

Remembering Together: Co-creating Covid Community Memorials

Collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing,
with communities across Scotland

BRIEF FOR ARTISTS/CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS

Closing date: 9am on 25 April 2022

Midlothian communities, in partnership with [greenspace scotland](https://www.greenspace.scot/), are seeking to commission an artist or creative practitioner with a background in co-creative, participatory practice to work with local groups and communities to co-create a Covid community memorial for the Midlothian area as part of the *Remembering Together* programme.

www.rememberingtogether.scot

1. About the programme

Remembering Together will commission artists in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland to co-create with communities, exploring who, what and how we want to remember and honour all those affected by Covid. Offering a place to connect, to reflect and to create, *Remembering Together* is about creating together, being part of a process to commemorate those who have lost their lives and those who have experienced loss and change as well as celebrating the ways in which Scottish communities have come together during the most difficult times.

Remembering Together is being delivered by greenspace scotland at the request of the Scottish Government.

The project will have 2 phases:

In phase 1, artists/practitioners will be supported with £15k commission to cover fees and associated costs to work with local communities to explore and shape ideas for a creative output that reflects local people's experiences of the pandemic.

It will be the artist/creative practitioner's co-creation and collaboration with community groups and individuals during phase 1 that will inform the creative output to be developed during phase 2. The artist will be appointed in June and will have approximately 5 months to complete phase 1.

Phase 2 will begin immediately after phase 1 and will have 9 months for completion.

In phase 2, funding of circa £100k will be available in each local authority area to realise the project, which may include commemorative gardens, memorials, public or digital artworks, theatre or music performance events, or events in parks, greenspaces or other types of public space. The phase 1 artist will be eligible to apply as lead artist on the second phase, but the second phase could well involve a new artist(s), with the potential for continued involvement of the phase 1 artist.

This brief is for phase 1 only. Lead artists working on phase 1 are likely to have a role in phase 2 of the programme although this cannot be guaranteed, as it will depend on the nature and form of the final works and the availability of additional budget.

The programme will take an inclusive, learning and sustainable approach and is founded on the following 4 values: **relevant, welcoming, aware, honest.**

2. About the Commission

Midlothian communities, in partnership with greenspace scotland, are seeking an artist/creative practitioner working in co-creation or participatory practice in any artform including dance, theatre, visual art, craft, film, live art, literature, poetry, music, and more. This artist/practitioner will have an interest and experience working with individuals and communities with the emphasis on a co-creation approach.

The artist/practitioner will have experience (or be able to demonstrate capacity and commitment to develop their experience) of working in co-creation approaches with diverse communities. The process will need to give space to all kinds of experience within the community, for example, death of loved ones due to Covid, death of loved ones due to other illnesses during the pandemic, and all experiences of change, loss and isolation in other ways. *Remembering Together* will also acknowledge the ways in which citizens continue to support each other.

This process will enable collaboration between artists/practitioners and individuals/groups resulting in the co-production of ideas and creative work in response to participants' interests and experiences. Artists will use their skills in participatory practice to reflect with communities through creative engagement and will document this experience, contributing to a bank of ideas to inform a brief for phase 2 of the project. This engagement with groups will take place with strong safeguarding, data protection policy and risk assessments in place, supported by the partners and greenspace scotland.

The commissioned artists will be committed to co-creation and collaboration. Most important is that the programme is **relevant** to communities, is **aware** of the wide range of experiences people have had, **welcomes** people to co-create and allows those involved to express **honestly** what this time has meant for them.

Midlothian and greenspace scotland recognise the unique skills of artists working in communities and actively encourage proposals from artists with intersectional lived experiences of illness, isolation, rurality, income inequality or social exclusion of any kind.

We particularly welcome proposals from sick and disabled artists, artists of the Global Ethnic Majority, older artists, LGBTQ+ artists and/or refugee/migrant artists.

For further information, contact kim.simpson@greenspacescotland.org.uk.

3. About Midlothian

Midlothian is one of the smaller local authorities in Scotland. It has a population of just over 91,340 (ONS, 2018). It is surrounded by the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. Midlothian is predominantly a rural area.

In terms of its population, Midlothian has one of fastest growing in Scotland with new housing developments throughout the county.

Completed in 2015 and running through Midlothian, the Borders Railway provides great links between Edinburgh, the county's towns and the Scottish Borders.

Midlothian has two Country Parks, Dalkeith Country Park (Bucleuch Estates) and Vogrie Country Park (Midlothian Council). The county also includes much of the Pentland Hills. These locations provide great spaces for local residents to explore the countryside hosting a wide range of activities for local residents and their families and enabling them to 'recharge their batteries' and improve their health and well-being.

Up until the mid-1980's the county was a thriving mining area and this has had a lasting impact even into present times. Midlothian had a range of other industries such as paper making, and gun powder works. More recently, Midlothian has become renowned for its science and technology services located in the west of the county. Newtongrange is the location of the National Mining Museum of Scotland. Other attractions include the Midlothian Snowsports Centre and Rosslyn Chapel, featured in the best-selling book the Da Vinci Code.

