

# Unlocking Our Sound Heritage - Artist in Residence Brief

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## Introduction

### About the project

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage (UOSH) is a National Lottery Heritage Funded collaborative project, led by the British Library, in conjunction with 10 hub partners across the UK. The National Library of Scotland is the Scottish partner for the project.

- The project will run over 3 years 2018-2021
- It will digitise, catalogue and assess rights for around 10,000 sound recordings from organisations across Scotland.
- There will also be a programme of engagement and learning activities.

### Background

The purpose of UOSH is to address the threat facing the UK's sound heritage. Sounds held on physical formats risk being lost as the carriers degrade over time and the equipment to play them is no longer produced. Older carriers like lacquer discs as well as more recent formats like CDs, tapes and minidiscs are at risk. There is a limited time to digitally preserve the material and a need to expand the infrastructure and necessary skills. Research during the development of UOSH indicated that only 30% of those surveyed were confident of their capacity to care for the audio collections they were responsible for. The project will expand the heritage sector's capacity to preserve and use sound material as well as increasing public access to and enjoyment of audio archives.

### About the Artist in Residency

The National Library of Scotland will be developing an artist-in-residence programme, where different artists will be invited to explore the collections and their context to inspire new works and interpretations, and to compose new pieces. This could be any type of artist, who will be invited to research the sound archives and open up the collections to new audiences. Part of the artist's outcomes will be to work with different community partner(s), in Scotland, so that they are involved as part of the journey, in exploring and selecting items from the collections and contributing to outcomes. For this first residency, a collection of birdsong, interviews with ornithologists and ornithological conference proceedings from the Scottish Ornithologist's Club will be the source material.



The programme will aim:

- To inspire new works and interpretations, and compose new pieces
- For the artist to engage community partner(s) and special interest groups with their artistic practice and take part in a range of creative workshops using the archival audio
- To work with community partner(s) and special interest groups to select and interpret recordings.

## Brief

We are therefore inviting experienced artists to devise, deliver and evaluate workshops aimed at engaging with community partner(s) and special interest groups, to inspire new works and interpretations and to feature some of the resulting new pieces and outcomes at public events in 2020 and 2021, with the aim of promoting the sound collections.

The aim of the workshops will be to engage the general public with the sound collections and to inspire their use in new creative works.

There is no restriction on media or approach, but all must be suitable and risk assessed to be safe to use within the project, with all those involved.

This is a collaborative project that must clearly reflect the involvement and influence of the participants and the community partner(s), so that it is valued and its outcomes both locally and nationally recognised.

As more recordings are digitised and more information discovered, we would anticipate that as the project develops the topics of focus might change, so there is an expectation that the artists involved can respond flexibly and positively to any new material.

## Outcomes

This commission is intended to support the project's outcomes as agreed with the HLF by facilitating:

- Groups of people to be encouraged to listen to archival sound recordings as a muse for creative expression and reinterpretation
- The artist-in-residence to benefit from working with archival sound and working with community to explore their creative practice
- Participants to enjoy the experience of engaging with sound archive recordings.



## Source material

The recordings to be used as source material by the artist will come from a collection held by the Scottish Ornithologist's Club and include field recordings of Scottish birds, interviews with notable ornithologists and proceedings of the club. Access to these recordings may be restricted to the Kelvin Hall due to IPR.

## Knowledge and experience – essential criteria

Applicants will be measured against the following criteria;

- Professional experience in the delivery and evaluation of collaborative/participatory arts project in any setting
- Have an understanding of the different communication preferences that potential participants may have experienced and appropriately demonstrate how they will fully engage all participants and ensure their voices /opinions are heard and represented
- Have a good knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities, confidentiality, safeguarding and also the statutory and own personal professional responsibilities when working with vulnerable groups in the community
- Be able to supply at least 2 professional references who can be contacted
- Hold a current Disclosure Scotland or PVG certificate (as appropriate to the workshop participants)
- Can demonstrate a high level of skills in working with the chosen artistic medium.

The following are desirable;

- Experience in undertaking and delivering, previous artist-in-residence projects
- A degree level qualification or equivalent in a creative field, or, a substantial portfolio of previous work.

## Delivery timescale

We are commissioning an artist to deliver on the following schedule;

- Commencing from 1 October 2019
- Final presentation of new work by 28 February 2020

This will comprise 3 participatory workshops with members of the public via the community partner(s) and 1 celebratory event showcasing the participant's creation(s).



## Monitoring and evaluation

The artist will be required to report to the Project Manager on agreed milestones and provide information and documentation for reports and presentations. The artist will be expected to evaluate against our project outcomes (above).

## Facilities

The artist will be expected to engage members of the public via the community partner(s) who will have access to appropriate facilities.

## Costing

The overall budget for this project is non-negotiable and set at £4,800 which includes;

- The artist's fee
- Collaboration with a partner organisation (to be sourced by the artist)
- Delivery of a celebratory event
- Materials & resources for 3 workshops
- Travel costs for the artist.

