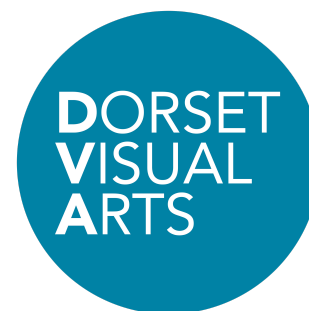


## Connections Residency



Dorset Visual Arts is seeking a socially-engaged artist to complete a residency along the North Dorset Trailway, where they will lead a series of creative workshops with communities. Engaging a diverse range of community groups, organisations, schools, and other creatives, the artist will be expected to develop a co-created outcome. The outcome will be presented at Bere Marsh Farm in Autumn 2026.

The residency will explore people and places specific to the Trailway, and will encourage work with isolated and rural communities, focussing on wellbeing and using creative activities to improve mental health resilience.

### Budget

£2,500 - Artist Fee (approx 10 days of delivery including workshops, preparation, engaging with communities, and developing final outcome)

£500 - Materials budget

### Outcome

The outcome for this project will be developed in collaboration with the communities the artist works with. It will, however, need to be suitable for display in an outdoor barn space. This could include:

- A material artwork such as an installation, sculpture, mural
- A participatory event such as a performance or interactive experience

### Who can apply?

This residency is open to artists and creative practitioners at any stage of their career. We encourage applications from those who have experience with socially engaged or participatory practice. Artists should have experience working with a wide range of people including children and adults, and those with additional needs.

We particularly encourage applications from those with a connection to the North Dorset Trailway but this is not a necessity.

### Timeline

- Applications open **Monday 23rd March 2026**
- Applications close **Friday 17th April 2026, 5pm**
- Interviews will take place **Friday 24th April 2026**
- Residency including workshops and engagement activities **May - August**
- Delivery by end of **September**

### Partners

The appointed artist or creative practitioner will be required to work with the following groups.

- [Bere Marsh Farm, Countryside Regeneration Trust](#)
- [Dorset Lavender Farm Project](#)
- [Yewstock School, Sturminster Newton](#)
- [Sturbiz](#)

Other groups and organisations will be invited subject to discussions with the artist and community groups in the local area.

### **How to apply**

**Please make sure that your application includes the following:**

- A brief CV/bio (no more than 100 words)
- A summary description of your work to date (no more than 100 words)
- An outline of what you propose from the brief (no more than 400 words)

Please include within this:

- How will you approach engaging with communities in the North Dorset Trailway and what is your approach to co-creation?
- What would you like to achieve with this residency?
- What are your initial ideas and potential outcomes?
- Images (5 max) or one web link illustrating appropriate previous work.

**Your application and images must be sent as ONE pdf document, please label the document with your name.** If you have access requirements and would like to submit your application in an alternative format please get in touch.

Applications should be sent to Izzie Jobbins at [news@dorsetvisualarts.org](mailto:news@dorsetvisualarts.org) by **Friday 17th April 2026, 5pm with 'Connections Residency' in the subject line.**

This project is made possible with funding from Dorset Council's Community and Culture Project Fund.

## **Dorset Visual Arts**

Dorset Visual Arts (DVA) is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity (1113249), established in 2006.

We recognise that artists and makers have different interests and needs in developing their work and careers, particularly in a mainly rural county. We are here to support visual artists, designers and makers at all stages of their career, through a variety of activities.

Our Aims:

DVA champions the advancement and appreciation of arts, design, and craft for public benefit by empowering Dorset's artists and makers to fully realise the potential of their creative practices

This is achieved through:

- **Creative Development:** Supporting the growth and quality of visual arts through bursaries, commissions, and other opportunities for Dorset's creative community.
- **Public Programming:** Producing Art Weeks events and other curated public programmes that educate in, and promote awareness of, the visual arts, crafts, and making.
- **Community Building:** Providing opportunities for members of Dorset's creative community to connect, share knowledge and experience, showcase their work, and to develop their creative practice and promotional skills.