



Children of the 90s art project: brief for artists

Background

Based at the University of Bristol, Children of the 90s has been researching the health and wellbeing of some 14,000 mothers and their children since the early 90s. We aim to improve the health of current and future generations worldwide, and our discoveries to date include advice on reducing the risk of cot death and peanut allergy, the benefits of regular exercise and good diet, and the causes and effects of pre- and postnatal depression in both men and women.

The study is one of the largest and most detailed of its kind in the world and some 600 researchers worldwide use our data to conduct research across the social and bio-medical sciences. We are funded by the University of Bristol, the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council.

Our research is published all over the world, regularly makes national and international headlines, stimulates academic debate and informs policy.

To find out more about us:

- Watch this short film <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjOf0GTTiIE>
- Visit our website <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac>
- Find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/childrenofthe90s>
- Read a blog by one of our participants <http://wellcometrust.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/a-child-of-the-90s/>

Children of the 90s means different things to different people. To participants, it is an integral part of their life and has been since they were born; to researchers, it is a world-leading, cutting-edge academic resource; to Bristolians it is a project many are aware of because they know someone in the study and one we want them to feel really proud of.

Project summary

Stage 1

2011 is the Wellcome Trust's 75th anniversary and, to mark the occasion, they have asked us to deliver a public-engagement project this autumn. For this, we will be asking everyone connected with the study in some way – staff (past and present), participants, researchers, funders, policymakers and the people of Bristol – to tell us using words, photos or video what Children of the 90s means to them. The material will be gathered online and we want to work with an individual artist or team of artists to curate the interesting stories we expect to emerge from the material.

Stage 2

To organise and deliver an event to launch the website and drive traffic to it.

Stage 3

Next year is our 21st birthday, a significant milestone for the young people in the study, and for this we plan to develop the Wellcome Trust project into a more substantial artwork. We do not expect the artist(s) to deliver stage 3 as part of this tender but to aware when developing stage 1 that it will form the basis of a larger project.

Objectives

- to bring together researchers, staff and participants to develop and deliver stages 1 and 2 of the project
- to break down boundaries, challenge preconceptions and strengthen understanding between stakeholders
- to raise awareness of Children of the 90s within the local community
- to create a sustainable produce to be used to increase participation in, and awareness of, the study

Outputs

- an online web-based exhibition that tells interesting stories about Children of the 90s from a variety of perspectives (stage 1: autumn 2011)
- an artistic presentation of the material – we are in discussion with a local museum about producing a mini exhibition with a strong online/digital component for exhibition this autumn – but do not want to be prescriptive and are open to other ideas (stage 2: autumn 2011)

Stages 1 and 2 should act as a trailer/pilot for a more substantial multi-media exhibition in 2012 that could include not just words and images but also key artefacts, for example, early equipment or documents from participants' 'time capsules' (many have saved all the material they have ever received from us, from early puzzle books to full-body scans). We are also keen to link the exhibition to projects in schools and a series of science seminars in 2012 (stage 3: 2012).

Requirements

- to attend an initial briefing meeting with the project team
- to attend subsequent regular meetings in Bristol as required
- to work closely with the project team to identify researchers, staff and participants to include in developing and delivering the project and to help develop the skills of the latter
- to review and curate all material
- to develop and deliver an online web exhibition
- to develop and deliver a public artwork
- to liaise closely with all project partners
- to provide the project team with regular progress reports (can be written or verbal)

Skills and experience

- creative artist(s) experienced in working in one or more artforms
- good knowledge of digital and new media
- experience of delivering complex projects
- discursive, inclusive and collaborative approach
- excellent project-management skills
- excellent communication skills
- lateral thinker
- strong track record of bringing together different stakeholders
- experience of working with young people
- experience of working on community or schools-based projects

Timeframe

Friday 12 August: declaration of interest

Noon on Wednesday 17 August: application deadline

Monday 22 August: shortlisted artists notified

Wednesday 24 August: interviews

Thursday 25 August: successful candidate notified

Wednesday 31 August: project start date

Thursday 1 December: launch of online exhibition and delivery of artwork

Budget

There is a budget of up to £5,000 to include VAT, expenses and all project development and delivery costs. The fee will be paid in three instalments across the project with the final on delivery.

Applications

Please submit (for each artist) by **noon on Wednesday 17 August:**

- Full contact details
- Cover letter outlining previous experience, approach and methodology
- CV
- Two examples of previous work
- Two references
- Detailed budget proposal

Send to:

Dara O'Hare
Communications Manager
Children of the 90s
Oakfield House
Oakfield Grove
Bristol
BS8 2BN

Please note: email applications will not be accepted

Conflict of interest

Please declare any conflict of interest.

Copyright

Children of the 90s will retain copyright in the resulting artwork (s). The artist will be fully and clearly acknowledged.

Contact for informal enquiries and expressions of interest

Dara O'Hare
Communications Manager
Children of the 90s
Tel: 0117 331 0077
Mobile: 07891 549144
Email: dara.ohare@bristol.ac.uk

We reserve the right to terminate the contract at any time should the artist fail to deliver the required outputs and/or to comply with the objectives and timelines outlined within the brief, and acceptable efforts are not made to redress any shortcomings.