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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## **Anti-Apartheid, Now – Open Call**

- **6 Artists Commission Opportunities during 2022**
- **First Commission Brief released in this document**
- **A Liliesleaf Trust UK led project, funded by Arts Council England**

*Anti-Apartheid, Now* is a Liliesleaf Trust UK led project that draws on the legacy of the UK's movement against apartheid (MAA). Creative commissions will enable Black, Global Majority and intersectional artists and communities to explore and respond to lived experience of race-based injustice, and imagine new futures.

During 2022, we will commission artists who identify as from the Global Majority working across England to produce 6 new artworks, to be hosted online and to explore the contemporary resonance of the heritage of the struggle against apartheid. This open call sets out the brief for the first commission. Details of future opportunities will be released during spring 2022.

We don't expect the artist to be an expert in the heritage of the struggle against apartheid. What is most important is producing a thematic and creative response to the brief which connects with contemporary societal experiences and importantly to lived experience.

The project will launch The Liliesleaf Trust's new online platform that will hold space for learning, reflection, memory, and creative expression and which connects past to present to support activism and allyship towards ongoing struggles for racial justice.

*Anti-Apartheid, Now* explores how MAA learning can empower communities to lead positive change. The project channels the legacy of the most powerful social justice movement of the C20th to inform how we look at pressing contemporary issues of inequality, injustice, and structural racism today.

Our creative advisory panel will select 6 artists for new micro-commissions that encompass diverse interpretations on themes from MAA history for contemporary audiences. Commissions are open to artists working across England and will integrate a range of cultural mediums including, but not limited to, visual art (including mixed media work, photography, and film), performance, short-form literature and spoken word. Artists across all career stages may be supported and there are a range of differently-scaled commissioning opportunities to suit a breadth of approaches.

Artists can propose entirely new work, or apply to extend or develop existing work. Each commission should take account of COVID-19 safety in its development, including any restrictions in place at the time of creation and presentation of the work.

The project is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

### **Brief 1: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**

This first commission will be a commemorative artwork will mark the 40th anniversary of the bombing of 28 Penton Street by South African Apartheid-regime operatives in March 1982. At the time, the building was the London Headquarters of the African National Congress in exile. Today it is being redeveloped by The Liliesleaf Trust UK into the Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and

Learning that invites audiences to learn about and from the heritage of the struggle against apartheid.

Developed in collaboration with local young people, this commemorative artwork will create a space to acknowledge past injustice while nurturing a creative, connected community response to this historical reminder of the violence that division breeds. The medium for the artwork is left to the discretion and choice of the artist with the premise that it will be displayed digitally on our website.

Expertise in, or an existing knowledge base of the heritage of the struggle against apartheid is not a requirement, though it is expected that the commissioned artist will explore and research this to inform their work. We can suggest research pathways through our network, for example, the opportunity to speak with former anti-apartheid activists or signposting to relevant archives. What is most important is producing a thematic and creative response to the brief which connects with contemporary societal experiences and importantly to lived experience.

#### **Expectations:**

- The artist will spend 8-9 days working on this commission in line with a budget of £2,500 (based on [AU guidelines](#)), including time to plan and deliver workshops with Upward Bound and research and complete the commission.
- Produce an artwork that can be hosted digitally
- c.3 sessions with a group of up to 15 [Upward Bound](#) students taking place on Saturday mornings at the Holloway Road Campus of London Metropolitan University. Our preferred dates are 10-11.30am on selected Saturdays between Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March, but alternative dates from late April could be organised by mutual convenience for selected artists/Upward Bound.
- The artist will need to complete a personal risk assessment prior to working on campus with Upward Bound and will need to comply with Covid-19 guidance. At time of writing this brief, London Metropolitan University require anyone attending in person events to take a lateral flow test prior to arrival on campus and to have uploaded the result to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and that face coverings are worn (unless there is a valid medical exemption reason).

