



Artist Call Out - Our Freedom: Then and Now

The project

As part of Future Arts Centre's national project we are exploring what **freedom** means now, especially for the people in Havant Borough. The end of the war meant different things to people then, just as ideas about freedom and community mean different things to each of us now.

Together with our community we want to create a new piece of artwork, incorporating textiles, that reflects on what 'Our Freedom' means, following the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ Day.

About us

We are an arts centre and museum based in Havant, Hampshire who believe in empowering people through arts, creativity and culture. We believe that arts, culture and heritage have the power to change lives, and we're here to help make that happen. Bringing together arts and heritage and placing it in the heart of our community is central to this project.

The commission

We are looking for a textile artist who can creatively shape and lead the realisation of a piece of contemporary participative craft that captures the thoughts and voices of our community. We want to work with an artist who is collaborative, shares our ambitions and values and is inspired by the project.

We have held an opening session with members of the community – history enthusiasts, local historians and local knitters - where we explored the theme of 'our freedom: then and now' and what that means to us. We talked about the kind of creative project we would like to make happen. There was a strong leaning towards craft as an artform and words to capture thoughts and feelings. There was a collective thought around lots of smaller elements that come together to create something of scale. There was the ambition to engage and capture the views of young people and to create a piece of work that is intergenerational.

We imagine that the artwork will be created by the artist with contributions from the community and it will then be on display at The Spring in late Autumn 2025. But we are open to artist's creative ideas and individual interpretations.

Depending on the proposed creation and engagement with the community it may make sense for the artist to run community sessions and in which case the artist would need to have a current DBS check.

Key dates

Deadline for application: 10am, 31st July 2025

Invited conversations: w/c 11th August 2025

Project creation, delivery and installation: September/October 2025

Exhibition of work: October/November 2025

Finances

The total fee for the commission is £5,000, this is inclusive of any travel expenses.

The materials budget is separate to the commission and there is an additional installation budget if needed.

To apply

Please send a proposal (max 2 side of A4) or via video (max of 5 minutes). Please include images and links to help us understand your practise and ideas.

We will read/watch all submissions, and shortlisted artists will be invited to discuss their ideas with us.

Please make sure your submission includes:

- A summary of your recent work (including images and links video trailers)
- Information about your idea or vision for the commission, including how you'd approach the community engagement
- An overview of how you'd use the budget

We are happy to have informal conversation in advance of applying. Please email fionab@thespring.co.uk to arrange a suitable time.



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**OUR
FREEDOM:
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