



Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon

Artist commission

Uist & Barra

About this brief

This brief provides details on the overarching Climate Beacon project as well as a specification for artists/creative practitioners to respond to, for delivery in Uist & Barra. It also includes information on how to submit proposals and the associated deadline.

Background

The Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon is a collective and network of arts, heritage, community, environmental and third sector organisations, located in the Outer Hebrides, established to create a programme of public engagement focused on climate change and developed with community collaboration at its core. This programme aims to engage and inspire a diverse range of inhabitants in the Outer Hebrides, including its most remote communities. This engagement seeks to learn about the climate change impacts as expressed by rural and island voices in the Outer Hebrides, in order to collectively begin planning for a region wide process of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Climate Beacons for COP26 is a Scotland-wide collaborative project between climate change or environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead-up to and following COP26. Seven hubs known as 'Climate Beacons' are taking form in Argyll, Caithness & East Sutherland, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, the Outer Hebrides, and Tayside. Bringing together shared resources and knowledge from cultural and climate organisations, the Climate Beacons provide a welcoming physical and virtual space for the public, artists and cultural sector professionals, environmental NGOs, scientists and policymakers to discuss and debate COP26 themes and climate action specific to each local area.

The Climate Beacon aims for this work to achieve the following outcomes:

- 🌍 Ensuring rural and island voices are heard and are at the core of climate conversations.
- 🌍 Ensuring contemporary socio-political conversations around climate change are established.
- 🌍 Working collaborative relationships are established between the artist and environmentalists or climate scientists.
- 🌍 Working collaborative relationships are established between the artist and distinct communities in the Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris).
- 🌍 Improved community resilience through a more diverse and sustainable creative economy that has collaboration and co-curation at its core.

Taigh Chearsabhagh Artist Commissions

As part of the Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon partnership, Taigh Chearsabhagh, in collaboration with Ceòlas, and Cothrom/ReStore, are looking to commission artists to collaborate with local communities and businesses to conduct experimentation with waste materials - wood, plastic, wool, glass, and textiles - to develop skills and methodologies and illuminate existing practices and strengthen the 'make do & mend' culture (obsolescence avoidance) that has historically been and continues to be prevalent in the islands

Woodworking

We would like to engage 1 woodworking maker/artist to deliver a number of workshops across North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and Barra.

This project will aim to develop skills in the local community around woodworking, restoration, renovation and upcycling, developing methodologies and prototypes to use waste timber in combination with recyclable furniture to enable future development of sustainable projects where local people can utilise acquired skills working with shared resources in existing and proposed 'community shed' resources and facilities across Uist and Barra.

This project will take place during January - April 2022. We anticipate up to 8 workshops being delivered during this period across Uist and Barra. There is an artist fee of £2,000, with additional funds to cover travel/subsistence costs and materials available.

Plastics/wool/glass/textiles

We wish to also engage 4 (locally-based) artists to each undertake a period of material experimentation in the above materials categories, researching locally available waste or near-obsolete resources, developing suitable methodologies and prototypes to reuse, recycle, and upcycle otherwise waste materials and deliver a series of workshops to disseminate the results across Uist.

These residencies would also take place January - April 2022. We anticipate awarding four residencies with an artists fee of £800 each. Each artist will be expected to deliver three workshops.

A small budget for travel and materials will be available for each residency.

There will be an opportunity for artists and others involved in the project to contribute to an exhibition of work in progress in January /February 2022 in Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre

Proposal – How to submit

Interested artists/creative practitioners are now invited to submit proposals for this opportunity. Proposals should include:

A project summary describing the following:

- Project idea
- Source materials
- Methodology – how will the project be delivered?
- Timeline and milestones for delivery

A detailed CV for the artist/creative practitioner leading the project.

A written summary of all skills, experience and track record relevant to this project. Please feel free to also

add any links to film or media demonstrating relevant track record.

Deadline for submissions: Monday 1st December 2021

Contact details for any questions: andy@taigh-chearsabhagh.org

Please send completed proposals to andy@taigh-chearsabhagh.org by 5pm Monday 1 December.

Criteria for assessment

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the artistic/creative project proposed.
- Sustainability
- Track record of the artist/creative practitioner.