



ARTIST CALL OUT

Sustainable Designs for Living and Learning

University of Glasgow seeks to appoint three artists for a pioneering durational project exploring multilingualism, permaculture, and sustainability within Scottish Primary Schools.

Timescales: Durational project August 2025 – May 2028

Artist Fees: £6,500 bursary per artist, plus Introduction to Permaculture training programme, and joint £10,000 exhibition production budget.

Deadline: Apply by Sunday 29th June, 5pm
Full details and how to apply overleaf.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

'Sustainable Designs for Living and Learning' is a pioneer project that aims to support the development of new integrated approaches to learning for sustainability through languages and arts. The project starts from a critical observation: in our multilingual world, we struggle to bring together worldviews, connect language resources and develop reparative solutions to human-environment systems.

The project, launched in May 2025, will focus on the role of multilingualism and principles of permaculture in shaping and supporting human-non-human ecologies. We will collaborate with a wide range of participants and co-researchers (including children, artists, teachers, researchers, and educators) to develop new creative learning approaches, resources, and professional development opportunities for teachers. The project aims to ensure that young learners can fully contribute to sustainability within their communities.

This project builds on previous collaborations and pilot initiatives (e.g.: Multilingualism through Art). These initiatives have laid the foundations of a series of innovative arts-based activities in language learning which continue to support teachers across Scotland to meet the language needs of all multilingual learners. 'Sustainable Designs for Living and Learning' (SDLL) will draw on this expertise and it will transform relationships between languages, the arts, and the environment by exploring in depth the potential for transforming schools through permaculture designs.

You can see some of our previous work [here](#).

Further Information:

- [Building a path to sustainability through languages and art](#)
- [£1.3 million to build a path to sustainability through languages and art](#)
- Cox, S., Phipps, A. and Hirsu, L. (2022) Language learning for refugee women in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic: restorative pedagogies for integrating to place– Perspectives from Scotland. *Frontiers in Communication*, 7, 982813. ([doi:10.3389/fcomm.2022.982813](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2022.982813))
- Macnamara, L., & Storch, R. (2012). *People & permaculture: Caring and designing for ourselves, each other and the planet*. Permanent Publ.
- Permaculture Association: <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/>

PROJECT TEAM:

SDLL is a 3-year collaboration between [University of Glasgow](#), [University of Strathclyde](#), and [SCILT](#) (Scotland's National Centre for Languages). The core team of researchers will work closely with three schools in Year 1-3 and will bring on board ten further schools starting within Year 2.

The team will include three artists selected for this project. The selected artists will develop their professional profile and work collaboratively with the project team, teachers, young learners, and their parents.

As part of the interdisciplinary team, other key collaborators include [Bilingualism Matters](#) and [ScotDec](#).

Creative Glasgow's Role:

Creative Glasgow is partnering with University of Glasgow to support the recruitment of artists and dissemination of the project learning and outcomes. Creative Glasgow connect, champion and celebrate creative practitioners across Greater Glasgow. You can learn more about their work and access their online member directory, resource library and round up of events and opportunities [HERE](#).

ABOUT THE ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

We are looking to appoint three artists – working in any medium or discipline – whose practices engage with topics that are the focus of the project: multilingualism, ecological/environmental education, sustainability, and permaculture. We welcome, in particular, artists with knowledge or experience of permaculture design and/or artists with experience of working in partnerships with primary schools (particularly in the Scottish context). Artists with a multilingual background are highly encouraged to apply.

This project is a professional development opportunity for artists committed to their own artistic growth. Artists participating in this project will contribute to the development of arts-based activities in Scottish primary schools through the innovative framework of permaculture, as well as to the flourishing of their own artistic portfolio and the expansion of knowledge within their own artistic community.

Applicants are expected to have a valid work visa or permit in the UK.

WHERE and WHEN does the activity take place?

The activity takes place in Scotland between August 2025 - May 2028. Engagement with the project will be hybrid and determined in collaboration with the project team, including both online and in person commitments as outlined below.

Each artist will be expected to participate in an *Introduction to Permaculture* course in August 2025 (12hour self-paced course, including 4 live zoom webinars split between Year 1 and 2 of the project). Artists will engage with the primary schools participating in the project starting in August 2025 with more intense activity taking place in Year 1 and 2 of the project.

The three artists selected for this project will also collaborate and contribute to the project's engagement with the wider public through the curation and production of a public Living Languages Art Exhibition which will take place in 2026-2027.

CONTRACTUAL BASIS:

The artists will be appointed, contracted, and managed by the University of Glasgow. The selected artists will be appointed on a freelance, self-employed basis, and will be wholly responsible for their own National Insurance and Tax. Fees will be paid in instalments on receipt of a valid invoice.

