



Capital Theatres Call for Submissions

Submissions invited for a public Art Commission for the Front of the Festival Theatre

Artist commission - Brief

Submissions close - November 13th, 5pm

Overview

Capital Theatres would like to receive proposals for delivering an ambitious and eye-catching temporary artwork to fill the glass front of the Festival Theatre that encompasses our gratitude towards the patrons, audiences and communities that have supported us so far through this uncertain time. The commission will provide a public statement of thanks which should incorporate some of the messages received by the theatre through our public crowdfunder campaign.

Proposals should reflect the scale and prominence of the Festival Theatre, in our capital city, with the aim that this piece becomes an attraction in itself, during the festive season, whilst we are unable to welcome our audiences safely back in to our buildings.

For this commission the artists will be required to present designs, deliver and install the artwork, working with and supported by representatives of Capital Theatres team.

Background and context

Capital Theatres presents world-class shows to entertain and inspire audiences of all ages. We stage over 700 performances each year, at the Festival Theatre (1,900 seats), the King's Theatre (1,300 seats) and The Studio (155 seats) in a broad and inclusive programme featuring the very best in drama, dance, musical theatre, live music, comedy and pantomime.

We support access to the arts for everyone and have an extensive learning and participation programme of talks, workshops and events to introduce and develop engagement and interest in the heritage of our buildings and all areas of live performance.

In March 2020, we closed our doors to the public in line with the Scottish Government Covid-19 protocols. Normally, our stages would be filled with the best of dance, opera, drama and musicals, our bars and café buzzing with excited theatregoers, and our buildings full of hard-working and passionate staff. Instead we at Capital Theatres have been refocusing our output into the new creative engagement programme: Raise the curtain. Alongside this we have launched a fundraising campaign to counteract the loss of 90% of our income. We are very grateful to have received funding from the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to sustain our organisation whilst our venues are closed. We have been blown away by the outpouring of positive public support that saw our public crowdfunder campaign more than double from our original ask of £35,000 to a final total of over £88,000. With the current restrictions in place in Edinburgh, Capital Theatres is sadly, but understandably, unable to welcome our communities back into venues to offer a heartfelt thanks for all the support, messages and donations. The aim of this commission is to facilitate that thank you, positively signal our continued presence and to engage the wider city through the festive season.

Location

The glass fronted Festival Theatre is the proposed location for this commission. We regularly host advertising vinyls for our upcoming shows on the front of this building. For this commission we are proposing non-intrusive artwork that encompasses the whole, or part of, the glass front, bearing in mind that this is a temporary installation.



The Brief

We are looking for proposals that offer a large scale, visually striking impact. The temporary display will be evocative and positive, and reflect the genuine gratitude Capital Theatres feels towards all those who have stood by us through this uncertain and difficult time.

- Proposals must incorporate some of the public messages received through our social media and crowd founder campaign (collated messages will be provided to the successful artist)
- Proposals should clearly embrace the scale and reach of the Festival Theatre frontage
- Proposals can include any artform as long as the piece is designed with a temporary fixture in mind and clearly outlines how the piece can be safely removed without damage to the building. Possible non-intrusive approaches may include lights, projection, a temporary mural or tensile fabric wrapping
- We are looking for a positive, bright and engaging piece of public art that is appropriate for viewing by the general public
- Capital Theatres is committed to being as inclusive and accessible as possible. Therefore, any proposal should include information on the accessibility of their idea
- The front of the Festival Theatre currently hosts four digital screens which could be utilised as part of the proposals.

Key objectives

We ask artists to think big and bold; to expose and reveal the magic that theatre provides to our audiences whilst thanking them for their support. In these challenging times we seek to delight, inspire and bring smiles to faces.

- Contribute to the awareness of Capital Theatres current status in these uncertain times
- Provide a conversation piece for our communities as we move forward
- To create a sense of social activity and interaction
- Raise the profile of our theatres and create an attraction in itself

Project output

A high quality, large scale public piece of art that encapsulates a Capital Theatres public thank you, that positively engages local residents, businesses and the wider community and reanimates our building.

Role of the commissioned artist

Lead the creation and final design process of a public work of art at the Festival Theatre:

- Provide information in relation to access

- Project manage the final design for the artwork, fabrication and installation and liaise with appointed contractors (if applicable).
- Provide evidence that all work is in line with current health and safety standards and requirements including the provision of method statements and risk assessments integrating adherence to Covid-19 measures.
- Work with Capital Theatres teams on an ongoing basis to agree best method for installation including access, restrictions and impact.
- Provide documentation and interpretation content for use on Capital Theatres online platforms.

Technical specifications

- Artists must be registered self-employed and have public liability insurance to the value of £5 million
- The life span of the piece of work is between 1-6 months depending on our reopening schedule and ongoing guidance from the Scottish Government. Please keep this in mind when submitting your proposal
- The chosen Artist will be supported by Capital Theatres technical, facilities and learning & participation team to install and produce this work. However, the piece should be self-sufficient once on display.

Budget and Timeline

The budget for the whole commission is £4,000 (excluding VAT) to include all artist fees and expenses and materials in order to meet the requirement of the brief. This includes but is not limited to design, marking, any license, materials and project management costs.

Payment will be made in two instalments

1st payment £2000 Project start date

2nd payment £2000 Project end date

Capital Theatres will cover the cost of support from in-house staff for the installation.

Action	Date	Comment
Deadline for submissions	13th November 2020	Submissions must be received by 5pm
Shortlisting and selections	16th - 18th November 2020	Shortlisting and selection will be undertaken by a panel at Capital Theatres
Appointment	20th November 2020	
Project start date	23rd November 2020	1st instalment of commission fee
Project end date	21st December 2020	2nd instalment of commission fee

How to apply

Artists are asked to submit the following digitally to: engagement@capitaltheatres.com

Submissions must include:

- proposed response to this brief of no more than 500 words (or 3 minutes if sending a video response)
- A brief statement (no more than 300 words, or 2 minutes by video) describing proposed materials and installation approach
- Evidence of two previous pieces of professional work - this can be images, film, links to website
- Current CV and contact details of one referee

Applications must be received by 5pm on November 13th 2020

For any questions regarding the above please contact Catrin Sheridan, before 12th November at 5pm:
catrin.sheridan@capitaltheatres.com