



CLIMATE ACTION WEEK ARTIST BRIEF

THE BRIEF

Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) is teaming up with Creative Carbon Scotland and the James Hutton Institute to host an artist's residency for **Climate Week North East 2019** (15 – 24 March 2019 <https://www.climateweekaberdeen.org/>). During Climate Week North East the Artist will spend time at the heart of the Institute, engaging with its work on innovative and transformative science for sustainable living.

During their residency at the James Hutton Institute, they will research and question the impacts that climate change is likely to have in North-east Scotland, with a focus on uncovering the stories behind the Institute's research and the narratives of change implied by the data collected, as well as potentially offering creative responses to research underway.

No artistic work is expected to be produced directly as a result of this residency. Instead it is focused on research, reflection, investigation and creative thinking around ways to bridge gaps and forge working creative partnerships between Aberdeen Performing Arts, Creative Carbon Scotland and the James Hutton Institute. It is aimed at helping to inform potential future creative practices, partnerships and artistic projects focused on fostering public understanding and empowerment in the region around the impacts of climate change and exploring how the cultural sector can respond, communicate, help give voice and adapt. Only artists interested in responding to the brief in this way should apply.

APA's Green Team will also look at ways that the Artist's findings, impressions and suggestions could feed into the continuity planning both of the James Hutton Institute and the cultural sector around the impacts of climate change in the region.

The Artist – who could be working in any discipline – will:

- spend time during Climate Week North East in the James Hutton Institute accessing data, talking with staff and becoming familiar with their work, aims and research.
- spend time afterwards preparing a brief outlining process, findings and ways in which partnerships between all three organisations could be deepened and creative work developed.
- take part in an informal lunchtime event at the James Hutton Institute on Friday 22 March at the end of their residency to share their approach, research and first thoughts and impressions. This will be a free event managed by APA and will mainly be intended for project partners. However, it will form part of the Climate Week North East programme and will be open to the public. This event will also help inform learning for the project partners.
- input into planning for next steps.

FEE AND TIMESCALE

The residency will be the equivalent of ten days work. The fee is £2,230 and further financial support is available for travel and accommodation expenses for an Artist who is based outside of the region.

The residency will take place w/c 18 March 2019 and the final brief is due in by Monday 1 April 2019.

HOW TO APPLY

The application deadline is Monday 25 February 2019 at 5pm.

Your application should include a CV and covering letter of no more than two sides of A4 outlining your interest, experience, why you would like this opportunity and highlight what you would bring to the role.

For further information contact Lesley Anne Rose, Head of Artistic Development, leslyanne.rose@aberdeenperformingarts.com : 01224 337 683

Interviews: Monday 4 March 2019 in Aberdeen

ABOUT ABERDEEN PERFORMING ARTS

Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) is a creative hub and focal point for the performing arts, community engagement and talent development in the North-east. Our three iconic city centre venues are all on a national and international touring circuit for the performing arts and a vital part of Aberdeen and Scotland's cultural infrastructure. We present, produce and commission diverse and distinctive arts and cultural programmes of regional and national reach and impact. We support talent and help develop professional practice. We run a wide range of creative activities, projects and workshops for all ages and stages in our own venues as well as in schools and community settings. We provide a box office service for 30+ venues in the North-east. We run 6 bars, two cafes and a restaurant in-house across our venues.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE

- 1,000,000+ visitors through our doors
- 400,000 ticket sales
- 750+ performances
- 3 festivals: True North, Granite Noir and Light the Blue
- 15,000+ creative learning engagements
- 450+ visiting companies and artists
- 200+ employees
- £12m+ turnover

OUR MISSION

Creating a Spark

OUR VISION

A vibrant cultural hub at the heart of city life

- inspiring, exploring and engaging through live performance and creative projects

OUR VALUES

Curiosity, Optimism, Loyalty, Team Work and Resilience

OUR GOALS

Programme: Create a distinctive and diverse artistic programme

Talent: Be an incubator for artists and talent development in the North-east

Creative Learning: Offer inspirational creative engagement and participation opportunities

City Vision: Provide cultural leadership to shape the city vision and a creative Scotland

OUR VENUES

His Majesty's Theatre

His Majesty's Theatre is a category A listed proscenium arch theatre designed by celebrated architect Frank Matcham and opened in December 1906. It is a fully equipped producing and receiving theatre with a capacity of 1400 which since its opening has welcomed international touring companies, nationally renowned artists and Scottish and homegrown talent.

The Music Hall

The Music Hall is one of Scotland's oldest and most historic concert halls and a fine example of a traditional 19th century concert hall. It stands on Union Street in the centre of Aberdeen and has been at the heart of cultural life in the city for nearly 200 years. The main auditorium has an excellent acoustic and a capacity of 1300 seated. The Music Hall has just undergone an exciting redevelopment and upgrade, ensuring its place at the heart of cultural, civic and community life for generations to come.

