



**Artist Opportunity:
Horsebox Studio Commission**

Peak/Copa & Abergavenny Food Festival
July – September.
Festival Weekend 16 & 17 Sept 2017

Introduction

The Horsebox Studio Commission is a partnership project between Peak/Copa and the Abergavenny Food Festival. We are seeking a professional, Wales-based visual or applied artist of any discipline, to respond to the distinctive region of the Black Mountains and to the themes of the festival to produce new work in collaboration with the public, which will be created and presented in Peak's Horsebox Studio on site during the festival weekend (16 & 17 September 2017).

Themes: growing, cooking, agriculture, sustainability, food culture, the politics and economics of food production, individual and collective memories of food, markets, small holdings

About the commission

The selected artist will be required to produce new work in collaboration with the public, however the format and outcome is not prescriptive and the artist will be supported by Peak staff to finalise their proposal during a research and development period at the beginning of August.

In liaison with the artist, Peak will design engagement activity in response to the commission, including an artist talk, school/college visits and digital content throughout the period of the commission.

Peak's Horsebox Studio was purchased and adapted in 2016 with support from the Brecon Beacons Trust. The Horsebox Studio is a mobile, creative project space and has since welcomed over 1,300 visitors at Green Man festival, Cardiff Contemporary, Royal Welsh Show Spring Festival and Canal & River Trust Open Day, Llangattock.



About the Artist

Professional, Wales-based visual or applied artists at any stage in their career are eligible to apply. (Undergraduates and students in full time education are **not** eligible to apply.)

The artist should be confident in working collaboratively with the public, including young people and those with no prior experience of the contemporary arts. The artist must be a clear and confident communicator with an ability to build relationships with the commission partners.

The artist will be selected on

- > the strength of their work to date
- > the relevance of their practice to the themes of the festival
- > their experience of working successfully in collaboration with the public and community groups
- > their interest in the commission

The artist will be required to attend regular meetings with Peak staff (dates to be confirmed in liaison with the artist), to update on progress and discuss any issues that may arise. Peak aims to develop a relationship with the artist in the longer term.

The artist must be available during the preparation and delivery of the festival weekend (16th and 17th September). The artist is expected to spend a minimum of 8 days working on the research, preparation, delivery and evaluation of the commission (at least 4 days to be located in Abergavenny).

The selected artist must be self-employed, covered by their own Public Liability Insurance and have a current DBS certificate (we can arrange a DBS check if necessary).

Although not essential, it is desirable for the artist to have a valid, clean driving license.

Although not essential, it is desirable for the artist to be a fluent Welsh speaker.



Budget & Resources

The Artist Commission is supported through Arts Council of Wales funding.

The commission offers the following:

- > **£2,500 artist fee** inclusive of materials, production costs and any modifications to the Horsebox Studio.
- > **Up to £150 travel expenses**
- > **Up to 4 x nights' accommodation** in Abergavenny (if required) during the research period and festival weekend.
- > **Practical support.** Peak staff will arrange for any modifications to the Horsebox and will support the delivery of engagement activity during the festival weekend
- > **Promotion.** Peak staff will manage the documentation, promotion and digital content of the commission.



Application Process

To apply please email a PDF document including:

- > Artist CV (no more than two sides of A4)
- > Letter of application, outlining current art practice, experience, interest in the commission and any initial ideas in response (no more than 2 sides of A4)
- > Up to 6 images of recent work/projects
- > Up to 4 web links to other examples of work, moving image/audio files etc.

Applications should be emailed to: Rebecca Spooner, Creative Director rebecca@artsalivewales.org.uk with **Peak Horsebox Commission** in the subject line of the email. If your PDF document is larger than 3MB please use a file sharing service such as We Transfer.

The deadline for applications is 10am, Wednesday 19th July 2017. All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. An artist will be selected and notified by Friday 28th July.

The selection panel will include:

Rebecca Spooner, Creative Director,
Peak/Copa, Arts Alive Wales

Rachel Dunlop, Participation Manager,
Peak/Copa, Arts Alive Wales

Aine Morris, Director,
Abergavenny Food Festival

Adele Nozedar, trustee,
Abergavenny Food Festival

A shortlist of candidates may be contacted by phone or Skype for an informal interview for further information before a final artist is selected.

We regret that it will not be possible to give feedback to unsuccessful applicants.



Further Information & Context

About Peak/Copa

Peak/Copa is an initiative devised and delivered by **Arts Alive Wales**, an arts education charity based in Crickhowell, Powys. Peak creates opportunities for contemporary art in the Black Mountains and Welsh Borders for the benefit of the region's artists, communities and visitors. Peak is inspired by the artists living and working in the Black Mountains and by a need to support the artistic diversity and ambition of the region. Peak also takes inspiration from the distinctive, natural landscape of the Black Mountains as a unique resource, environmentally and creatively, which attracts thousands of visitors each year. Peak works in partnership with a range of organisations including Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Canal & River Trust, the Landmark Trust, Green Man festival and Abergavenny Food Festival.

www.peakart.org.uk
www.artsalivewales.org.uk

About Abergavenny Food Festival

Over the last 18 years, Abergavenny Food Festival has grown to become the largest, longest running food festival in Wales. The event enjoys an exceptional reputation as a place for chefs, food businesses, journalists, farmers and food producers to come together. The Festival is known for being an inclusive and welcoming event, delivering a delicious opportunity for people from all walks of life to explore and learn about food. The Festival prides itself on transforming the way people think about food; challenging and promoting new ideas, pushing the boundaries of current thinking and encouraging people to look differently at where their food comes from. Abergavenny Food Festival was created in 1999 by two local farmers in response to the BSE crisis and the resulting lack of consumer confidence in British produce. With the outbreak of Foot and Mouth in 2001, the difficulties worsened for farmers and pushed the Festival forward in terms of showcasing the wonderful food on offer locally and the passion of the people who produce it. Each year the Festival attracts more than 30,000 visitors to Abergavenny, generating an estimated £4 million impact for the local economy.

www.abergavennyfoodfestival.com

About the Black Mountains

The Black Mountains are a group of hills spread across parts of Powys and Monmouthshire in southeast Wales, and extending across the national border into Herefordshire. They are the easternmost of the four ranges of hills that comprise the Brecon Beacons National Park and are within an hour's travel of Cardiff and Bristol. The Black Mountains are roughly defined as those hills contained within a triangle formed by the main towns of Abergavenny in the southeast, Hay-on-Wye in the north and Brecon in the west. The Black Mountains area has a rich cultural legacy and continues to attract artists, writers and musicians to live and work here. It is the home of international festivals including Hay Festival, Brecon Jazz, Greenman and Abergavenny Food Festival.