Guidance and support will be provided throughout the project from the SDLL Research Project Team. The project lead is Dr. Lavinia Hirsu. The artists will be required to report to Lavinia Hirsu and Jane Caitlin on their project activity, progress, and contribute to evaluation and knowledge exchange. The artists will also work closely with the Project Administrator, Alison Robertson, who will oversee any financial processes.

REMUNERATION OFFER:

- £6,500 bursary per artist for engagement with the project across the three years
- Paid course in permaculture design (£190)
- £10,000 permaculture art exhibition costs (including the work of the three artists and materials needed)

Artists' Contributions in the Project:

This project is a collaborative endeavour based on deep principles of working in partnership. Over the course of the project, we will learn from each other's knowledge, grow together new ways of thinking, being, and doing, and align our actions in symbiosis.

Our approach is informed by ethics of care, using restorative and trauma-sensitive approaches. Working on this project will start from principles of repairing and restoring human relations, as well as our relationships with the environment, which we will learn to cultivate in new ways.

Artists are expected to:

- participate in the self-paced, web-based, *Introduction to Permaculture* course offered via the project (Approx. 12 hours, August 2025-August 2026)
- engage in ±20 days of project activities across the three years with a more intense period of creative activities and development in Year 1 and 2
- establish in person on site relationships, engaging closely with permaculture design activities in the project schools
- develop their own project plans and timescales for delivery, in collaboration with project partners, participating schools, and relevant participants
- contribute to the conceptualisation, launch and maintenance of a living public outdoor exhibition in collaboration with other two artists and the exhibition curator to ensure the legacy of the project
- contribute to the dissemination of the project knowledge, arts-based activities and artistic outputs via networking and knowledge exchange workshops in the academic and/or artistic community

Artists will not be expected to work with children in an unsupervised capacity.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Demonstrates alignment with project focus	Applicant's artistic work has clear connection to one or more of the following project topics / themes: multilingualism, ecological/environmental education, sustainability	Applicant demonstrates significant knowledge and experience of permaculture, multilingualism and learning for sustainability
Demonstrates commitment to artistic quality	Applicant's C.V. and portfolio demonstrates commitment to artistic development	Applicant holds a degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant practice-based creative discipline
Significant experience working creatively in community-based, socially engaged, participatory arts, collaborative or education-focused contexts	Applicant can evidence experience working creatively within primary schools, educational contexts, or community settings. Applicant demonstrates experience of undertaking durational creative engagement work and/or production or co-production of creative learning activities.	Applicant has longterm experience of working creatively with and within educational and community settings. Applicant has previously developed high quality creative learning materials collaboratively.
Evidence of continuing professional development	Applicant can evidence commitment to undertaking learning opportunities, training, and professional development activities	The learning, professional development and training undertaken by the applicant demonstrates alignment with the project foci: permaculture, learning for sustainability, multilingualism. Applicant demonstrates commitment to supporting development of others.
Artistic practice aligns with collaborative ethos of the project	Past work developed with partners, collaborators, and participants in meaningful collaboration. Applicant attuned to inclusive practice and equity of opportunity and participation.	Applicant highly experienced at employing inclusive and collaborative practices and approaches with a diverse range of participants.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

To apply, the artists should submit:

1. CV of no more than 2-pages
2. Cover Letter of no more than 3-pages. This should include:
 - a. Rationale for wanting to join this project
 - b. Potential impact on, or alignment with, your current professional journey
 - c. How your experience aligns with the person specification detailed above
3. Portfolio of artistic work of no more than 4 pages in PDF format (hyperlinks to video / audio work welcomed). This should clearly connect to the project focus and provide insight into the artist's approach and previous creative work.

Recruitment process and timescales:

- Submission should be made by email to: programme@creativeglasgow.co.uk
- Application deadline, **Sunday 29th June 2025 at 5pm**

All applications will be jointly assessed and scored by the SDLL Project team and Creative Glasgow. Successful applicants will be informed if they move to the interview stage week beginning 7th July.

Interviews held week beginning 28th July. Interviews will be held online over Zoom. Interview questions will be provided in advance. Successful applicants will be notified week beginning 4th August.

For all questions relating to this opportunity, please contact:

Lavinia Hirsu, SDLL Project Lead, University of Glasgow

lavinia.Hirsu@glasgow.ac.uk

ACCESSIBILITY

If you require this information in an alternative or accessible format please contact

programme@creativeglasgow.co.uk

PRIVACY POLICY / DATA PROTECTION

All applications, and personal data therein, will be processed and stored in keeping with relevant UK Laws, including UK GDPR, in alignment with Creative Glasgow and University of Glasgow's commitment to privacy and data protection.