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MINING LANDSCAPE

a project of Aune Head Arts

with The Eden Project, The Heartlands Project and Tamar Valley AONB
supported by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Office and The National Trust

Artist / Oral Historian Brief

About the project

This is an arts and heritage project exploring the mining and tourism traditions in Cornwall and West Devon. We are working with three partners: The Eden Project and The Heartlands Project in Cornwall, and the Tamar Valley AONB in Devon, and two supporting organisations: the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and the National Trust.

As well as setting up a working partnership with the above organisations, Aune Head Arts (AHA) is commissioning three artists and one oral historian to work with people and places outlined on the project map (see website) to help individuals explore their living memories of these areas, and to develop artwork which provides a deeper knowledge of and connection to this heritage. The three artists will each work with one of the partners. The oral historian will work across the whole project.

AHA is looking for three artists working in *any artform* (including sound and performance) and an oral historian who are able to demonstrate a high quality of previous work, an ability to work sensitively and openly with others and a record of actively engaging participants/audiences. In addition, the project team will include an evaluator/video documenter, a web programmer and an exhibition curator/designer (some of whom may be members of AHA staff team).

Following our usual practice (visit www.auneheadarts.org.uk for details of previous projects) we have kept the commission brief very open to allow work to develop in ways that we might not anticipate. The Briefs, below, represent the overall aspirations for the project. It should be noted, however, that those working with the Heartlands Project and the Tamar Valley AONB will ultimately have a brief tailored to those specific areas (although they will not be radically different from the general Briefs below).

Artist Brief x 3 commissions

The artists will be able to demonstrate their expertise in working sensitively with people and place, and their ability to *tell a story* about a particular place and its history. In this project we want audiences and participants to find out more about their own history, and in particular we will want

you to work with them to bring out the story of mining and tourism within living memory (this will largely be the 20th C) in Cornwall and West Devon/Dartmoor.

We do not prescribe which artform you will use to do this. We do want you to create work that has meaning for non-arts audiences (although it should be unashamedly contemporary in nature — this is a conundrum you each must solve in your own way) and that involves in some way the people and places you have worked with. It should leave *some kind of permanent trace*, although we are not saying how you will do this. There will be very little, if any, money after the project closes for maintenance, so bear this in mind as you develop project ideas.

We believe in working collaboratively and co-operatively. AHA, and the other project partners, will stay in touch with you throughout the project. AHA will also bring the entire team together on a number of occasions to share progress and ideas — this is a form of mentoring that we feel is very central to the success of our projects.

You will have a total of seven weeks, over a period of five months, to complete your project. A fee of £4,200 is available for each artist, plus expenses for both travel and making/production.

Oral Historian Brief x 1 commission

The Oral Historian is someone able to demonstrate their expertise in gathering oral histories. In the context of this project we mean someone (who may be a skilled historian, a sound artist, or a radio producer) who can demonstrate that they can work sensitively with people, and can draw out their stories with a lively sense of engagement and, where necessary, understanding of the fragility of working with personal stories. You will be able to demonstrate this through the quality of your previous work and through the ways you have approached working with people and communities in the past.

You will have twelve weeks to work on the project, spread over 12 months, and the total fee available will be £7,200. You will work closely with Aune Head Arts and with their audio editor/producer who will be part of the project team, as well as with the heritage partner organisations.

We are looking for you to create audio pieces of various lengths that can be used in a wide variety of contexts, from museum-quality archives, to podcasts, to short radio broadcasts.

Person Specification (Artists & Oral Historian)

The ability to work closely and sensitively with people and communities and to *engage them in the creative process* are key aspects of the residency brief and process. A track record of interaction with people and places will be imperative along with an ability to work with others (e.g. the various heritage professionals involved in the project).

Applicants will need to:

- be a good communicator and have the ability to manage their work with minimal supervision
- have an awareness of the issues affecting rural communities
- have an awareness of working with living heritage
- have a commitment to innovative arts practice and the sharing of high quality creativity
- have an understanding of health and safety and child/vulnerable adult protection issues and undergo an enhanced CRB check

- be transport independent (the rural areas in which you will be working have very limited public transport services)
- be available on the interview date if shortlisted (week September 22nd)
- be a UK resident.

Additional information

If you'd like to learn more about the main partners, or explore other related information, please see these websites:

www.auneheadarts.org.uk Aune Head Arts. Lead Partner and local host for the Oral Historian

www.cornish-mining.org.uk Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site. Partner

www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk Dartmoor National Park Authority

www.edenproject.com Eden Project. Partner

www.theheartlandsproject.org.uk/ The Heartlands Project. Partner and local host for one artist

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-cornishminesandengines Cornish Mines & Engines, nr Pool, National Trust. Partner

www.tamarvalley.org.uk the Tamar Valley AONB. Partner and local host for one artist

Timetable

October 2008– March 2009

- The three artists have 7 paid weeks, over five months guided by AHA and by your heritage partner (this period may vary slightly by agreement between the artist and their heritage partner)
- The Oral Historian has twelve paid weeks spread over a longer time (through September 2009).

Meeting Dates will be organised by AHA

- 3 days initial placements, at the start of the project, within some of the partner and support organisations
- 3 days of project meetings, in which all artists, project managers and associated individuals come together. [NOTE: these meetings count as part of your paid time]

April – September 2009

- The Oral Historian will continue during this period. Part of their work will be to help AHA host five public events between mid-April and the end of August (this will include Bank Holiday working).

Equal Opportunities

The appointment procedures for these commissions will be carried out in accordance to AHA and the partners' equal opportunities policies.

Terms and Conditions

- Mining Landscape is administered by Aune Head Arts. All team members will be self-employed and responsible for their own tax and NI payments.
- PLEASE NOTE: all terms and positions offered are subject to funding and therefore may be subject to change or withdrawal at any time up to and including the interview date.

How to Apply

The application form is online at www.auneheadarts.org.uk. Application forms will only be accepted online.

Call for artists: July 7, 2008

Deadline for applications: September 8, 2008

Shortlisted candidates notified by: September 16, 2008

Interviews: Week of September 22, 2008 (as soon as interview dates are confirmed with partner organisations they will be posted on the Mining Landscape project page on AHA's website).