

## **COMMUNITY LAND TOURING EXHIBITION PLAN**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Community Land Scotland is the representative body for Scotland's community landowners. Community landowners are geographic communities that own land and / or buildings with a view to revitalising their place.

Over the past year, Community Land Scotland has been working with artists, musicians and creative facilitators to develop a number of creative works that tell the story of community landowners. We would like to bring these together to create an exhibition that would tour the country from Autumn 2021.

This will be the first time that Community Land Scotland has planned a touring exhibition and we are looking to work with a consultant who can guide us on: the best way to go about the process, identifying potential venues and management options, creating a budget and potential funding.

#### **VALUE OF WORK**

We are looking for proposals in the region of £7000. Community Land Scotland is not VAT registered so bids should be inclusive of VAT.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The oldest community landowners have been around for 100 years but the modern wave of buyouts started in the 1990s. These early buyouts usually happened in response to economic and social decline caused by absentee landowners. Community landowners have always been a driving force in the Scottish land reform movement.

Today, almost 600,000 acres of land is in community ownership and over 500 Scottish communities own land or buildings. These days, community landowners are recognised as much for their ability to revitalise communities and tackle intractable issues such as depopulation and disempowerment as for their influence on land reform.

Community Land Scotland was set up in 2010 by 17 of the early community buyouts. They wanted other communities to have the same benefits that ownership had brought them. Community Land Scotland exists to:

1. To be the representative voice for Scotland's community landowners
2. To promote the sustainable development benefits of community landownership and encourage more community ownership of land and buildings throughout Scotland
3. To facilitate networking, mutual support and knowledge exchange between community landowners

4. To collaborate with other organisations to ensure that community landowners can access the support they need

## **CULTURAL PROJECTS**

In 2020, Community Land Scotland commissioned a number of cultural projects with a view to taking Scotland's community land story to new audiences. Culture and people's relationship with the land have been closely intertwined throughout Scotland's history, with works such as *The Cheviot, The Stag and the Black Black Oil* taking the land story up to the 1970s. Land reform and community landownership have continued to be an important part of Scotland's story and we have tried to tell this modern land story through our recent cultural programmes.

We will be holding a digital launch for the two films that are coming out of the projects on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and we're seeing that as phase 1 of sharing our cultural projects.

### **Cultural programmes we've been working on in 2020/21:**

**Artists and community landowners.** This is a [project](#) we have been running in partnership with the Stove Network to tell the story of mature community landowners and the effect that ownership has had on communities. There were three commissions:

- Abriachan Forest Trust worked with the sculptor Richard Bracken. Abriachan Forest Trust bought a commercial woodland near to Loch Ness in 1998 and have transformed it into a much-loved community and education space. This project brought together children who use the forest with people who had been involved in the buyout. The main output from this project will be walking sticks that are being whittled by local children and which connect 'hand to land'
- Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn / Galson Estate Trust worked with the sculptor Virginia Hutchison to tell the story of their estate through a series of waymarkers that will be placed around the estate but that can be moved for use in exhibitions. Galson Estate is in Lewis and is the second largest community-owned estate in Scotland
- Stories of Radical Community Ownership told through the stories of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, North Harris Trust, South West Mull and Iona Development and Bridgend Farmhouse in Edinburgh. This story is being told by lens-based artists, CT Productions and will result in the creation of a film and photographs.

**Music for community land.** Community Land Scotland has commissioned a short piece of music about community landownership from students studying for a BA in Applied Music at the University of the Highlands and Islands. This has been a collaborative project which will be completed in March 2021

**Owning Our Future.** This project was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund as part of their Emerging Futures Fund programme. It has allowed us to place creative facilitators in five communities where the community landowner had organised or been involved in the Covid response. The creative facilitators worked with the communities to help them reflect on their Covid experience and to look forward and imagine how they would like the world to be different post-Covid. Each community was asked to produce an

output that would reflect their hopes for the future. The output from this process is a range of creative works from giant maps to podcasts. We have also commissioned a filmmaker to make a film about the project. This project is in its final phase at the moment.

