

## Urban Journeys in Community Landownership Bridgend Farmhouse

### **Bridgend Farmhouse – cross-discipline**

Community land purchase is part of a long journey, often to reverse many years of decline and lack of opportunities for local people. Purchases can quickly stimulate confidence, which empowers communities to develop economic opportunities, enable vital developments, building on a growing awareness of environment and heritage to enliven the life of local people and support more open and inclusive decision-making.

*"Bridgend Farmhouse has a long, rich cultural history which has many associations for people growing up locally. 10 years of being left to rack and ruin after the farmers left in 2000, led to it being at the point of collapse in 2010/2011. It was then local community members started to organise, discuss, meet and advocate to take community control and convert the Farmhouse and land into something everyone could use together. By drawing on the many strengths within our community, we were able to overcome barriers, renovate it and create this wonderful home, and through it build and develop a thriving community."*

### **Bridgend Farmhouse**

Bridgend Farmhouse is now a thriving community owned and run hub and social enterprise in South-East Edinburgh, where people grow, learn and work together to develop a flourishing community and place. It sits on the edge of a large community woodland with rich a wildlife and green environment, on the site of the old farm, in the middle of three dense housing estates. It was one of Scotland's first urban asset transfers in 2015, following a 5year community campaign and detailed community development outreach work and consultation led by local volunteers.

Collective control is at its heart and a diversity of people from all walks of life involved in democratic decision making and hands-on development of Bridgend as a hub of well used facilities, activities and events.

*"We have researched and documented the story of Bridgend Farmhouse as a working farm, and now we want to document its transformation from farmers, to council, to community ownership."*

This commission is for an artist (or collective) to work collaboratively with Bridgend Farmhouse and engage groups and individuals over a period of 6 weeks to research and understand their journey of community ownership and its impact for their community. The artist(s) will use this exploration, along with archival material provided\* by Bridgend Farmhouse, to produce a final creative work that tells their story and can be used for wider sharing and learning. We are interested in proposals from multiple disciplines (visual, word, performance, storytelling, moving image, animation) with the main focus for this commission on telling the story of Bridgend in a way that can be shared with those with no previous knowledge of community landownership.

This is a creative commission to work in inclusive and creative ways, to ensure that the genuine story of Bridgend is told and is accessible to non-arts and diverse audiences. We are interested in proposals that mention multiple outputs and have a consideration of how the final work will reach more marginalised groups, address accessibility needs and can be shared widely across multiple platforms.

We would like to hear from creative practitioners/artists with an initial response to the project and a short proposal to the brief (see **To Apply** section below). We are interested in processes that are responsive and adaptive to the community of Bridgend Farmhouse, engage with work that they are already doing with groups (film work, choir, making), demonstrate a commitment to collaborative working and give a clear idea of the creative skills, local knowledge and tools the artist(s) bring to developing this.

\* Bridgend Farmhouse is currently working with a film duo as part of [Artists and Community Landowners](#) and there is additional opportunity to reference (and use with prior consent by the artists) audio material gathered as part of this project.

## The Commission

This commission is to work directly Bridgend Farmhouse, with support from Community Land Scotland who will be the contracting organisation. The commissioned artist will receive a fee of **£2 000** (inclusive of all materials and activity costs). There will be additional budget to support particular accessibility needs that can be accessed on agreement. The artists will be expected to work for a 6week period between November 2020 and February 2021. Proposals for engagement/production will be developed collaboratively between the commissioned artist and Bridgend Farmhouse with an Activity Plan for work submitted to Community Land Scotland by mid December. Activity will then commence early January with final works created by the end of February. We expect this process will involve elements of research, online and direct activity, engagement and creation of final work.

Please see [Criteria and Working](#) for extra information.

## To Apply:

Please send us:

- A statement of no more than 500 words (or a video of no more than 3 minutes long) stating your interest in this project, what skills you bring to it and your approach to working with Bridgend Farmhouse.
- Current CV
- Up to 4 examples of past work that you feel best supports your application – this can be in any form (images, films, texts, testimonials etc., links to online video or other online resources)
- Please send by email to [kristina.nitsolova@communitylandscotland.org.uk](mailto:kristina.nitsolova@communitylandscotland.org.uk) with a maximum file size of 10MB, you can also email us with any additional questions you have when applying
- The deadline for receiving submissions is midnight on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November
- Interviews for the commissions will be held virtually on the following dates on the Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – questions can be made available ahead of time

# COMMUNITY\* LAND SCOTLAND

By applying you are deemed to be making yourself available for the interview on the date mentioned (however you may let us know in your application if you need to make other arrangements in order to apply)

- We will always send an email acknowledging receipt of any applications. If you do not receive an email, please contact us again.
- If you require specific support when making an application, please let us know