

OCCUPY!

**Govanhill Baths Community Trust
Culture Collective Project**

**Two freelancers sought for documentation of this
12 month arts project:**

- **Stills photographer**
- **Video / Moving Image maker**

This document is accompanied by a description of the Culture Collective project and a short introduction to the Govanhill Baths. If you do not have them, please contact us immediately. Some sources may have all the documents combined in a single file.

Please look at the accompanying description of the Culture Collective project at the Govanhill Baths.

We need a photographer and a video-maker who will enthusiastically apply themselves to the documentation of this project, working alongside the five artists and the community.

We want documentation that tells the story of the project, including different viewpoints, the routine as well as the big events, the highs and the lows. The primary medium for the documentation will be online.

The work will be awarded to someone with:

- Strong professional experience of similar work
- An understanding of the local artistic and cultural scene
- A commitment to diversity, equality and justice
- A proactive, flexible and open approach to work

Access

Please get in touch as soon as possible if we can make this opportunity more accessible to you.

Application

First stage is to email your CV and links to your portfolio or other locations we can see your work.

Deadline for the first stage is 9am, Wednesday 8 September 2021.

Send to: tim@govanhillbaths.com

The second stage will be a practical and budgetary proposal for the work from a shortlist. You will be paid to prepare that presentation.

We may ask for you to demonstrate that you own or have access to equipment of sufficient standard to achieve the work.

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The Govanhill Baths Culture Collective Project 2021/22

For twelve months from summer 2021 five artists will be working with the community of Govanhill, Glasgow, as part of the national Culture Collective scheme. Govanhill Baths Community Trust is one of 26 hosting organisations spread throughout Scotland. This project falls on the 20th anniversary of the Govanhill Baths occupation and at a time of rebuilding and reassessment following the Coronavirus pandemic. The artists will be working with people living under shifting demands and pushing back against negative influences in this dynamic area of Glasgow.

National Culture Collective

The Culture Collective project has been established by Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government as a response to the necessary rebuilding of the arts post-pandemic. The project will focus on arts with community at its root, through actual engagement and creation. At least half of the overall funds will be spent on the employment of artists.

Culture Collective is a network of 26 organisations or hubs across Scotland with a central support team. Everyone in the network is engaged locally and nationally with each member organisation designing and producing their own interpretation of the brief. It is hoped that the network will remain in place as part of the legacy of the project along with new thinking about participatory, community focussed art. The network meets online monthly, in a full day Open Space event every few months and constantly via Slack.

Govanhill Baths

Govanhill Baths is a member of Culture Collective and has committed to employing five artists for 12 months, a photographer and video maker to document the project and a coordinator for 18 months to recruit the team, manage and evaluate the work.

Govanhill Baths has a unique history of working collectively to inspire social change, with art and creativity at the centre of its approach. It is a grassroots, activist-based,

organisation in the heart of the local community and responds to the needs of that community.

This project also includes leading arts organisations The Work Room and Tramway. During the project period Tramway will host the Dance International Glasgow festival in addition to the core programme. Subsidised opportunities will be available for the creative practitioners. The Work Room has a regular schedule of artist development and support which artists will be able to access.

The Community

Govanhill is a unique community in Scotland, being the most ethnically diverse outside London, with 81 languages spoken by 52 ethnic groups. Govanhill's culture and heritage has been greatly enriched by migration over time. It is a dynamic area and in recent years has had an influx of younger people, particularly from the creative sector. This recent change has led to the opening of cafes, restaurants, and small businesses but increased rents have brought pressure on the incumbent population.

The Culture Collective project will follow the established lines of support and communication from Govanhill Baths into the community. Regard will be given to shifting populations, intersectionality of interests and change in this dynamic area that has particularly suffered during the Coronavirus pandemic and from Brexit.

The Artists

Five artists will be employed to 'produce high quality, socially engaged, activist-based work which responds to the aspirations of the local community'. They will establish how this will happen in the very early days of their employment, in liaison with the coordinator, after first contact with the community and after some research.

The introduction to the community will be with five established groups and the recruitment of the artists has been done with this in mind. They are:

- 1 Dance Artist to work with a group over 65 years old linked to a community centre,
- 2 Artist with an environmental focus to work with a LGBTQI+ gardening group,
- 3 Film / Moving Image Artist to work via a group representing people of colour,
- 4 Visual / Multi-disciplinary Artist with a self-help group of people recovery from mental illness, and
- 5 A Woman Artist with women living in the asylum system.

