**Artist Call Out: The Storytelling Garden, an interactive installation**

**at The Spring, Summer 2025**

**The project**

Following the success of The Magic Library installation by Little Bulb in Summer 2024, we are looking to work with an artist/company to transform our Mezzanine Gallery into an interactive, magical installation for young people and their grown-ups.

The installation will bring to life this year’s Summer Reading Challenge theme: The Story Graden, in an exciting imaginative way that enables audiences and communities to create and share their own stories.

The installation would be in situ from Friday 4th July - Saturday 20th September 2025

**About us and the idea:**

We are an arts centre and museum based in Havant, Hampshire who believe in empowering people through arts, creativity and culture. Our free Summer and Christmas installations are events The Spring are very proud of. They play a key role in supporting us to engage with local families and communities.

Our partnership with Hampshire Libraries and our interest in literature and literacy is the perfect match to connect with and explore the Summer Reading Challenge theme in a creative way.

We have ideas, lots of experience and more than a sprinkling of passion, but we are not artists (we’re producers, managers and administrators) and we’d like to work with people who are - to bring a shared vision to life.

The installation in our Mezzanine Gallery will be accompanied by a free wraparound trail which connects the rest of the building to this space.

The mezzanine space is an exhibition space but it can be transformed in many different ways. See our hires page for a photo of the space.

The idea can be new or existing. We are keen to support artists make the most out of their work so the idea doesn’t need to be new, and can be an idea or format that can be evolved into this format. For example, Little Bulb’s Magic Library exhibition was evolved from their Christmas show of the same name.

**We want to work together with artists who:**

* Have a clear and simple idea that is achievable within the timeframe and resources available
* Are excited about the idea of creating a beautiful immersive experience, inspired by the ideas in this call out
* Share our ambitions, particularly around production quality and audience development
* Are innovative, forward thinking and open to collaborative working
* Share our values around diversity and inclusion
* Have the capacity and dedication to deliver the project to our shared standards

**Together we will create:**

* A magical storytelling garden for our community, inspired by creating, sharing and telling stories. It is likely that the audience will predominantly be families with children aged 10 and below.
* An excellent intergenerational experience that adults can enjoy as much as children and young people.
* An interactive experience that has a clear engagement activity/experience for children, young people and their grown-ups.
* Experiences that are engaging to diverse audiences and particularly those who may not consider themselves usual theatre or arts attenders. This will include ensuring the title and concept are easy to understand and engaging but will exceed expectations when audiences arrive.
* A transformation of our gallery space to create the immersive environment.

**Key dates:**

* Deadline for application: Tuesday 22 April 2025, 12pm
* Invited conversations: week commencing Monday 28th April 2025
* Site-visit and production meeting: after appointment
* Get in/Install: week commencing 23rd June or 30th June – exact dates and times to be agreed and confirmed with artist/company.
* Dates of installation: Friday 4th July - Saturday 20th September 2025
* Get out/De-install: week commencing exact dates and times to be confirmed with artist/company.

**Offer:**

The total fee for the project is £1500, inclusive of materials.

The budget must include

* All costs relating to staffing (including the payment of freelancers)
* All production and material costs
* Any technical equipment not provided by The Spring

The Spring will provide and cover the costs of:

* Exclusive use of the Mezzanine Gallery for the dates specified Friday 4th July - Saturday 20th September 2025
* Exclusive use of the space for install and de-install of the installation
* Technical support for install and deinstall of the installation
* Access to any in-house materials, furniture, props subject to availability
* All marketing for the experience including photography of the installation
* Trail support including simple design, printing, and activity materials such as pencils, colouring and paper
* Community engagement support where appropriate
* Mentoring support in producing, marketing and engagement where required

**Share Your Idea:**

To share your ideas with us please send a submission via email to: Fionab@thespring.co.uk

You can apply by sending in a written proposal (max 2 side of A4) or via video (max of 5 minutes). Please include pictures and links to help bring your ideas to life.

We will read/watch all submissions, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to discuss their ideas with us via zoom.

Please make sure your submission includes:

* A summary of your recent work (including images and links video trailers)
* Information about your idea or vision for The Storytelling Garden installation, including how you’d ensure a high-quality transformation of the space and how the installation would be interactive
* An overview of how you’d use the budget

We are happy to have informal conversation with applicants. Please email [fionab@thespring.co.uk](mailto:fionab@thespring.co.uk) to arrange a suitable time.

We appreciate this callout falls over the Easter holidays. If the timing is tricky but you wish to still share an idea, then please contact Fiona Baxter for further discussion.