# Mapping and audit of open access production facilities, maker spaces and creative hubs in Scotland

## Our Requirement

The British Council and Creative Scotland require an independent researcher, with excellent qualitative and quantitative research skills, to lead on this piece of research. Ideal for:
- A creative hub, open access production or maker space with appropriate research skills
- A researcher with excellent experience and understanding of this ecosystem

## Project Aim

The aim of this piece of work is to:
1. Map open access making and production spaces and creative hubs across Scotland, understanding where they are and what shape they take;
2. Survey these spaces to better understand what their challenges and barriers to economic sustainability are and to what extent they support the growth of sustainable creative businesses in Scotland.

This piece of work is considered an initial baseline study, which will inform future plans around how Creative Scotland can better identify, work with, support and share learning between making, production spaces and creative hubs and increase opportunities for how the British Council can offer international opportunities to these spaces.

## British Council in partnership with Creative Scotland

## The British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. For more than 80 years, the British Council has been working to create a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world.  The British Council now operates in 110 countries around the world and our work in the arts reached 10.9 million people on the ground and a further 186 million online and through broadcast media last year.

For the past five years, the British Council has worked with hundreds of creative hubs and makers spaces globally, understanding how best to support and profile this invaluable ecosystem. *'Creative hubs and maker spaces have become a nest for freelancers and micro SME's to gather, connect and collaborate'* Professor Andy Pratt, City University of London.  We believe that hubs not only form communities, they also develop structured serendipity that enables people to connect in ways they hadn't before, inspiring new cross disciplinary collaborations, community engagements and modes of working.

We need to understand where these spaces are, young and old, across Scotland, in order to better connect them to international opportunities, while also understanding the different types of models that exist today.

**Creative Scotland**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here.

Creative Scotland currently has an understanding of and /or holds some data on a range of production facilities, maker spaces and creative hubs which have been funded through Regular Funding and Open Project Funding. The most comprehensive database of production and manufacturing options in Scotland (supported in part by Creative Scotland) is Make Works. There are a number of organisations within the Visual Arts Production Facilities Network (VAPFN) who are single discipline production facilities (print studios, sculpture workshops, a glass workshop and photography studios) and are funded as Regularly Funded Organisations. And there are a range of related community and creative industries focused that have been funded through Open Project Funding.

Creative Scotland is keen to build upon the existing knowledge and relationships within the projects and organisations that we fund, and to expand our understanding beyond what we fund to have a broader understanding of what exists, what works, what the challenges are and how we can facilitate and support the sharing of learning.

**Methodology**

| Stage | Proposed Research Methodology |
|---|---|
| 1. **Desk Research** | Consolidating relevant and up to date research and data |
| 2. **Mapping** | Where are these spaces - urban + rural - in Scotland and what shape do they take (for example: size, sector, audience, services, how they are constituted, their business model). The researcher will be expected to work with Creative Scotland and British Council to develop a taxonomic structure for the data [gathered via a survey or questionnaire/data to be presented in table format] |
| 3. **Deeper Audit** | What are the challenges and opportunities theses spaces face and how do they support the growth of sustainable creative businesses in Scotland [gathered via one-to-one telephone calls and face to face interviews/data to be presented in table format] |
| 4. **Recommendations/Short Report** (and contribution to roundtable discussing findings) | Short report (no larger than 5 pages) outlining key findings and recommendations:<br><br>1. What international opportunities they would benefit from [for British Council]<br>2. What forms of support they would find helpful [for Creative Scotland] |

**Project Outputs and Timeline**

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|---|---|
| Proposal published | w/c 5th March |
| Deadline for proposals | 26 March 2018 (applicants notified by 28 March) |
| 1st meeting with British Council + Creative Scotland | W/c 2 April 2018 |
| Stage 1: Desk research – consolidate relevant and up to date research + start to build contact database. | 9 April – 23 April 2018 (approx.) |
| 2nd meeting with British Council + Creative Scotland – confirming research questions, taxonomic structure, approach, and setting targets for geography, equalities and diversity. | w/c 23 April 2018 |
| Stage 2: Mapping (quantitative research) [as above: gathered via a survey or questionnaire/data to be presented in table format] | 30 April – 28 May 2018 (approx.) |
| Stage 3: Audit (qualitative research) [as above: one-to-one telephone calls and face to face interviews/data to be presented in table format] | |
| Research and mapping completed and provided to British Council and Creative Scotland in the form of a table | 1 June 2018 |
| Stage 4: Short report outlining key findings submitted | 8 June 2018 |
| Contribution to a mini-summit / workshop with British Council, Creative Scotland and an advisory group of people working in this area (some of whom will have contributed to the research) to talk about key findings and next steps. | Summer 2018 |

## Proposals

Submit a maximum 2-page proposal outlining:
- Relevant experience
- An indicative response to the proposed methodology (Stage 1-4 as described above)
- Budget and breakdown of time and related expenses for each stage
- Details of any additional people that may be involved/sub-contracted as part of this piece of work

Final proposals should be sent to: Lynsey Smith, British Council
lynsey.smith@britishcouncil.org

The closing date for submissions is **Monday 26 March 2018**. The mapping, audit and report should be complete by 8 June 2018 and time to attend the mini-summit later in June should be factored into the budget.

## Payment and VAT

The maximum budget for the project is £6000 including VAT. If registered for VAT please indicate this in the proposal. Costing should include travel expenses, ancillary expenses and attending meetings with advisory group.

Travel expenses and any SAU rates for artists to join the mini-summit / workshop at the end of the project for will be paid separately by Creative Scotland direct to each participant

## Questions or Queries

Please contact Lynsey Smith at lynsey.smith@britishcouncil.org or Leah Black at Leah.Black@creativescotland.com with any questions prior to the deadline.

## Glossary of Terms

**Open (Access):** 'general access to most or all facilities and machines' Make Works definition – more info here.

**(Production) Facility:** 'Somewhere you can make your own work. Usually a workshop with access to various machines, tools, equipment or other facilities' Make Works definition – more info here.

**Maker Spaces:** *'an open access space (free or paid) with facilities for different practices, where anyone can come and make something'* Nesta. More info here.

**Creative Hubs:** a physical or virtual place that brings enterprising people together who work in the creative and cultural and industries. More info here.