#### **Who we are looking for**

We are interested in hearing from individual artists, emerging artists and artist collectives who:

- identify as Global Majority/intersectional artists. This reflects our foundational organisational commitment to championing diverse voices and responds to increased need from artists who have faced disproportionate challenges resulting from the pandemic.
- work across England (you may be more widely UK based) and able to accept payment on receipt of invoice to a UK bank account
- For this specific commission, we are looking for an established artist (5+ years of experience)
- has an inspiring and engaging practice and diverse range of practical skills which can be applied to co-creation workshops
- is experienced in arts education, participatory practice and community co-design
- has a valid DBS certificate that can be checked via the online DBS Update service (at <https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service> )
- You must hold, or be willing to acquire if commissioned, public liability and professional indemnity insurance, such as that offered by a-n the artists information company (current cost c. £38 per year <https://www.a-n.co.uk/about/insurance/> ) and Artists Union England (included with membership <https://www.artistsunionengland.org.uk/public-liability-artists-insurance/> )
- agree to follow government guidance around the prevention of Covid-19 transmission and London Metropolitan University's own requirements as stated above

- agree to complete a personal risk assessment prior to working with Upward Bound (a template will be provided)
- be able to travel to London Metropolitan University to work with Upward Bound in person (pending any Covid-19 related guidance in place at the time)

### Key dates

- **Deadline** for responding to the brief: 5pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- **Selection** will take place by our panel who will meet between 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- **Notice of commission** will be communicated to the successful artist by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- **Illustrative dates for c.3 co-creation workshops:** between Saturdays 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 inclusive (10-11.30 am)\*
- **Announcement** of commission by Liliesleaf Trust UK on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- **Commission completed** by 23rd May 2022
- **Commission Launch** on/by 27th May 2022

\*There is some flexibility around the dates of the co-creation workshops. We are open to discussion should the commissioned artist need to propose amendments due to existing commitments.

### The Budget

The £2,500 budget will need to cover all the costs of the commission, including artist fees, materials and any travel and/or expenses; by special agreement an additional £300 may be accessed for production/Upward Bound related materials. Please note the budget must include VAT.

Indicative division of the allocated days, although the appointed artist is free to use their time flexibly as long as the conditions of the brief are met.

- Meetings - 1 day
- Plan workshops + associated administration - 1 day
- Workshop delivery - 1.5 days
- Research time and production of artwork - 5 days
- Artwork launch preparation - 0.5 day
  
- Further budget may be released to invite the artist to participate in a public programme which celebrates the Anti Apartheid Now commissions, for example, talks and workshops.

### Support

- Access budget for disabled artists, those with additional needs and those with caring responsibilities
- Additional production costs of up to £300 provided these are detailed in budget
- Regular check-ins with the commissioning team to support delivery and mentoring support if requested provided by [Cubitt Artists](#) (time to be set between commissioned artist and Cubitt at outset of project)
- Marketing and promotional support.

### Access

We actively look to reduce barriers for artists applying for our opportunities and commissions, and are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive. We offer a range of support for artists and project participants, including an Access Budget).

If you have access needs (including caring responsibilities), you can apply for additional funds up to £200 including VAT to enable you to undertake the commission. We recognise that not everyone who needs additional support will identify with the term Disabled. We aim to be as transparent as possible about the possibilities and limits of what we can offer, and we are aware that this budget cannot cover everything that an artist might need. You can also submit an access document that includes an outline of your needs, alongside your application. See [www.accessdocsforartists.com](http://www.accessdocsforartists.com) for

more information and guidance.

If you would like to discuss individual access needs, please contact us on

[antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com)

### **How to apply**

- Please send an Expression of Interest of either no more than 500 words (written format) or 3 minutes in length (video format), that
  - o briefly outlining your practice and how you feel it relates the mission of The Liliesleaf Trust
  - o includes an outline of your idea for a new work and what it is about this opportunity that interests you
  - o explains how you propose to work with a group of young people (year 10s/ages 14-15) from Upward Bound as part of the co-creative, participatory preparation for the final produced piece. This element of your commission needs to contain practical, creative and recordable (photographic or scanned) outputs by the young people
  - o a brief outline of how you'd spend your allocated commission budget
- Attach a document that showcases your previous work (PDF, PPT or Word format) that includes no more than 5 images.
- Please include a link to your CV, or a PDF of your CV in your application email. If you would prefer to apply via a format not listed above, please contact us to discuss.

Copyright for the work will remain with the artist, and will allow The Liliesleaf Trust project team and affiliated partners to use it in its entirety and in agreed elements, such as images and content for non-commercial purposes, with attribution, for example in research reports, publications, online and in-conference presentations and to remain accessible on our website. We will ask you to acknowledge this project and the ACE funding in any future iterations of the work though the project should be exclusive to The Liliesleaf Trust UK for the duration of 2022.

