



Artists and Community Landowners Brief

Fiosrachadh do Luchd-ealain agus Luchd-seilbh Fearann Coimhearsnachd

Community land purchase is the start of a long journey, often to reverse many years of decline. Purchases can quickly stimulate confidence, which empowers communities to develop economic opportunities, enable vital developments, building on a growing awareness of environment and heritage to enliven the social life of local people.

"Something happened, there was a planned turbine project on the estate and that was the shift for us. Nothing to do with stopping the turbine, that deal was done, but it was the realisation that that wasn't our land, that wasn't our moorland, those weren't our crofts. We didn't get to choose, somebody else made that decision." - Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

Communities/Places

Coimhearsnachdan/Àiteachan

We are looking for two artists to work directly with our community landowners: Abriachan Forest Trust near Inverness and Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn on the Isle of Lewis through two separate commission opportunities. Both these Trusts have significant learning to share on the impact of community ownership for their places: Abriachan manages 540 hectares of forest, purchased in 1998, to create local employment, improve the environment and encourage its enjoyment by the public through a

network of spectacular paths, family suited mountain bike trails and innovative outdoor learning for its community. Urras is a community-owned estate of 56,000 acres of coast, crofted agriculture and moorland 2007 and one of the largest buyouts in Scotland. They work with tenants and local people to manage and develop a large range of projects on behalf of the community including renewables and energy efficiency projects to tourism and youth projects. Artists will be commissioned to work

collaboratively with one of these community landowners and their wider community over a period of four months finding creative and active ways to hear, learn and share their stories.

Artists will generate creative work that increases the visibility of these places and that can be left with the communities for future use. Selected artists will also be required to contribute to several collective conversational sessions with The Stove and the other commissioned artists towards a final publication for the project that showcases the material, ideas and conversations that the project generates as a whole. This will be done through a series discursive sessions and activities co-ordinated by The Stove Network with all commissioned artists, community landowners and Community Land Scotland.

Please see **Partners and Participants** info for extra information on everyone involved in the project.

We would like to hear from creative practitioners/artists with an initial response to the project, specifying which community landowner they would like to work with (either Abriachan Forest Trust or Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn) and a short proposal to the brief (see **To Apply** section below). We are interested in processes that are responsive and adaptive to their chosen community, demonstrate a commitment to collaborative working and give a clear idea of the creative skills, local knowledge and tools they bring to developing this.

The Commissions

Na Coimiseanan

We are offering two separate commissions to work directly with community landowners: Abriachan Forest Trust near Inverness and Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn in the Isle of Lewis. Each commissioned artist will receive a fee of £3,500 (inclusive of all materials and activity costs). There will be an additional travel budget made available to each artist of £500 (see Criteria and Working for further information on travel and direct working). The artists will be expected to start in early September, working with their community landowner over a period of four months and contributing to a final showcase of work towards the end of January 2021. We expect this process will involve elements of research, online and direct activity, engagement and creation of work.

Commissioned artists and community landowners will be supported by The Stove Network through project management, partnership working, navigating current social distancing guidance/regulation and personal support.

Please see **Criteria and Working** for extra information.

To Apply:

Cuir tagradh thugainn:

Please send us:

- A statement of no more than 500 words stating how you would propose to approach being part of this project. Please include the community landowner you propose to work with and your approach to this.
- Current CV
- Up to 4 examples of past work that you feel best supports your application – this can be in any form (images, films, texts, testimonials etc., links to online video or other online resources)
- Please send by email to katharine@thestove.org with a maximum file size of 10MB, you can also email us with any additional questions you have when applying
- The deadline for receiving submissions is 12 noon on Monday 3rd of August
- Interviews for the commissions will be held virtually on the following dates:
 - Abriachan Forest Trust on the 11th Aug
 - Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn on the 13th Aug

By applying you are deemed to be making yourself available for interview on the date relative to your application.

You will also need to be available for a half day introductory working session for the project on the Wednesday the 9th September between 10am – 2pm via Zoom.

- We will always send an email acknowledging receipt of any applications. If you do not receive an email, please contact us again.
- If you require specific support when making an application, please let us know