

Artist Alumni Opportunity

**FUTURE'S
VENTURE**



Selecting the next round of artists for funding

Background

Future's Venture Foundation has a limited life span. From our first round of funded artists we had always intended that we would only exist for 7 years, in an attempt to try new ways of supporting artists and their work. Crucially for the fund, the work would respond to our manifesto, and key aims:

- ✚ Changes the dominant social, environmental, economic and political narrative
- ✚ Maintains a radical voice and focuses on content and process rather than 'outputs', 'outcomes' and 'impact'.
- ✚ Explores methods of genuine participation without compromising the autonomy or integrity of the artist
- ✚ Intends to make a difference: a positive contribution to society, the environment and culture
- ✚ Promotes sustainable living, rather than sustainable development
- ✚ Listens, responds and reflects
- ✚ Is not subject to the limitations and coercions of public and most other funding agencies
- ✚ Maintains a dialogue for futures thinking, exploring the potential to work between, across and beyond all creative disciplines
- ✚ Seeks partnerships, collaborations and networks
- ✚ Adopts adaptable processes and forms of engagement appropriate to the needs of the situation

We actively encourage artists who perhaps would find securing funding elsewhere, or have no track record with funders, or were producing work that was necessarily challenging mainstream dominant political, social or environmental issues.

Each round of funding we have delivered, has changed in approach, to better reflect the needs of the artists applying, and to enable us to try new methods of application and support. We have always held the value of that support near, with the addition to artists of mentoring alongside funds, and opportunities to connect with our wider Advisors and networks. It has always been our intention that this network would grow through our alumni artists, and that we would be in a position to secure the input of you all in rooting out future artists to fund, who were perhaps overlooked, or doing amazing work with no access to funds, or early career, or indeed late career change.

We are now approaching our final year of funding, which will be 2020/2021. It is our last chance to work in a new way, and engage with our alumni to help us reach to new networks, identify areas of art not yet funded and work in areas not yet reached. To this end, we are now wanting your input. This last year we really want to push the idea of the Artist Alumni advisor role, i.e., that you will take the role of searching out and helping support applications from artist that are challenging the status quo, who may not access funding or who you think are doing cutting edge work. This is a limited offer, as our resources are limited, but, we hop an exciting one that some of you may come on this journey with us.

The Charity and our Work

For context of who we are, and to enable you to make an informed decision before joining this process, we thought you'd like to know a little more about us directly, beyond the contact you have had as an artist, which is important to how you may operate if you become and Artist Alumni Advisor.

Objectives and Activities

Future's Venture is a small Charitable Trust established to provide funding to artists/creatives to develop and deliver challenging and radical works that intend to make a difference and positive contribution to society, the environment and culture. Our objectives to this end are:

- ✚ To promote and advance the arts for the benefit of the public by the creation of new works of high quality art including but not limited to visual arts, performing arts and arts using digital technologies
- ✚ To advance education in the arts and freely disseminate ideas advancing high quality arts practice

Purposes and Aims

It is the Trust's intention at this stage to exist for a period of 7 years, or until funds are diminished. The Trust is built around a set of core values that all Trustees agree to. We provide funds for artists who are looking to achieve our core aims:

- ✚ Maintaining a radical voice, focusing on content and process, rather than 'outputs', 'outcomes' and 'impact'.
- ✚ Changing the dominant social, environmental, economic and political narrative.
- ✚ Exploring methods of genuine participation without compromising the autonomy or integrity of the artist.
- ✚ Intending to 'make a difference' – a positive contribution to society, the environment and culture.
- ✚ Promoting sustainable living, rather than sustainable development, that is financially viable.
- ✚ Listening, responding and reflecting.

Attendees at FVF
Weekender



The Role of the Artist Alumni Advisor

The Artist Alumni role is to research, identify and support applications to the fund from artists who align with our core Manifesto, who may additionally be:

- ✚ Young or older artists starting out on their journey as an artist, and not yet having a track record with funders.
- ✚ Producing work that is challenging in accordance with our Manifesto aims, of dominant political, social and/or environmental issues
- ✚ Based in an area of the UK that we have not previously managed to secure artists in (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, rural areas of the North and South of England)
- ✚ Producing work that is least likely to be funded by mainstream funders

In this respect, you will follow the process of Head Hunting, that which your own advisor/sponsor/trustee followed in identifying you for the fund. You can identify as many artist as you want, but you are then responsible for whittling this down to one artist that you feel best encapsulates the above to pitch for funding, in the way you did. This means supporting them to write their 2-page brief, which should include a guide budget. Or a short video blog presenting the idea with a short written budget.

Funds for Artists and Artist Alumni

Unlike your own project, the money we are allocating for each pitch in this instance is **£2,500**, and we can accommodate a maximum of 10 Artist Alumni selecting one artist each. If you have more than one artist and want to give smaller amounts that total £2,500, you can do this, but each has to provide the same detail of information as listed above, in the 'Role of Artist Alumni' section.

To support you in your process of researching, identifying and supporting your artist/s, there is up to **£1,000** to cover your expenses, such as travel, meals, accommodation (if required) and drinks/space to meet with your artist/s. This sum is allocated on an expenses basis, and you will be expected to claim the expenses using our expense form. If the amount is a high sum, we can in some cases advance payments, with prior discussion and approval from the Trust Administrator and Finance Manager, Alison Surtees and Cathy Brooks.

Additional Support for Artist Alumni

We recognise that this may be new territory for some of you, and want to ensure that you feel supported to engage in this process if you decide to move forward. We are currently organizing training and other development opportunities (you will all have received your selection matrix for these). For those wanting to take on this role, we would expect you to do the training on mentoring, which would support you in your work. In addition, you will also be supported by either a Trustee or Advisor, who will be nominated to you once you are ready to go.

As always, you will receive support internally from both the Alison and Cathy.

Next Steps

If you are interested in applying to become an Artist Alumni, and identifying our next round of artists, please express your interest to Alison Surtees by November 8th 2019. If we receive more than 10 applications to take on this role, we will instigate a selection process, based on your engagement with us as funders over your time as a funded artist, and input to reflections on your work and active participation in our weekender. We felt this is the fairest way of assessing suitability, as the role is based on commitment to not only the ethos of the fund, but to the artists we want to support.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Alison Surtees almaisnproducers@gmail.com for advice.

Funded artist, Nathan Geering
Sound Artist, Anne Bean
Funded Artist Matt Stevenson of
Nova Productions