Govanhill Baths are giving the artists a great deal of discretion over the process adopted, within the brief of social engaged, activism based art. The community will be

at the core of the work and it will be determined as the project progresses what parts of the community that will be. Equally no specific requirements have been made for creative outcomes and they will be addressed along with other plans. Not demanding prescriptive outcomes and allowing time to embed in the community will not only benefit the artistic process but also provide a more meaningful community experience.

Freelancers are also being employed for photographic and video documentation of the project. A substantial investment is being made in this documentation to allow for a creative, storytelling, approach with opportunity for interpretation.

The project will work collectively, distributing the ownership and authorship of art, challenging the common roles and hierarchies adopted between artists, communities and host organisations.

Occupy theme

The theme 'Occupy' will provide a rich framework for the overall programme, highlighting what can be achieved through community activism and solidarity. While 'Occupy' directly references the Baths heritage and can draw inspiration and connection to the community occupation of the building, the concept of what it means to 'occupy' can be applied more broadly. What does it mean to occupy or to claim identity, space, to be visible, to be heard? How will the community occupy the new Wellbeing Centre?

The theme Occupy is particularly relevant to Govanhill, the arts sector and the wider political, cultural and economic sphere. The 20th anniversary of Govanhill Baths Occupation is a monumental community achievement. This anniversary along with many other prominent occupations mark historic achievements of positive social change through collective community action.

The project aims to collectively respond to pertinent questions around visibility, ownership, empowerment and the right to take space.

Artist development

Throughout the year, the artists will benefit from opportunities to connect, share learning, and support one another, while gaining insight into a variety of approaches, across disciplines. We will foster mutually supportive relationships and co-learning between artists, organisations, and communities, promoting future creative employment. We will also investigate training and mentoring, the latter particularly involving Tramway and The Work Room.

Govanhill Baths development

The next few years will bring change to the work of the Baths as the organisation and programme of work move back into the building. This will have significance for the arts work with a dedicated space to present work and the resources the building will inherently create.

Govanhill Baths has a rich history of working with the arts and during this year through that experience, the current investigation with this project and a sharpening of future goals it is aimed to consolidate the arts vision of the organisation with an artistic policy and plan.

To join a national network, focused on strengthening collaborative creative practice to benefit communities impacted through Covid-19 is particularly pertinent for Govanhill, which continues to be disproportionately impacted.

