboard to generating ideas behind your proposal.
- Artists are not required to respond to every element of the theme but may choose to focus on a more specific angle or interpretation.
- The utilization of theme in the proposed work can be subtle or conspicuous. The degree of relevance to the theme is entirely down to the artist.

## Application and Commissioning Process.

Artists are required to complete an online application form and upload the relevant documents to be considered.

All completed applications will be reviewed for award by the panel, and you will be notified of the decision in writing, via email. Unfortunately, due to limited resource the festival is not able to offer feedback on unsuccessful applications.

APPLY HERE:

[2018 APPLICATION FORM](#)

## Commission Levels

Bournemouth Arts by the Sea festival will be awarding three new commissions, to include:

- **1 x lead commission / £3500**
- **2 x supporting commissions / £2500**

**Artists are invited to submit proposals until midnight on April 13, 2018.**

## Commission Application Budget—What to Include

You will be asked to submit a commission budget which breaks down project expenditure. We would expect this to include:

- **Cost of materials**
- **Artist fees**
- **Accommodation and travel**

## Commission Application Budget—What not to Include

While the work is expected to be as self-sufficient as possible, the festival would expect to cover the costs of:

- **Security and stewarding**
- **Power, barriers, safety lighting**
- **Some sound equipment where applicable.**

If you expect your production requirements to be significant, we advise you contact the festival in advance of your application.

## Eligibility

- The commissions are open to all, provided the lead contact is a resident in the UK. This includes early career artists and any form of creative organisations.
- Applicants with additional funding (who are applying for a portion of the cost of a co-commissioned work) are eligible.
- Proposals for developments of existing work are eligible.
- The project must be presented at Bournemouth Arts by the Sea 2018.
- All project expenditure must take place after the panel decision has been formally announced to successful applications.

## Payment

Commissions will normally be paid in two installments:

- 90% at the start date following confirmation of funding and provision of a detailed budget.
- 10% on satisfactory completion of the project and the project self-assessment and evaluation.

## Timescale

- Deadline for submissions - midnight, **April 13**
- Selection of artists to feature in project – **April 30**
- Site visit for artists to assess requirements (where relevant) - **May 14 – June 15.**
- Live Event- **29 September – 6 October**
- Evaluation period – **October/November**

## Documents

Please upload the following documents when completing the online [application form](#).

- 1) Artists CV
- 2) A project outline (with accompanying images)
- 3) Basic risk assessment (you will be asked to provide a more detailed version if selected. Please email [arts.bournemouth@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:arts.bournemouth@bournemouth.gov.uk) if uncertain)
- 4) Budget

## Assessment Criteria

We are looking for high impact, visually engaging pieces that are suitable for the festival environment. We will also be assessing proposals based upon the following factors:

- Is the artistic idea clearly described?
- Will the activity make a strong visual impact on the festival audience?
- Is there a clear and realistic breakdown of budget and expenditure?
- Is there evidence of value for money?
- Has the applicant considered logistical and production issues?
- Are there sufficient human resources in place to deliver the project?
- Does the proposal require the applicant to have a demonstrable track record of delivering similar projects or activities?
- Does the project reflect the 2018 theme?
- Has environmental impact been considered in the design of the work?

## Project Delivery

Each successful applicant will be required to submit a short interim report on a date agreed with the panel (or panel delegate), and liaise with the festival on Health & Safety compliance and production delivery. All successful applicants will also be required to complete a simple form to provide feedback on the project and festival.

The panel can offer successful applicants advice and support during the application process and, if successful, the development of the project, adding to the overall learning experience.

**Contact:** For all enquiries on our arts commissions, please email [arts.bournemouth@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:arts.bournemouth@bournemouth.gov.uk)