



Biosphere Artist in Residence 2022

Overview of the MWT Proposal



The 'Art of Nature' exhibition run jointly by MWT and Manx National Heritage at the House of Mannanan in 2020

1. Overview

Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) is delighted to host the inaugural Biosphere Artist in Residence. Working with [UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man](#) partners and funded by Isle of Man Arts Council, MWT invites proposals for a year-long funded artist residency. The residency will connect new audiences with Manx nature, through the medium of art. The aim being to enable people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy our culture and the arts, as well as inspiring them to act for Manx nature. The funding will support one artist or art collective to develop their community-focused and socially engaged practice on the Island over the course of a year, with opportunities to deliver physical and/or digital interventions across the Island. In celebration of the [Hairpin Woodland Park in Ramsey](#), this residency will include a focus on outputs in the north of the Island, including several MWT Nature Reserves and the Ayres Nature Discovery Centre.

2. Brief

The Isle of Man enjoys a reputation as one that cares and has a conscience for the unique culture, heritage, and community of its past and present. Few other places can identify such a clear and intimate connection between its society, environment, and economy. The landscape and seascape of the Island is an inspiration to its creative communities and treasured by residents and visitors alike. The inaugural *Biosphere Artist in Residence* programme brings together the vision of a sustainable future for Ellan Vannin by bringing people closer to nature and promoting our unique Manx culture and distinctiveness as central to the Island's image nationally and internationally.

Biospheres connect people to the world around them, prompting awareness, care and action. This has never been more important. Our membership of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme affords us the chance to collaborate with, and learn from, other Biospheres worldwide, and they to learn from us, as we all seek sustainable solutions. As the only 'entire nation' Biosphere, the Isle of Man is renowned across the globe as a leader in enabling people to more easily connect with our nature, culture, heritage and community life.

The Isle of Man Arts Council works to deliver its vision of arts, culture and creativity for everyone on the Island. This residency will invest in the creative community, develop the knowledge, skills and creative practice of the Manx artists, and champion the arts as fundamental to our wellbeing and sense of place.

Manx Wildlife Trust supports these ambitions and knows that a society where nature matters is key to our wellbeing. We believe in developing creative partnerships to get people outdoors experiencing and enjoying Manx landscapes and seascapes. This residency will bring people closer to nature at our sites, reach local communities including those who don't normally engage with MWT, and offer opportunities across the Island to take part in creative and cultural activities that improve our Island understanding of nature, our Biosphere, wellbeing and quality of life.

This *Biosphere Artist in Residence* programme sets a bold ambition for a post-COVID Isle of Man that inspires people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy our culture and the arts. We welcome proposals demonstrating innovative, adventurous, and creative artistic responses to this brief.

3. Deliverables

Artistic outputs may take a range of formats, media, and themes and this brief is not intended to exclude any options by the content in this section.

Proposals should demonstrate a clear theme for the work that supports the objectives of the Biosphere Isle of Man, Manx Wildlife Trust, and Isle of Man Arts Council. With the focus outlined in section 2 (Brief) on community, participatory, and socially engaged art, this residency should result in the following minimum outputs:

- At least five public events, education opportunities, activities, live or other artistic interventions delivered across the island. The audiences should be varied and:
 - o At least one must be delivered at the Hairpin Woodland Park in Ramsey
 - o At least one must be delivered at another MWT Site
 - o At least two must be delivered not at MWT sites (potentially in Douglas), with the aim of engaging those who don't normally visit MWT places
 - o One of the five must be a flagship artistic intervention around which interest and awareness of the residency can be generated
- Exploration and development of creative practice to expand knowledge and skills, and/or explore new horizons through innovation, media and technology
- A reflection by the artist or art collective towards the end as part of the legacy of the residency. The format of this is not fixed and should be outlined in the proposal.
- Digital engagement: a webpage/website, social media and a blog by the artist.

4. Funding and Support

Funding is ring-fenced in this residency to support the artist or art collective to develop their practice during the year. This includes a fixed amount to cover a minimum of 25 days to complete the outputs agreed in the proposal, in-kind contributions from Manx Wildlife Trust to provide office space, support from MWT staff, use of equipment at their Headquarters in Peel, and funding for continuing professional development. This will invest in the Island's creative community for success and sustainability; help develop knowledge, skills and understanding within our creative and cultural industries; and inspire and enable people to explore new horizons through innovation, media, and technology.