### **Contact**

For more information or with specific application related queries please contact Caroline Kamana at [antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com)

### **About Liliesleaf Trust UK**

The Liliesleaf Trust UK is a Black/lived experience-led organisation, established in 2018 to advance knowledge of the movement against apartheid (MAA) within Southern Africa and the UK's role in this global struggle. As former MAA activists and organisers, we bring together deeply rooted experience across its political, international, and grassroots dimensions, and draw from this world-changing history to promote solidarity, social justice, equality, and anti-racism.

We work across sectors to connect artists, activists, communities, cultural organisations, schools and universities to collaborate through empowering participation activities that draw from MAA's models of positive leadership to build skills and aspiration in underserved/disenfranchised communities. In 3 years, we have engaged audiences of over 50,000 with co-developed exhibitions, community programmes, family workshops and in-school education. Our programme is delivered off-site and through partnership as we redevelop 28 Penton Street, Islington – a central organising site for the MAA - to become the first UK venue dedicated to sharing the legacy of this underrepresented Black-led history.

Anti-Apartheid Now comes at a pivotal moment in our development, whilst we work towards completion of the Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and Learning at 28 Penton St, opening in 2023: the first permanent venue dedicated to this heritage in the UK. We are simultaneously evolving an accessible, optimised online platform that extends reach and impact of activities across geographical and physical barriers. In the context of Covid-19, post-Brexit, Black Lives Matter, the relevance of our activities is more profound than ever. It is essential to our mission that our heritage is activated for the contemporary moment, responding to many of the most pressing social and racial equality issues today with the legacy of learning from anti-apartheid.

This project sits at the foundation of these plans, initiating extensive audience and community upscaling to shift programmes from locally-based and partner-dependent to become fully owned, nationally and internationally relevant. Launching our online platform with bold, engaging artist-led content, will support us to make this transition with quality, relevance, and ambition embedded at our core. Launching around the 40th anniversary of Penton St.'s bombing in March 2022, the anniversary commission will highlight, commemorate and invite reflection around this important history.

## **The Heritage**

28 Penton Street is a four-floor townhouse owned by the African National Congress (ANC) located in Angel, Islington. Between 1978 and 1994 the building was the London headquarters of the ANC, the nerve centre for co-ordinating international solidarity against the apartheid regime in South Africa, and a base from which anti-apartheid activity was coordinated both within the UK and further afield (including covert operations within South Africa).

It was here that international solidarity campaigns were coordinated, a weekly press digest sent out and a monthly magazine edited. The ANC worked with other liberation and anti-apartheid focused organisations, with 28 Penton Street being a hub for their collaborations. Amongst these and many other activities, it was from here that Oliver Tambo, leader of the ANC in exile, and Thabo Mbeki, later president of South Africa, worked together to plan the overthrow of the oppressive regime.

In 1982, on a morning that Oliver Tambo was due to address crowds of anti-apartheid demonstrators in Trafalgar Square, the building was bombed in a racially and politically motivated attack. No one was killed, though one ANC worker was injured. Years later, South African security operatives admitted to the attack and gave evidence in court about its orchestration by the apartheid regime from South Africa. 11kg of explosives were used in the bomb which severely damaged the building and destroyed the ANCs printing facilities. The blast was heard as far as Stoke Newington. The bombing was part of a series of undercover operations that included break-ins and burglaries at Penton Street as well as at the Anti-Apartheid Movement HQ in neighbouring Camden. Many years later, nine South African former security policemen admitted to the bombing and were granted amnesty by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Above images show damage caused by the blast. Courtesy of Anti-Apartheid Movement Archives.

After 1994, when the ANC's Nelson Mandela became the first democratically elected South African president and until 2006, the building was home to Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) the successor to the Anti-Apartheid Movement. In 2014, a commemorative plaque was unveiled on the building, in partnership between Islington Council and the Nubian Jak Community Trust as part of a 20th anniversary celebration to honour the work of the formidable anti-apartheid activity within the borough of Islington.

Suggested sites that artists may wish to refer to whilst considering this brief:

[www.aamarchives.org](http://www.aamarchives.org)

<https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/records/28-penton-street-african-national-congress-anc-in-london-headquarters>

<https://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/lifestyle/islington-s-1982-blitz-the-story-of-when-secret-agents-3783036>

### **Further commissioning opportunities**

Further briefs as part of the Anti-Apartheid, Now project will be released over the next couple of months, with commissions ranging from £750 to c.£1,500.

If the above opportunity isn't right for you please look out for upcoming commission announcements. These will be posted on our social media channels so please follow us on:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)