

Pier PROJECTS

Open Call, Artist in Residence Commission Brief 2023

On Convalescence _with, together, jointly

Pier Projects Art Agency are looking to commission an artist to work as an ‘Artist-in Residence’ that will challenge how we can conceive, develop and deliver our work with artists and communities: what we do, who it is for and how we do it.

This is an experimental period of research, consultation, organisational and audience development that marks the end of Pier Projects fifth year since launching its work - which is dedicated to and inspired by the Suffolk coastal and port town of Felixstowe. 2023 is intended as a period of reflection, refinement and reimagination. It will include public-facing events and a workshop.

This residency offers the opportunity for an artist to play a key role in shaping the future of Pier Projects: a small, visual arts organisation committed to ambitious and experimental ways of working and exploring connections between contemporary art, health and our context on the coast.

We are particularly interested in hearing from artists who identify as neurodiverse .

On Convalescence _with, together, jointly

On Convalescence is a programme of research, events and creative collaboration.

Through a series of happenings and public events, it offers time and space to collectively reflect on what we need as individuals and communities to ‘thrive’.

Thematically, the programme explores ideas of slow recovery, recuperation and repair, recalling the history of The Bartlett Convalescent Home that opened in Felixstowe in 1926 to offer rehabilitation from illness by the sea. It also marks five years since Pier Projects was established and the shifting context it has operated within, a period of reevaluation and redefinition.

The programme will consider ways in which the platform of an arts organisation can create new opportunities for artists and communities to creatively and critically participate in

debates about individual and collective wellbeing, forge new ways of working and imagine new possibilities. It asks: how can we better respond to the challenges we face locally amidst global turbulence.

With the pandemic challenging experiences and understandings of the presence and absence of health and relations between one another and our environment, guiding questions include, how can this interdependence be harnessed for positive ends? What new, collaborative approaches and methodologies can we enact?

This process is open to all to share local knowledge, experiences, to discuss and look forward- in order to strengthen and rehabilitate. The thinking and learning will be public and embedded in how we approach our projects in the future.

** Please note: this text may be subject to revisions and editing as the process evolves.

Programme Details and Events:

Studio Socials: a series of four online artist talks that open out the thematics of 'On Convalescence' with artists whose work explores issues of reconciliation, repair and justice.

First event: Studio Social with Dana Olărescu

Tuesday, 21 March 2023, 19:00 20:00

Dana Olărescu a socially engaged artist with a focus on challenging minority exclusion and environmental injustice.

Artist in Residence: working alongside to directly shape the thinking, practices and programmes.

Artist Support Sessions: free one-to-one support sessions lasting one hour offering advice or feedback on whatever you feel your practice needs at the moment.

- sounding board?
- connections or signposting?
- portfolio advice?
- new opportunities - where next?

They are open to all but you are encouraged to visit our website to see if our approach may have the connections / synergies that would be most useful to you

WHERE? Online

WHEN? flexible over the next few months. We will endeavour to offer suitable timings around artists' other responsibilities and commitments.

HOW? Email natalie@pierprojects.org outlining your interest, questions, ideal timing and any access requirements.

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Seasonal Socials: in-person get togethers to enable free discussion around a common table

The Residency Brief

On Convalescence will challenge Pier Projects to work in new ways and is committed to opening out these conversations. Shifting its existing commissioning model, rather than supporting a contemporary artist to create a new artwork, we want to share this journey with an Artist in Residence and acknowledge the intrinsic value that artists skills, experience and knowledge can shape the world.

The Artist In Residence will help us interrogate our approach, examine the core values with which we work and shape the events programme. This work will be done in direct collaboration with Pier Projects Director / Curator, alongside our Critical Friend and with communities and peers.

This role seeks to acknowledge the complex and nuanced dynamics of artist-audience-place-organisation and is conceived as an invitation to an artist to share their skills as a sounding board, facilitator, caretaker and critical friend.

The aims and objectives of this Residency include;

- To understand how Pier Projects can better serve artists locally and nationally
- Offer more inclusive ways of working and embed better practices, procedures and policies in future commissioning and partnership working
- Learn more about challenges facing artists whose practice is socially engaged and / or co-creative in approach
- To support Felixstowe communities to have a confident voice in shaping the creative offer of the town
- Support the development of Pier Projects networks.
- To enable the artist, Pier Projects and the public to consider the political as well as social meaning of 'health' in new, critical directions
- To support Pier Projects to explore new ways of working more collaboratively with Felixstowe communities and open-up new pathways to cultural decision-making processes
- To develop current research and curatorial areas of interest in
 1. Health and wellbeing - holistic approaches to mental, physical and social wellbeing
 2. Climate change/ nature– environment and people (human impact/geology/erosion/ sea level rise) Land use (agriculture/food production/growing/gardening/mineral extraction/settlements)
 3. Migration (historic, current and future movement)
 4. Public Space.

