

Commission & Call-Out for Age Against the Machine: A Festival of Creative Ageing in Lewisham

If you would like to talk about the information in this pack, or have any questions, please phone Linda: 020 8692 4446 (extension 266) or email programming@thealbany.org.uk

This pack contains information about two opportunities for artists, companies or organisations, including:

- Information about the commission
- Details of how to apply
- What happens next?

The Albany is a performing arts centre in Deptford, South East London. We believe in involving people, through participation and partnerships, and are a hub for the arts and community. We present a huge range of events and opportunities each year, across artforms and for all ages.

Explanation of some important words and phrases in the pack:

Commission: money and support given to an artist to make a piece of work for a venue, which fulfils a set of criteria for the venue (for example: theme, length, style, location etc)

Age Against the Machine: this is the name of a 3 week festival of creative ageing which will take place across Lewisham in September and October 2019. The festival aims to change the way people think about ageing, through arts and culture. There will be lots of different types of events during the festival. The Albany are producing the festival, in collaboration with Entelechy Arts and on behalf of Lewisham Council.

Performative: Project or piece of work which has a performance-based outcome (so something involving performance rather than an exhibition or book, for example)

Site-Specific: Designed to be performed in a specific place, for example a specific park or building. Usually somewhere different to a traditional performance space. For example, people have done site-specific shows in car parks, community centres, swimming pools and sheds.

Older: in this case, we are referring to people aged 60+

We look forward to hearing from you.

Information about the opportunities:

In Autumn 2019, the Albany and Entelechy Arts will produce Lewisham's first Festival of Creative Ageing 'Age Against the Machine', funded through the GLA's Borough of Culture Cultural Impact Award.

The Festival will transform how audiences and participants think about ageing. It will highlight the surprising and the unexpected, with bold and challenging creative responses to the subject of ageing. It will explore the theme of care as we get older, and celebrate ageing over 60 and the work of older artists.

It will feature work across any and all art forms; music, theatre, spoken word, circus, film, cabaret, participatory arts, and of course work that doesn't fit into those boxes. Events will take place all across Lewisham, including the Albany, the Broadway Studio, Trinity Laban, churches, community centres, care homes, schools, outdoors and beyond.

There are two different opportunities to apply for:

- 2x £2,500 commissions for artists, companies or organisations to create and showcase **new work** during the festival.

OR

- Pitch an existing project or show that fits the brief below to be considered for the festival programme. A financial deal will be offered for this, which will vary depending on the scale and type of work.

There is a small access budget, in addition to the above, available if needed.

What are we looking for?

We are interested in hearing from artists, companies and organisations who may have work which fits the brief below. All work should have a performative outcome in Lewisham during the festival.

We're particularly interested in work which:

- Is made by and/or with older artists
- Is site specific in Lewisham particularly in South Lewisham, or could be suitable for the Broadway Theatre in Catford
- Can be taken to older audiences who might not have access to other festival events
- Is specifically designed to take place in care homes (ideally 3-4 different care homes)
- Has audience and/or community engagement woven in

The festival will take place from 13 September – 6 October 2019. We can be flexible within these dates about when you can present your work, but if selected we will need you to commit to dates quickly.

The successful artist, company or organisation will receive:

- £2,500 commission fee if applying for the commissions **OR** a financial deal for the work if pitching an existing project
- Rehearsal space
- Producing support from the Festival Producers
- Marketing support from the Festival Marketing Team
- Your show or event programmed as part of Age Against The Machine in Autumn 2019, including venue and all technical support if needed (within reason)
- A small access budget if required

For the commission, we are open to projects and shows that can be delivered for £2,500, and also to projects and shows which intend to use the money to find match funding to make something bigger.

The Albany building is fully accessible and we would be happy to discuss any access requirements at any stage of the process – contact linda.bloomfield@thealbany.org.uk with any questions.

Deadline for Applications: 9am on 1 April 2019

How to apply

If you think this is an opportunity for you, please send us the following details:

- Your name, and the names of any proposed collaborators.
- A short paragraph about you (for example: the sort of work you like to make, what inspires you, and some things you've made or performed before).
- Some examples of your work. You do not need to include a CV, just a few links to your work online will do, for example videos or portfolios.
- Your idea, clearly explained. If you'd like to include a mood board, images, or links to other relevant work this is helpful for us to imagine what you're describing.
- A basic budget for your idea. For the commissions, breaking down how you will use the commission money **OR** for the pitch, an idea of the financial deal you'll need to make it work.

You can answer the questions in different ways:

1. In writing – you can write a document up to two pages of A4 long
2. By making a short video recorded on a mobile phone – you can record up to 5 minutes
3. By recording an audio file on a mobile phone – you can record up to 5 minutes

If you are applying using video, please upload to YouTube or Vimeo as private or unlisted, and send us the link. Remember to include the password, if there is one.

Send your application back with the document or with a link to the video or audio file either by email to programming@thealbany.org.uk with one of the following subject lines:

- If applying for the commissions: **AATM COMMISSION APPLICATION**
- If pitching an existing project: **AATM PITCH**

If you prefer, you can send your application by post to: Linda Bloomfield, The Albany, Douglas Way, Deptford, London SE8 4AG. Or drop it into our box office in person if you're local.

The deadline for applications is 9am on 1 April 2019.

What happens next?

When we have received your application we will contact you to let you know that we have received it. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of four people, who will select a shortlist of candidates for interview.

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to come for an interview in April 2019. We will send you all the information you need to prepare in advance and ask you if you have any access needs.

We will let also let you know if you have not been selected for interview.

Good luck!