

Going Places: New Faces New Focus Mentored Artist/Creative



Project Summary:

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council seeks interest from upcoming/emerging artists/creatives who wish to participate in the *New Faces New Focus* project as a mentored Artist. *New Faces New Focus* is part of Going Places, an Art Fund programme made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Julia Rausing Trust, Going Places is designed to engage and involve underrepresented audiences with museum collections through high quality, collaborative touring exhibitions and public programmes. Over the next five years (2025 –2030) six museum networks will co-create 12 major touring exhibitions (two per network), taking the UK's collections on an epic journey that will result in 40 unique exhibitions made with and for local communities.

Partnered with Aberdeenshire Museum Service and the Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, Armagh County Museum will engage with marginalised groups to co-curate 2 touring exhibitions. To that end, this brief is for a year-long programme of innovative creative collaboration and engagement for the first network touring exhibition, opening at Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool (September 2026), and touring to Armagh County Museum (January 2027) and Aberdeenshire Museum Service (June 2027).

Through *New Faces New Focus*, we propose to utilise socially engaged practice to connect with new communities, explore museum collections at Armagh County Museum and reflect on how we can begin to make them more inclusive and representative of contemporary Northern Ireland. Focusing on the broad theme of journeys – from migration and exile to the milestones, traditions and celebrations on our journeys through life – we aim to enable communities to tell their stories through meaningful and sustained engagement with collections and heritage.

The position would see the mentee artist working alongside a professional artist and facilitator, who would take the role of a mentor guiding the mentee artist/creative through the steps to facilitating community groups in creative projects over 20 weeks. The engagement will mostly take place in Armagh County Museum, the first project will begin in October 2025, followed by the second in February 2026.

The Role of the Mentored Artist/Creative

Two Mentored artists/creatives will be selected to be involved in 20 weeks community engagement each, the first beginning in October 2025, followed by the second in February 2026. Each Mentored Artist will assist and contribute to the facilitation alongside a chosen professional artist then after 10 weeks of mentorship the mentored artist/creative will be expected to facilitate the community engagement workshops as the lead facilitator.

- Mentee artist will submit 10-week facilitation plan two weeks prior to taking responsibility as the lead facilitator
- Submit a materials list and budget
- Continue to liaise with the professional artist for mentoring
- Submit progress reports to the lead artist/facilitator detailing their progress to achieve the targets set during their mentoring session with the lead artist.

Your Proposal:

To participate in the *New Faces New Focus* project the emerging/ up-coming Artist / Creative should describe your chosen practice, your current interest in getting involved in community engagement projects and explain your desire to upskill in community group facilitation. Outline any experience to date you have had working within a community setting and highlight the desired areas you wish to explore through your creative practice within these community settings (previous community engagement is not essential).

The *New Faces New Focus* community participants will be recruited from across the borough with a diverse age range which may include families. They will meet regularly at Armagh County Museum and experience a variety of exciting opportunities to work with museum collections, as well as a chance to become involved in the exhibition planning and installation. Your proposal/ covering letter should clearly outline how you might contribute to the *New Faces New Focus* project.

Fees:

£1,400: to include: (could be increased to £2,000 including £600 R&D)

- weeks 1-10 mentored by artist and supporting the delivery of artists sessions
- weeks 11-20 developing and delivering 10 x 2-hour community engagement sessions (including prep and reflection time)

Up to £600 travel

Up to £600 materials

Selection Process:

A two-stage process will be used to assess submissions for this project.

Stage One: Assessment of written submission, please send:

- A written covering letter, detailing your interest in the project and how your involvement would enhance the project
- A recent CV (if applicable)
- 6-8 images of your work (video/audio clips also accepted) and/or samples of written research
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Selection Criteria: Criteria	Max Score	Weighting	Max Weighted Score
Quality of previous work and demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposal	5	X8	40
Quality, innovation and relevance of the proposal to the brief	5	x6	30
Potential benefit of the proposed engagement activity for project participants	5	X6	30
Total		100	

Stage Two:

Shortlisted artists will be invited to Armagh County Museum to give a short presentation to the selection panel about their proposal.

Stage 2 presentations will take place w/b 29th September 2025

Should you have any queries, please contact sarah.weir@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Submissions are to be received on or before **17th September 2025** and returned by email to: **Sarah Weir, Museum Services Manager**

E: sarah.weir@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Art Fund_



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