(Any travel costs incurred by participants attending the workshop will be met, up to £10 per day, and claimed directly from the Project Manager).

## Insurance

The applicant will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that the necessary insurances are in place, including public liability insurance of at least £2 million, to cover any possible accident, loss or damage during the residency, as well as evidence of the appropriate Disclosure Scotland/PVG certificate as required.

## Copyright and intellectual property

The copyright and any intellectual property in the created works and/or documents will remain vested in the artist or the person responsible for their production. The artist will be required to grant or agree to procure for the National Library of Scotland an exclusive and irrevocable royalty-free licence of the copyright in the created works and/or documents and/or photographs and/or film and/or sound for the unrestricted free use by the National Library of Scotland, the British Library and the Heritage Fund.



## To apply

- Completion of the attached application form
- A copy of your curriculum vitae
- Applications to be submitted via email to [j.park@nls.uk](mailto:j.park@nls.uk)

## Closing date

12pm on 15 September 2019

## For enquiries

Please contact;

Jeni Park  
UOSH Hub Project Manager  
National Library of Scotland  
Kelvin Hall, 1445 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G3 8AW  
[j.park@nls.uk](mailto:j.park@nls.uk)  
0141 880 2317

# Artist-in-Residence Programme

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## Application

Please read the terms and conditions attached before completing this form electronically and returning it by email to Jeni Park [j.park@nls.uk](mailto:j.park@nls.uk)

The deadline for applications is **12pm on 15 September 2019**

## Your details

**Name**

**Address**

**Email**

**Contact number**

## The proposal

**Which sound recordings would be available to explore?**

The digitised recordings from 30 compact cassettes and 58 open reels belonging to the Scottish Ornithologist's Club.

The recordings consist of interviews with well-known Scottish personalities; copies of other interviews and programmes made by the BBC. There are recordings of a number of after-dinner speeches made at the SOC annual Conferences 1968-1981 by a roster of well-known ornithologists. There are several recordings relating to Fair Isle and to the Scottish Bird Islands Study Cruise at the time of the International Ornithological Congress in 1966. The

remainder of the collection comprises recordings of birds from various locations around Scotland, including St Kilda. Some of the bird species represented in the recordings are; peesweep, geese, blackbirds, sea eagle, tern, kittiwake, redwings, ospreys, puffins, cushiedoos and ring ouzels.

The recordings will be available to consult from digitised copies. Access to these recordings may be restricted to the Kelvin Hall due to IPR. Travel to the Kelvin Hall to consult these recordings should be factored into your budget costings.

## Workshops

The aims of the workshops are to;

- Inspire new works and interpretations or composing new pieces
- Engage community partners and special interest groups with the artist's creative practice and to allow them to take part in a range of creative workshops using the audio as inspiration/source material
- Interpret and select recordings in conjunction with community partners and special interest groups.

The artist must work collaboratively and mentor the participants from the community partner(s) to create the artistic work.

The 3 workshops required can be the same format and content but take place in different locations OR they can be 3 different workshops conducted in the one place. 3 workshops should involve 30 participants in total.



**Please answer the following questions:**

**1. What community groups do you intend to work with?**

(Please identify specific groups, if you do not yet know which specific groups you will be working with; please indicate the sector/area/place/demographic that you would expect to work with)

**2. What creative practice will you be engaging in with the community? (i.e. what is your art?)**

**3. Based on the answers you gave to question 1, briefly outline the outcomes expected from;**

- Workshop 1

- Workshop 2

- Workshop 3

## Costing

4. Please breakdown how you would utilise the budget across the following areas;

Area	Cost
The artist's fee	
Collaboration with a partner organisation (to be sourced by the artist) e.g. room hire, catering	
Delivery of a celebratory event	
Materials & resources for the workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop 1</li> <li>• Workshop 2</li> <li>• Workshop3</li> </ul>	
Travel costs for the artist (remember to include travel to the Kelvin Hall)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,800</b>

## Benefits

5. Please answer the following questions:

- What benefits would this project bring to the community partner?

○ What benefits would this project bring to you and your creative practice?

○ Please describe previous public engagement events you have delivered.

○ How would you evaluate your workshops against;

Groups of people to be encouraged to listen to archival sound recordings as a  
inspiration for creative expression and reinterpretation

The artist-in-residence to benefit from working with archival sound and working with community to explore their creative practice

Participants to enjoy the experience of engaging with sound archive recordings

## Other

Please answer the following questions;

Contact details for 2 referees

**Referee 1**

**Referee 2**

**Name**

**Job role**

**Organisation**

**Address**

**Email address**

**Contact number**

Please send your completed questionnaire to Jeni Park at [j.park@nls.uk](mailto:j.park@nls.uk) by **12pm** on **15 September 2019**