

ArtTalk Project Awards Guidelines

Sponsored by the Mission Committee and endorsed by the moderators of GA 2012-2014, ArtTalk is an 18 month project (January 2013 to July 2014) to coincide with the General Assembly Moderators' encouragement toward Living Conversations.



- ❖ In ArtTalk projects, conversations are inspired by the use of visual tools.

- ❖ This acknowledges the evidence that people find it difficult to talk about themselves, but are shown to easily talk about what they see in images. This is linked to the concept the “a picture speaks a thousand words.”

- ❖ Such projects which have already occurred demonstrate that when someone speaks about a faith based image, people begin talking about their faith, even though they believe they are talking about an image.

- ❖ Creating artwork and experiencing artwork together, people tend to have more meaningful conversations about their own faith and life than when there is not a ‘prop’ to support such conversation.

- ❖ Though using images as a starter (as organisations have logos to introduce themselves), ArtTalk is not an art project for artists. It uses visual vocabulary (colour, shape, image) in order to spark faith and spirituality conversations of any sort.

- ❖ *Though artists may well be involved, the purpose is not to create more religious artwork; the purpose is to use image to start conversations.*

What is an ArtTalk Project?

Local ArtTalk projects are those which will use good practice in art facilitation for community and personal development. It is anticipated that Churches and URC community projects will engage in any range of activities such as:

- ❖ Exhibits of a single artist or a number of artists with tours, talks and conversations – in churches, local halls or any other venue (empty shops, conference centres)
- ❖ Exhibits which bring together any named ArtTalk artists with local arts groups
- ❖ Art workshops in local churches and community venues which link to community groups, facilitating visual explorations of community issues, Bible study and spirituality
- ❖ Worship and art workshops for local church and/or ecumenical participants

Potential outcomes from ArtTalk projects

It is anticipated that as local church members engage in ArtTalk activities, that they will expand or develop by:

- ❖ Developing a deeper understanding of Community and breadth of connections possible
- ❖ Gaining more experience of engagement with strangers
- ❖ Gaining new experience of and increased confidence to share faith stories and personal testimony
- ❖ Increasing awareness of the church in the wider community
- ❖ Acquiring new resources for evangelistic activities well beyond the life of ArtTalk

For the wider communities engaged with ArtTalk activities it is anticipated that there will be:

- ❖ Improved perception of the church in the wider community
- ❖ Strengthened local community connections

ArtTalk Projects Support

- ❖ Free resources are available to show how projects have been run, to access tools, to run new projects and to receive support from identified artist-exhibitors and artist-facilitators. These are accessed at www.urg.org.uk/mission
- ❖ Mentoring for ArtTalk projects can be received from the ArtTalk co-ordinator (Elizabeth Gray-King) and increasingly from Synod resource workers
- ❖ Resource image packs, using images created by The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King, will be available for sale from the URC to kick-start faith and spirituality conversations

ArtTalk Projects Funding

Churches and URC community projects may apply for grants of £100, £250 or £500 from the URC Mission Office and will demonstrate:

- ❖ A commitment and plan to create as broad community connection as possible, including engagement with strangers (individuals and groups, including ecumenical neighbours)
- ❖ A commitment and plan for ArtTalk activities to encourage the sharing of faith stories and personal testimony
- ❖ A commitment from the whole church/project to the aims of the ArtTalk project
- ❖ A plan for continued engagement with those who participated in ArtTalk project activities after the time of the project
- ❖ A clear financial plan of ArtTalk specific activity costs such as publicity, images, art/crafts materials (including an ArtTalk image resource pack), creating legacy images for future use, expenses for external facilitators and catering for specific events
- ❖ A financial commitment from the applicant church/project at least equal to the finance raised from ArtTalk project funding (this may include in-kind commitment, such as loss of rental for spaces used for ArtTalk project activities, free room use, locally provided catering and locally provided administration).

Apply for an ArtTalk Project Award

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