As with other areas of Scotland, a diverse range of groups and organisations came together to work to support the community during the Covid pandemic.

Midlothian's Community Councils were involved, playing a central role in the local resilience activities. Third Sector and Social Enterprises took a very active role in community-wide responses complementing the action taken by individual voluntary organisations to support their existing service users. Many Community Development Trusts were active and creative in their responses to needs within their communities.

Local community-led resilience groups provided hot meals, grocery deliveries, clothing parcels, prescription collections, online social and creative activities, and helped to promote other local businesses. Funding was drawn in from the Scottish Government to undertake this work.

Many people, including S5 and S6 pupils, volunteered to assist to support community resilience. There were 515 local community resilience volunteers and an additional 450 who came through the 'Ready Scotland' website but were not able to be utilised.

Midlothian Council will work alongside third sector and voluntary groups to develop its *Remembering Together* project.

For further information about Midlothian, contact Paul Johnson, c11@midlothian.gov.uk

4. Artist/Creative Practitioner Criteria

Artists/creative practitioners applying for *Remembering Together* will:

- Demonstrate a deep understanding or working knowledge of Midlothian and have worked with community groups
- Work with the lead partner organisation and other relevant partners to identify which groups and community members to engage in the co-creation process for Phase 1
- Develop and deliver a programme of interventions/activities to enable co-creation of a community memorial project/set of projects for Midlothian
- Support the evolution of a co-created concept for a local community memorial after the phase 1 engagement period
- Co-create the concept and brief for phase 2
- Work with partners to identify participants who would be interested in moving forward with the project into phase 2, supporting sustainability and community dialogue

- Establish sustainable relationships with key partners and participants, creating a welcoming, safe and positive environment for sharing stories and ideas
- Lead and support a focus of co-creation and engagement, rather than artistic concept
- Provide written, photographic and/or film documentation of the process and engagement
- Participate in the project's monitoring and evaluation process

Your response to the brief must demonstrate:

- A clear understanding of the brief
- Strength of artistic practice and experience of creative community engagement and co-creation approaches, or the potential to develop these skills with the right support
- Proven track record of working in the community with a variety of groups and identification of how to ensure community participants are supported to collaborate throughout the process
- Innovative thinking, inclusive and sensitive approaches for participatory engagement with a diverse range of participants and/or a deeper understanding and knowledge of working with specific disproportionately impacted or hard-to-reach communities
- Time management and organisational skills
- Ability to provide written evaluation, reflection, feedback

5. Decision making process

1. Expressions of interest will be collated and shared with the selection panel
2. The selection panel will assess the expressions of interest against the criteria specified in section 4
3. Once the assessments are collated, the panel will discuss the expressions of interest
4. By 9 May 2022, some of the artists/creative practitioners will be invited to submit a full application before 6 June 2022
5. The same panel will assess these full applications
6. Some of the artists/creative practitioners will be invited for an interview on 20 June with some of the panel members
7. The artist/creative practitioner will be appointed by 22 June

The selection panel will include:

- Paul Johnson, Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability from Midlothian Council
- Kim Simpson, *Remembering Together* Programme Manager, greenspace scotland

- Members of the reference group in Midlothian

6. Resources

£15,000 is available for the Phase 1 commission to cover fees, associated costs and irrecoverable VAT.

Artists/creative practitioners with access requirements will be supported to apply for Access to Work (AtW). Each area will also be supported with up to £5,000 to address access barriers, with a focus on removing barriers for participating communities and artists who have requirements that do not qualify for AtW.

7. Timescale and Milestones

31 March 2022	Call for expressions of interest open
25 April 2022	Call for expressions of interest close
4 May 2022	Review and short-listing
9 May 2022	Short listed applicants contacted to submit a proposal
6 June 2022	Deadline for proposals from short-listed artists
13 June 2022	Proposals reviewed by Local partner, greenspace scotland and advisory groups
20 June 2022	Interviews with short-listed/selected artists
22 June 2022	Artist selected
4 July 2022	Co-creation period with communities
November 2022	Phase 2 open for proposals

8. Responding to the Brief

To apply for this opportunity please send an expression of interest by 9am on 25 April to kim.simpson@greenspacescotland.org.uk .

Your Expression of Interest should include:

- A CV and/or Statement of Practice - if applying as a creative team, provide information for each individual with their role and how they would contribute to the commission
- A written proposal (max 2 sides of A4) or a video/voice recording (max 5 minutes) on how you would approach the project and the co-creation phase
- Information about any relevant past commissions or projects that you think demonstrate how your practice fits this brief

Following assessment of the Expressions of Interest, shortlisted applicants will then be asked to submit a full proposal. Guidance and brief will be provided to help the shortlisted artists to do this.

Contact and enquiries to:

cll@midlothian.gov.uk or kim.simpson@greenspacescotland.org.uk