The Music Hall reopened in December 2018 following a transformational redevelopment. This flagship project is at the heart of the regeneration of Union Street and will contribute to a vibrant, dynamic and creative city. APA has restored, conserved and upgraded a built heritage asset of national significance and the transformed building will enable APA to develop our role as a creative force, a talent hub and a focal point for artists and musicians in the North-east.

The Lemon Tree

The Lemon Tree was formed in 1992 as the base venue for Aberdeen's Alternative Festival, named after a pub originally situated on the site. The two performance spaces – the 550 capacity Lounge, and 166 seat Studio – bring cutting edge music, theatre, comedy and dance to the city, and provide unforgettable, intimate opportunities to see an exciting array of small-scale performing arts in the North East. It's also the base for Freshly Squeeze Productions, APA's producing arm.

APA CLIMATE CHANGE ARTISTIC PROGRAMME STRAND

Over the past two years APA has been developing an environmental / climate change strand to the organisation's artistic vision and producing output.

The aims for creating this programme strand include:

- complementing the work of the company's Green Team whose focus is mainly operational
- integrating artistic and operational planning around shared 'green' ambitions
- take initiative on business continuity planning for the impacts of climate change on the organisation
- work in partnership with other cultural organisations in the city to increase impact and share learning
- understand the impacts of climate change in North-east Scotland within the wider context of the global picture. And how the cultural sector can respond, communicate, collaborate, future proof and adapt – locally, nationally and globally

To date APA has:

- hosted two Creative Carbon Scotland **Green Tease** events, inviting contributions from **Aberdeen Climate Action** and **Dr Leslie Mabon** a social scientist at Robert Gordon University with an interest in how people understand and respond to change and risk in the environment.
- curated a small programme for **Climate Week North East** in March 2018, including a **Scratch Night** of new work and a performance of **Everything I Bought and How it Made Me Feel** (Harry Giles) with a post show discussion

- forged partnerships with other regional cultural organisations including **Peacock Visual Arts** and **Deveron Arts** as well as Aberdeen Climate Action
- helped to facilitate a **Fierce Urgency of Now** event in Aberdeen for the **National Theatre of Scotland**

ABOUT CREATIVE CARBON SCOTLAND

We believe that the arts and culture have an essential role in achieving the fair, equitable and transformational change to a sustainable future. The [recent IPCC 1.5° report](#) makes clear the scale and scope of this change and the immediate action needed to achieve it.

Our vision is of a Scotland where the arts' and culture's role is fully recognised, developed and utilised by both the cultural world and others interested in sustainability.

Our mission is therefore to connect the arts and culture with others working towards that transformational change in order to bring it about.

Our objective is larger than achieving incremental change in small pockets: we want to form a network of creative individuals and organisations who together can alter perceptions and change society using the work they make and present, the way they operate and how they speak to the public.

We work with artists and individuals, cultural and sustainability organisations, funders and policy makers, connecting them to the change process and exploring how the cultural sector can contribute.

Current work

We work on three fronts, believing that only by working across the realms of individuals, organisations and policy can real change take place.

We work with artists and other individuals who are interested in how environmental sustainability connects with their work, whether they work on their own or with or for larger organisations.

We provide Scottish arts organisations with training in carbon measurement, reporting and reduction. We support over 120 key organisations in mandatory carbon planning to Creative Scotland, and we work with Creative Scotland to develop their environmental sustainability policy for the organisations they support. Many organisations use our carbon counting tools and resources, including our own www.claimexpenses.com, which uses a web-based expenses claim system to track travel-related carbon emissions.

We work on policy and strategy with 'influencing organisations' which shape the landscape through their policies, their funding, the premises or resources they provide and the regulations or guidance they shape.

Future work

We run a continuing programme of residencies, placing artists in both arts- and non-arts organisations, as we believe that the things artists know and the way they think and do things has a contribution to make to changing the way we organise our society which will help move it towards a more sustainable future.

<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/>

ABOUT THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE

The James Hutton Institute combines strengths in crops, soils and land use and environmental research, and makes a major contribution to the understanding of key global issues, such as food, energy and environmental security, and developing and promoting effective technological and management solutions to these.

The Institute is an internationally networked organisation. In 2011, the Institute brought together the former Macaulay Land Use Research Institute and the Scottish Crop Research Institute on 1 April 2011. As a result, it operates from two sites in Scotland, one in Aberdeen and the other in Dundee. It employs more than 500 scientists and support staff, making it one of the biggest research centres in the UK and the first of its type in Europe. The Institute is one of the Scottish Government's main research providers in environmental, crop and food science and has a major role in the Scottish knowledge economy.

James Hutton (1726 – 1797) was a leading figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, an eighteenth century golden age of intellectual and scientific achievements centred on Edinburgh. He is internationally regarded as the founder of modern geology and one of the first scientists to describe the Earth as a living system. His thinking on natural selection influenced Charles Darwin in developing his theory of evolution.

<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/>