Our role in national development

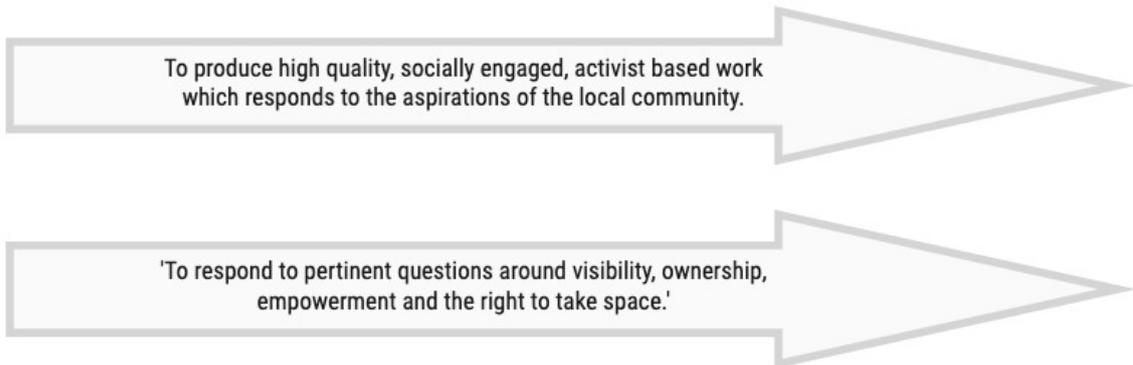
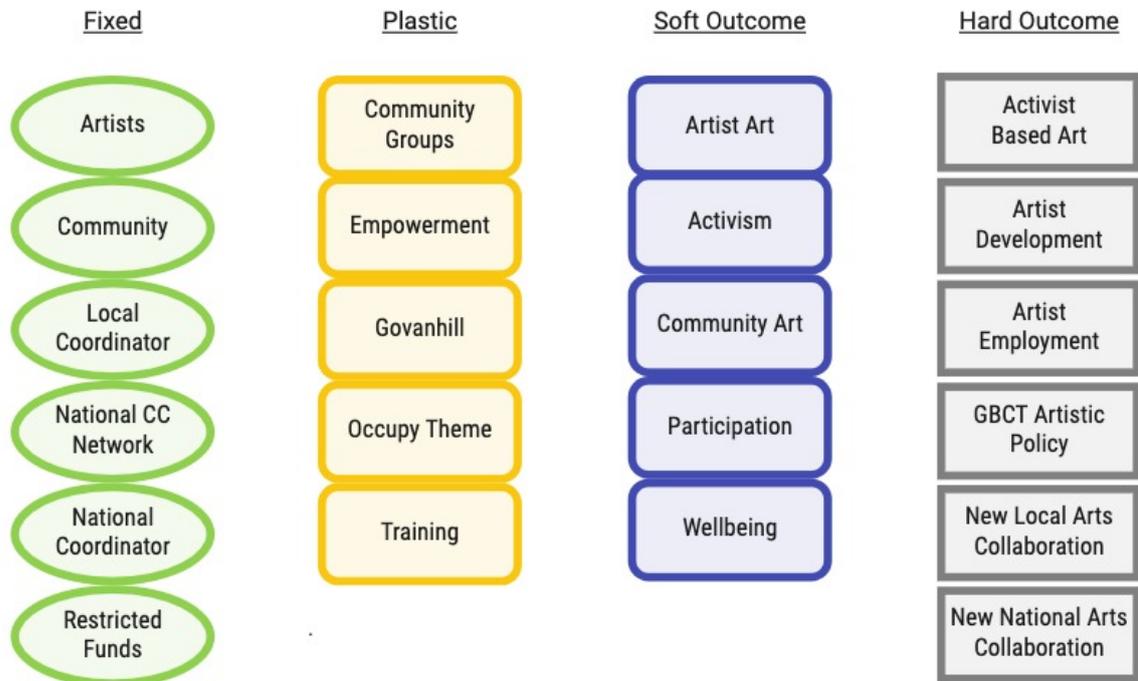
Through the Culture Collective network, Govanhill Baths will share extensive knowledge and experience of community engagement and empowerment within the most diverse neighbourhood in Scotland. The five artists will be sharing their experience contemporaneously with the network as it grows through the year.

Much of the opportunity from the network will be pursued by the Govanhill Baths coordinator who will be responsible for maintaining a strong position for the organisation, keeping channels open for all communication, identifying potential and profitable working relationships and informed about the general direction and development of the network post-project.

Being a part of the national network will enable us to learn from dedicated arts organisations in relation with the very different environments in which they work. That learning will happen in large fora, new one-to-one relationships, and small groups with mutual interests.

Govanhill Baths will be part of the process reconsidering national support for the community and participatory arts and, it is hoped, will then remain within that support.

Govanhill Baths Community Trust Culture Collective 2021-22





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Govanhill Baths is a community hub for arts and wellbeing.

Govanhill Baths is a unique organisation working collectively to inspire social change, with art and creativity at its heart and delivering wide ranging health, wellbeing, environmental and heritage projects.

Govanhill Baths is a grassroots, activist-based, organisation in the Southside of Glasgow, Scotland. The Baths itself was a busy community building with a swimming pool, steam baths, personal baths and laundry facilities. It was built at a time when the surrounding homes were unlikely to have hot water or any decent plumbing.

In 2001 the local authorities tried to close The Baths and the local community refused to leave, starting the longest continuous occupation of a public building in British history. Twenty years later those community activists have raised the funds to renovate and reopen The Baths as centre for wellbeing. Govanhill Baths have regularly collaborated with the National Theatre of Scotland, Glasgow International art festival, Dance International Glasgow as well as many local and international independent artists.

Govanhill has been described as the Ellis Island of Scotland. It has been characterised by a series of immigrant populations as a dynamic and shifting area. The latest influx is a wave of young creatives bringing cafes and international eateries. Govanhill is also home to many Roma people who have settled there in the last 15 years from EU countries.