



# Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon

## Artist commission

### Lewis & Harris

#### About this brief

This brief provides details on the overarching Climate Beacon project as well as a specification for artists/creative practitioners to respond to, for delivery in Lewis & Harris. It also includes information on how to submit proposals and the associated deadline.

#### Background

The Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon is a collective and network of arts, heritage, community, environmental and third sector organisations, located in the Outer Hebrides, established to create a programme of public engagement focused on climate change and developed with community collaboration at its core. This programme aims to engage and inspire a diverse range of inhabitants in the Outer Hebrides, including its most remote communities. This engagement seeks to learn about the climate change impacts as expressed by rural and island voices in the Outer Hebrides, in order to collectively begin planning for a region wide process of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Climate Beacons for COP26 is a Scotland-wide collaborative project between climate change or environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead-up to and following COP26. Seven hubs known as 'Climate Beacons' are taking form in Argyll, Caithness & East Sutherland, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, the Outer Hebrides, and Tayside. Bringing together shared resources and knowledge from cultural and climate organisations, the Climate Beacons provide a welcoming physical and virtual space for the public, artists and cultural sector professionals, environmental NGOs, scientists and policymakers to discuss and debate COP26 themes and climate action specific to each local area.

The aim is to build a body of evidence demonstrating the current and historical effects of climate change on rural communities and of the land in the Outer Hebrides, and securing a legacy for sustainability, climate justice, positive creative activism and adaptation planning as a crucial part of service provision for some of our most vulnerable island communities.

#### The Climate Beacon aims for this work to achieve the following outcomes:

- 🌐 Ensuring rural and island voices are heard and are at the core of climate conversations.
- 🌐 Ensuring contemporary socio-political conversations around climate change are established.
- 🌐 Working collaborative relationships are established between the artist and environmentalists or climate scientists.
- 🌐 Working collaborative relationships are established between the artist and distinct communities in the Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris).
- 🌐 Improved community resilience through a more diverse and sustainable creative economy that has collaboration and co-curation at its core.

## **An Lanntair Artist Commission**

As part of the Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon, An Lanntair would like to invite artists and creative practitioners to submit proposals to design and deliver a new arts initiative that is co-authored with communities/ climate scientist(s)/ environmentalist(s) or adaptation specialist(s) in the Isle of Lewis and Harris. Communities could be a township or geographical community and could also extend to communities of different demographics ie. crofters, youth groups, Commun Eachdraidh etc.

These proposals might consider the following: climate impacts as experienced by communities, ruralism, Gàidhlig, ecologies and the spiritual importance of place whilst paying attention to social, political and global conversations on climate justice and the climate crisis.

This £5000 commission is available to artists who local to Lewis and Harris or who have a strong connection to the place or community in Lewis & Harris that they hope to collaborate with. The artist will immerse themselves in the local ecology, history & culture of the Outer Hebrides, as well as exploring localised contemporary concerns.

### **Projects should consider the following:**

- Collaborative ways of working that benefit the community they choose to work with.
- Engaging with new ecological and cultural perspectives in a way which promotes creative and cultural activism, whilst prioritising communities and artistic modes of working and communicating.
- Identifying a community and practitioner in the field of climate science to engage with and work alongside.
- Exploring ideas around climate justice and climate change impacts as experienced in the community in which you are working.
- Working with a community to facilitate creative responses to local and rural issues caused by the climate emergency.
- Communicating and liaise with partners in the Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon to assist with adaptation planning for the community that you will work with.

Projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Film-based and other digital projects engaging with communities.
- Music / sound recording projects working within communities.
- Co-curated community exhibitions.
- Collaborative community performances.
- Collaborative community literature projects and activities.
- Community-based artist residency engagement and activities.
- Workshop programmes within communities as part of projects.
- Creative community consultation as part of projects.
- Film-based and other digital projects engaging with communities.
- Music / sound recording projects working within communities.

All of the projects should be delivered over a 6-month period with information and reporting feeding back into the wider Climate Beacon project.

### **Proposal – How To Submit**

We are looking for experienced artists or creative practitioners at any point in their career. Interested artists/ creative practitioners are now invited to submit proposals for this opportunity. Proposals should include:

- Information about yourself and your experience working with social engaged projects.

- How are you connected to the Lewis & Harris?
- Your project idea and your proposed art form.
- Information on how the project will be co-curated within the community
- Where do you envision it taking place?
- Which community or communities it will focus on - tell us more about the community you would like to work with?
- Methodology – how will the project be delivered?
- Timeline and milestones for delivery

Please feel free to also add any links to film or media demonstrating relevant track record. We invite proposals in a range of media eg. moving image, sound recordings etc. Please include a detailed CV.

**Deadline for submissions: 1st December 2021**

**Contact details for any questions: [alicia@anlantair.com](mailto:alicia@anlantair.com)**

**Please send completed proposals to [alicia@anlantair.com](mailto:alicia@anlantair.com) by 5pm 1st December 2021.**

### **Criteria for assessment**

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Radical and innovative modes of working.
- Quality and innovation of the artistic/creative project proposed.
- Track record of the artist/creative practitioner.