

## **Artist / Creative Practitioner Commission Call out & Expressions of Interest North Tyneside**

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### **Places of Sanctuary - how can our towns create and nurture positive mental health and wellbeing for all?**

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**Can sanctuary be found in a physical place or is it an imagined space, or a mix of both?  
What would an imagined safe space look and feel like?  
How can this be applied to real spaces in the town centre?  
How can we make shared public spaces feel more welcoming, safe, joyful?**

**The Healthy Happy Places team would like to work in collaboration with local  
artists and citizens in North Shields and Wallsend to creatively explore this theme.**

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### **Background**

Healthy Happy Places is a programme being funded and led by the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC) and the North East North Cumbria Integrated Care System (NENC ICS). It is a concept that is being explored in collaboration with partners in the NHS, public health, regeneration, planning, design and the arts and cultural sector to look at a holistic approach to developing places and spaces that can create and support wellbeing and positive mental health in our communities through the built and designed environment. This is particularly relevant in communities with high levels of inequalities.

This commission is the first pillar of the Healthy Happy Places approach about 'Understanding Place' – working in collaboration with creative practitioners and citizens to uncover people's lived experience of their place and how this can benefit mental health and wellbeing in our communities. The outputs are intended to inform the second pillar 'Interventions in Place' – to co-create recommendations for unique, innovative interventions in the places where we work, live, and play.

We aim to create opportunities for communities to participate, create, and share their observations and experiences of place in fun and joyful ways, where the process of participation is as enriching as the outputs itself.

## Brief

This is not a commission for a specific piece of art (although we think they are great too!). It may ultimately result in something culturally expressive and functional in a town centre space but the main focus is on a creative engagement process to capture people's stories, imaginations, and hopes for their towns using the theme above.

It should focus on psychological (or felt) safety and sanctuary, embracing what is positive rather than negative.

The geographical context of the work will be focussed on two locations in North Tyneside – North Shields town centre and Wallsend.

We'd like to see a mix of medium being used, either as a comparator across the two sites, or mixed media across both sites which will produce two outcomes for each location.

We'd welcome collaborations of artists working together who can bring different skills and perspectives to achieve the intended outcome.

Engagement will need to consider young people, working age adults and senior members of the community.

We would also like to capture the insights and experiences of those living with conditions who may ordinarily be excluded from such activities (specifically those living with neurodiversity, dementia, and forms of trauma). We would like at least one of these groups to be included specifically.

This opportunity is open to creative practitioners working across disciplines including visual arts, crafts, design, digital media, creative writing, performing arts and dance.

We would welcome applications from practitioners who are resident in North Tyneside as well as those who live further afield within the North East region.

The successful practitioner/s will be expected to manage their own time and workload but maintain close links with the Healthy Happy Places Programme leads.

If needed, we can work together on an engagement plan to facilitate connections with community groups and our various partners. We can also support with sharing of details for engagement days / workshops / events etc and making relevant connections.

## Outcomes

- a) To ensure that people participating have a positive experience with the engagement process and are enabled to have fun through the creative expression of their ideas, hopes and experiences about place.

- b) To have a display of the outputs for each location (whether that be through an event, an open exhibition, a magazine, website, film, shop front, or whatever else you may be able to surprise us with!) to inform the next stage of the Healthy Happy Places approach ('Interventions in Place').
- c) **(Although not part of this commission)** The creative outputs will be used to translate into possible interventions for each town centre which can promote a feeling of psychological/felt safety and create places for calm, and places for support and nurturing. It is anticipated that this will be done in collaboration with other partners (which may include citizens that have participated, artists, public health, NHS, regeneration, planning, and architecture/design colleagues). The outputs will also help to inform future and ongoing developments in both areas.

## Deliverables / Milestones

- A plan for set up and delivery of engagement sessions
- Delivery of engagement sessions
- Creative presentation of the outcomes
- Attendance and presentation at a future Healthy Happy Places webinar

## Criteria

- Proven collaborative experience, familiar with place-based and participatory approaches.
- Experience in working with different age groups (or a combination of skills of working with different age groups if submitting as a collaborative).
- Experienced in delivering high quality public/community engagement sessions using creative approaches which inspire and involve participants.
- Capable of connecting with participants to uncover places and stories in a meaningful way.
- Co-produce tangible creative outputs that express the lived experience of participants.
- Willingness to take part in any on-going reflection and creative evaluation processes built into the programme.
- Consider and contribute to the dissemination of creative outputs (in association with the Healthy Happy Places team).
- Be resident or have a connection with North Tyneside, or the North East region.

## Responsibilities

- Lead, deliver and engage participants in creative activity around the theme of 'places of sanctuary'
- Plan, coordinate and oversee all aspects of creative activity delivery
- Ensure that all permissions/consents are in place
- Ensure that all work meets with copyright and intellectual property laws
- Work closely with the Healthy Happy Places team to ensure that all objectives and milestones are met
- Ensure that all health and safety regulations are met
- Complete any required project documentation which may include session attendance numbers, activity plans and risk assessments as appropriate
- Work with us to identify opportunities to link with other projects, organisations and initiatives
- Agree and manage budget

## Budget

**The overall budget is not to exceed £10k. This will need to be evenly split between Wallsend and North Shields and should include all materials, travel and production costs. If submitting as a collaborative for both sites please outline how you would implement different approaches/medium at each site.**

Applications should show a breakdown of how this funding will be used in terms of:

- Resource time (for planning)
- Resource time (for running engagement sessions and number of sessions to be delivered)
- Materials budget

## Application

We're really excited about working with local creative practitioners and we'd love to hear from you so.... tell us how you'd respond to this brief by either a short video or no more than two sides of A4 in whatever programme you wish (Word is absolutely fine or otherwise a pdf please if using a different programme).

Show us your work in relation to the criteria, tell us about you and your practice, what your passions are, your connection to the North East, what mediums you'd use, a plan for how you would engage with citizens, your costing plan for your time and materials, and how you'd present the outputs.

Please let us know which commission you are submitting for (both sites or one site).

You must be available for the commission within the timescales below.

You must have a current DBS certificate and public liability insurance.

If you have access requirements please let us know in your application.

## Submission

Video responses – please send via dropbox or other file sharing platform to [healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

PDF / Word responses – please submit as an attachment to [healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

## Timescales

<b>Advertised</b>	w/b Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Closing date</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, noon</b>
<b>Selection</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Planning</b>	Mid November 2022-mid January 2023
<b>Delivery</b>	January-February 2023
<b>Contract end</b>	End February 2023

We will invite shortlisted applicants for a shared discussion about your approach and practice. This will be online towards the end of the selection week.

## Selection

We will select based upon:

- The appropriateness of the ‘Outcome’ in terms of how this could support the development of the programme and evidencing the process of the engagement.
- The engagement plan and how inclusive this is for capturing different experiences
- How well each of the ‘Criteria’ is met.
- ‘Budget’ – appropriate balance between number of sessions in relation to planning and materials costs to get the best outcome.

Applications will be shared with a small panel who are involved with the programme.

Although we will do our best, we may not be able to provide feedback on all applications that aren’t shortlisted.

## Contact

For queries, please contact [healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:healthyhappyplaces@ahsn-nenc.org.uk) and one of the team will get back to you. Many thanks.