We invite proposals that response creatively to these objectives and demonstrate an ambition to achieve these through the residency.

Part of this support will be in evaluating the impact of the residency, which will involve the awardee both delivering and participating in evaluation. Specialist support will be provided, and funds are ring-fenced to facilitate this.

5. Time frame and Eligibility

Work cannot begin before 3 January 2022 and all work, outputs, and events must be completed by 31 December 2022. Proposals including activity outside of this timeframe will not be eligible and no funds will be awarded retrospectively for work already completed. The panel will review the proposed timeframes for delivery in submissions to assess for feasibility.

You must be an Isle of Man resident, or your organisation must be registered on the Isle of Man (as a charity, limited company, or other relevant registration) to be eligible to apply for this funding. We will confirm this as part of our due diligence process before announcing the awarding of any funds.

In celebration of the Hairpin Woodland Forest in Ramsey, we particularly invite proposals that include a focus on outputs in the north of the Island.

6. Budget

The total budget for this residency is £18,000 and include the following core components:

Budget Line	No. of Items	Rate	Total	Notes
Artist Stipend	25	£240	£6000	This equates to five weeks of work across the year.
Materials & Activities	1	£7000	£7000	For community/participatory events, workshops, and artistic outputs. A more detailed breakdown will be required as part of the proposal/commissioning process.
Public Engagement Activities	1	£1000	£1000	Funds ring-fenced for public engagement activities that support broader MWT objectives through the residency outputs. This may be supplemented by the materials & activities line.
Skills & Training	1	£500	£500	To supporting the artist to develop their practice through this residency period
Room Hire	1	£500	£500	For community/participatory events delivered
Travel (on-island)	1	£500	£500	To support the artist to engage with communities across the island, especially those for whom travel is a barrier to participation
Evaluation	1	£500	£500	Costs for evaluating the impact of the residency and the extent to which it met the objectives of the funding
In-kind contributions from MWT	1	£2000	£2000	Hosting costs for the residency including office space/ phone and computer equipment/ email hosting/ social media support/ Biosphere expertise
TOTAL			£18000	

This table is provided for the information of potential applicants to understand how they will be supported throughout the residency; lines in grey are fixed values. Proposals should focus on the use of funds for the Materials & Activities, Public Engagement Activities, and Skills & Training lines.

7. Application Process

We welcome applications in written, sound, or moving-image format. For fairness, the following restrictions on length of applications apply:

- No more than 4 sides of A4 submitted electronically as one document (hard copy applications will not be accepted). Still-image submissions must conform to this limit.
- No more than 3 minutes of audio or audio-visual content submitted electronically as a single file in MP3 or MP4 format, accompanied by no more than 1 side of A4 which addresses the budget and time frame requirements.

Your application should include and demonstrate the following:

- Your artistic response to the brief, addressing the deliverables in section 4.
- Your understanding of the Biosphere and Isle of Man Arts Council objectives in relation to section 3 (Brief)
- Your outline plans for community engagement and/or participatory work as required in section 4 (Deliverables)

- Proposed breakdown for the £6000 materials budget
- Proposed time frame for delivery of activities and outputs
- Your proposal for use of the £500 skills & training budget to develop your practice through the residency
- Evidence of your portfolio (this may include a URL link to further examples of your work)

Applications can be submitted here: **enquiries@mwt.im**

****The potential deadline for applications to be the Artist In Residence is 12pm on Monday 31st January 2022 (but could be later if more time required. Artists needs to be in post before Easter at the latest ****

The assessing panel will consist of representatives from Manx Wildlife Trust, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, and Isle of Man Arts Council. The assessing panel may request reasonable amendments to the successful proposal prior to awarding funds and reserves the right not to make an award should no suitable proposals be forthcoming.

8. Key Contact

For an informal conversation or for queries about the brief, contact:

Leigh Morris

CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust

leigh@mwt.im