**Urban community journeys.** Legislative rights and funding were extended to urban communities in 2016. Community ownership is now blossoming in Scotland's towns and cities, and many of the emerging community landowners are leaning heavily on the knowledge and expertise of urban communities that have already purchased their assets. To take some of the pressure off, we have commissioned artists to capture the stories of three of these communities – Greener Kirkcaldy, Govanhill Baths and Bridgend Farmhouse in Edinburgh – so that they can easily be shared.

These creative projects have helped us to engage with a very broad range of people to discuss what community ownership means to them.

### **OUR VISION FOR A TOURING EXHIBITION**

Most people in Scotland have heard about the community buyouts in Eigg and Gigha and may have a general idea of what community landownership is about. The primary aim of the exhibition is to inspire communities and raise awareness of community ownership. The exhibition would help us tell the story of what happens to a community once they have ownership of their own land and buildings and inspire other communities to embark on their own ownership journey. We are also keen to celebrate the amazing work of communities that have participated in our cultural programmes.

We are keen to take these stories out to both new and old audiences. Our vision is for a tour that would kick off with an exhibition in a major national museum or gallery before travelling to places that are already community-owned and then on to places where there is a growing momentum around community ownership, such as the South of Scotland. We have many community-owned halls and galleries within our network and would like to use those spaces where possible.

Community Land Scotland has a Gaelic language policy. Gaelic is integral to Scotland's community land story and features in a number of our cultural works, so any exhibition would need to find a way of incorporating Gaelic in a meaningful way.

### **WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR**

We are looking for a consultant who can help us create an outline plan for a touring exhibition about community landownership. The plan should contain enough detail to allow us to approach funders and partners, but we are not expecting a full operational plan.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has experience of organising touring exhibitions in Scotland
- Is used to working with small organisations
- Can work to tight timescales
- Has good connections with some of the major museums and galleries but is also experienced in working with non-traditional venues
- Understands the funding environment

- Ideally who has some understanding of community landownership, although this is not essential

The work done by the consultant would include:

- Providing advice about how we could use the outputs of our cultural projects to create an impactful exhibition
- Provide advice on the practicalities of organising a touring exhibition including potential partners and partnership models. This may include presenting Community Land Scotland with a number of options
- Advising on the best way to promote a touring exhibition
- Suggesting and sounding out potential host venues
- Identifying and ranking any potential risks
- Providing a funding / income generation model and a costing for a touring exhibition
- Suggesting potential sources of funding

Project outputs: we will be looking for a written plan with costings

## TIMELINES

| Timeline                  |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Call for proposals closes | 5pm on the 8 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Shortlisting              | By 12 <sup>th</sup> March        |
| Interviews                | w/b 19 <sup>th</sup> March       |
| Appointment of consultant | By 26 <sup>th</sup> March        |
| Inception meeting         | w/b 19 <sup>th</sup> March       |
| Draft plan completed      | End April                        |
| Final plan agreed         | Mid May                          |

## HOW WE WILL SELECT A SUCCESSFUL BIDDER

We will apply the following weighting. As part of our procurement policy, we apply a 10% weighting to applications from social enterprises.

- Price – 20%
- Skills and experience - 30%
- Understanding of the brief – 20%
- Methodology and approach -20%
- Social enterprise weighting – 10%

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please provide us with a proposal that sets out the following:

- Your skills and experience, including short CVs of anyone who would be working on the project. This should include information about your previous work
- How you would go about delivering this project including how you would work with us and how you would go about delivering the final output
- Any challenges you may have in meeting the timelines
- A quote, including your day rate if appropriate

Please provide the following information in your application:  
Short CV of consultant or team

Please submit your application to: [linsay.chalmers@communitylandscotland.org.uk](mailto:linsay.chalmers@communitylandscotland.org.uk) by 5pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you have any questions, you can email our Development Manager, Linsay Chalmers, on the email above, or call 07884 314297

Community Land Scotland  
[www.communitylandscotland.org.uk](http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk)  
email: [info@communitylandscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@communitylandscotland.org.uk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/CommunityLandScotland](https://facebook.com/CommunityLandScotland)  
Twitter: @communitylandsc

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