

I Take My Imagination Everywhere (even to hospital)

Artist call-out



The Egg has recently received ACE National Lottery funding to deliver a year-long arts programme based on the novel, *The Secret Garden*. *The Secret Garden* is a story of transformation — of spaces, of people, and of how we care for one another and nature.

The **Secret Gardens** programme is made up of the following strands of work:

- A bold new disability-led theatre production, reimagining *The Secret Garden* for today's family audiences
- ***I Take My Imagination Everywhere***: a project with hospital in-patients aged 6+
- ***The Imagination Garden Experience for Babies***: a touring pop-up sensory pod for little ones and their adults
- School residencies for primary and secondary students
- ***The Feelgood Factor***: an interactive, creative technology tool for engaging children and young people in critical reflection
- ***Young Associate Artists***: Young artists aged between 9 and 12 years old will work alongside each of our lead artists across the programme.

What we're looking for

We're looking for freelance artists or artist collectives to join our highly creative, ambitious and deep-thinking Secret Gardens team to design and deliver exciting engagement projects across the south west. Given the focus of the Secret Gardens programme, it's important to us that the artists we work with have professional or personal lived experience of disability and an excellent working knowledge of inclusive and adaptive practice.

At The Egg, we are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce and we strive for equity in our recruitment and employment practices. To inspire and engage more people from diverse backgrounds, we need to actively work to address the barriers they face.

To do this, we aim to diversify our workforce by 20% by 2026. We therefore actively encourage applicants from the global majority, low socioeconomic backgrounds and those living with a disability to apply. Specifically, the successful candidate for this role will have experience of disability-led work or work with disabled participants or audiences.

We are happy to make reasonable adjustments to help applicants feel more confident throughout the recruitment process. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help.

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“Our ability to immerse an audience in a fictional world – to invite them to empathise – is an urgent salve. This isn’t something that can be achieved through technology or bombastic, big-budget productions. It requires craft and our rigour as artists to awaken the audience’s imagination.”

Elisabeth Gunawen

“I believe we all deserve a garden of our own”

Benjamin Zephaniah

We’re looking for an artist or artist collective to create an ambitious, highly creative project, which will engage up to 600 hospital in-patients aged 6+, and will be delivered between March and October 2026 across the South West. **I Take My Imagination Everywhere (even to hospital)** will ignite participants’ imaginations and offer them a meaningful opportunity to participate as artists in our Secret Gardens programme, navigating their own unique creative journey of discovery.

The project will be delivered remotely and will see participants engaging individually - with the support of their carers - with the art at their own pace and in their own time. It will also feature an invitation to watch a beautifully-produced film of The Egg’s production of *The Secret Garden* (performed live at the theatre in July 2026).

Through this element of the programme, we aim to explore the barriers to accessing live performance, how we can bring creativity and nature together to enhance wellbeing, and the relationship between participatory arts and demonstrating the social model of disability - among other questions.

The project could look like any (or none) of the following:

- A cabinet of curiosities
- A series of creative provocations through sound
- A creative kit, which can be refilled and refreshed
- Hundreds of individual boxes to be explored individually

To create a project that comes as a deliverable package, you might use any of the following, or any one of numerous other possible combinations of artistic work, along with your own good ideas:

- creative technology
- sound
- written or visual art provocations
- sensory materials

You will be supported by the Secret Gardens Project Producer, who will oversee all elements of this ambitious programme of work, the Head of Engagement, who will support with working with Young Associate Artists and the Production Manager, who will support with sourcing materials, volunteers where appropriate and working in accordance with The Theatre Green Book. An access consultant will also support us with all aspects of the programme.

To launch the programme, we will be bringing together the Secret Gardens team at The Egg Theatre, Bath, for a 2-day (non-residential) Artists Retreat, which will be an opportunity for you to connect, develop ideas and undertake essential training together.

Attendance at the Artists Retreat is key to the success of the programme, and is non-negotiable.

We can help you with travel and accommodation costs if you need us to, and this will be discussed at interview stage.

Budget

We currently have a maximum budget of **£15,000** (including VAT) available for this project, with some flexibility, depending on what the final project looks like and further fundraising. In addition, there is a separate budget allocated for any access costs.

Key Dates

Application deadline: Monday 20th October at 9am

Interviews: Wednesday 22nd or Thursday 23rd October (online or in person)

Artists Retreat: Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November (all day), The Egg Theatre

White card presentation: February 2026 TBD

Project production: April 2026 TBD

Project delivery: May to December 2026

Application process

Please respond to the brief above, including the following information:

- An introduction to you as an artist/artist collective, your practice and examples of some relevant projects you've taken the lead on.
- Your proposed approach to the project, including an outline budget. We are not looking for a fully formed idea at this stage, as it's likely that your initial concept will be influenced by your participation in the Artists Retreat.
- Your experience of inclusive practice, and, specifically, how you propose to engage remotely with young hospital in-patients aged 6+
- Your proposed approach to working alongside one of our Young Associate Artists.
- Confirmation that you are available to attend both days of the Artists Retreat on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November at The Egg Theatre, 36 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2AN.

Feel free to use any **one** of any of the following application formats and email or WeTransfer to secretgardens@theatroyal.org.uk with the subject line

- a maximum of 3 typed pages of A4
- A 5-minute video
- 8 PowerPoint slides

Application deadline: **Monday 20th October at 9am.**