The exact duties and areas that will be explored will be determined in collaboration with the Artist In Residence but is likely to include:

- Exploring Pier Projects mission and vision
- Seeking feedback from peers
- Developing a Code of Conduct, Partnership Working Agreement and Access Rider
- Feeding into organisational values
- Collaborating on developing and delivering a public workshop
- Shaping talks programme
- Acting as an Ambassador for Pier Projects

We are looking to work alongside an artist who can show some of the following qualities, skills and interests:

- Experience of collaborative ways of working
- A demonstrable, ambitious and inclusive social practice
- An interest place-specific working
- An interest in critical connections between contemporary art and health
- A desire to explore artist-audience-organisation dynamics
- A commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion in the arts
- A desire to test new ways of working and challenge commissioning models
- Experience of working with communities, listening and responding to their unique needs and aspirations
- A strong vision that enables opportunities for creative risk-taking
- A flexible and responsive approach
- An interest in Pier Projects' curatorial approach and the town of Felixstowe

About Pier Projects

Pier Projects is a visual art inspired by and working within the coastal town of Felixstowe in Suffolk. It was founded in 2017 and was formed to explore interests in and connections between art, health and wellbeing and public space.

Taking the town of Felixstowe as its primary source of interest and inspiration, our programme draws on its heritage, history and contemporary context to ensure our work is relevant to its location. Over the last two years, our work has responded to ideas and research around 'blue space': the notion that being near or on water is good for physical and mental health.

Operating without a building, we develop and deliver our work in collaboration with other arts, culture and heritage organisations in the town through a model of 'borrowed infrastructure'. This enables the organisation to maintain a low carbon

footprint, be responsive to changes in need and the sector and put public engagement at the centre of the work.

Our programme focuses on the following work:

Artist Commissions

We commission emerging and mid-career artists to develop projects beyond the gallery, where we believe the impact of art to be most potent.

The programme tends to be curated but we have worked with artist through Open Call and working with a community-led arts panel.

We are open to proposals that reflect an interest in the town and our curatorial focus.

Creative Collaboration

From 2017-22 we worked in partnership with Level Two Youth Project to develop co-creative skills, education and confidence with children and young adults.

Our work included commissioning artists to deliver workshops and offering a blend of arts, health and wellbeing activity. Level Two now offers Arts Award and we are scoping how we can work slowly and longitudinally to support other groups in Felixstowe.

Artist Support

We support artists through 1-1 mentoring which was first instigated during the first lockdown.

We also run a programme of artist-led talks (Studio Socials) and events (Slow Socials) to aid knowledge-sharing and networking.

Pier Projects is a registered CIC, operating as a not-for-profit.

How to apply:

Please submit one PDF file (3 sides max.) titled LastName_FirstName including:

1. CV to include any relevant examples of relevant past work and details of two referees
2. Outline your interest explaining;
 - i) Why you would like to be considered and how your experience is appropriate

Please refer to specific past projects that are relevant and why this opportunity is for you. We encourage you to read and refer to the Aims of the Residency and Artist Experience section carefully.

This can be done via either

- via written statement (in no more than 800 words- you do not have to use all the wordcount and bullet points are fine)
- short video (less than four minutes please). If you are choosing to submit a video, please additionally add 1 page document including a CV.

Please submit your application to nataie@pierprojects.org with the 'Subject Line 'Open Call- On Convalescence'.

If you are submitting a video, please send via WeTransfer, titled with your full name

Deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 14 April**

If you need additional support to apply or if any of this application procedure provides a challenge, please get in touch.

Selection Process:

Artists' submissions are reviewed and shortlisted by Pier Projects in the first instance.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to a short, informal discussion online with Pier Projects Director/Curator supported by a Critical Friend. Following these conversation, a decision will be reached.

Artist Opportunity and Fee

The artist will be supported by and working directly in collaboration with Pier Projects' Director / Curator.

The Artist will receive a fee of £2,500 including a travel expense. This is likely to include 2 trips to Felixstowe. Additional budget for access costs is available.

The commission is not expected to be full-time, nor consecutive days but the artist is expected to commit to offering 10 days of their time across the residency period, the majority of which will be through online meetings and remote working.

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

All unsuccessful applications will be notified at earliest opportunity.

Our Commitment to Widening Opportunity

Pier Projects is committed to supporting artists, making new work. We understand the complex juggling acts of practicing artists and will endeavour to work flexibly.

For transparency and to support artists who participate in the process of making an application, Pier Projects will also be offering short feedback via email on all submissions.

Key dates:

- **March 2023:** Applications open
- **Friday 14 April 5pm:** Applications close
- **Monday 17 April:** Shortlisted artists notified
- **Monday 24 April:** Informal conversations with shortlisted artists
- **Wednesday 26 April:** Artist notified and commissioning process begins
- **Early July:** Public facing workshops in Felixstowe
- **Mid August:** Residency Period Ends

Key Contact Information:

www.pierprojects.org | Director / Curator Natalie Pace, natalie@pierprojects.org | @pierprojects