

SWALE MEDIA ART CENTRE

34 High Street, Sittingbourne ME10 4AQ

APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

To: Area committee – Grants Funding, December meeting.

We are writing on behalf of the Swale Media Arts Centre Directors and Partners. We aim to take occupation of 34 High Street in early 2021. The group are setting up a CIC in the name of 'Swale Media Arts Centre CIC' ready for taking on the lease in the coming weeks.

We presented to Swale Borough Council Properties Department, a budget and business plan, that was put together before the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore reflects normal working practices.

We planned to open with the ground floor art gallery and set up the viewing area for screenings and workshops. On the first floor the studio area will be equipped with green screen lighting, sound and video making equipment, the library and museum, art workshop and meeting room. The day to day business is now dependent on the needs of Government regulations due to the Covid-19 crisis.

SMAC have been given various items of media equipment, gifts of cameras and other photographic equipment, sound video recorders plus items on loan for the library and museum ready to be homed at 34 High Street as soon as we have the green light.

We are working from our original business plan and taking into account the problems we now have due to Covid-19 and the changes that are needed to progress the SMAC's development.

Therefore we ask members to consider us in allocation from your area MEMBERS community fund.

This will assist us with the following...

- Decorating the exterior, ground floor gallery, first floor library, and studio area.
- Exterior SMAC signage.
- Development of the Museum and Library.
- Cabinets and equipment.
- The Art Studio Workshop equipment including desks and easels.
- Tables and folding storage chairs.
- Health and safety needs.
- Promotion budget.
- Website.
- Contingency.

Our future programme will be adapted to comply with the local Covid-19 rules.

We will be open for membership with meetings, workshops and use of our library and museum. We are open to any local artists, media students, art organisations to discuss or present their works, hear about art activates, listen to special guests look into developing collaborative work and much more, including time for Networking!

Introducing studio hire, gallery hire, one to one training and workshops and the promotion via Zoom meetings.

Working with the British Entertainment History Project arranging joint meetings with members of the BEHS. Members include well known directors, producers, technicians, and actors from film television, theatre and radio.

We are talking to local colleges for our future arts workshops with extensive audio-visual archives for students, researches and members of the public, offering a unique insight and link to a time with some memorable films and ground-breaking television programmes. We will work with the Kent Film Office, Screen South, Film Hub South East, Creative England, Arts Council and the British Film Institute.

We plan to develop a strong relationship with local artists for our Weekly arts gallery hire ground floor.

Working on the museum and library with features on some of the history of various Swale artists, writers, directors, such as:

- Terry Nation (Dr Who). Writer, producer. Lived for many years in Lynsted before moving to Los Angeles.
- Albert E Smith Born in Faversham stage magician late 1880's producer director founder of Vitagraph Studios presenting touring magic lantern performances and developing early silent films. In 1925 he sold his company to Warner Brothers. In California he went on to direct and produce many films between 1897 and 1948 when he received an Oscar / Academy Award.
- Bernard Lee who lived in Oare in the 70's, best known for his role as M in the first eleven 007 Bond films. His film and television career spanned the years 1934 to 79. Working on over 150 film productions and television series.
- Eric Barker who lived in Faversham most remembered for his roles in many Carry On films. His wife, actress Pearl Hackney, whose films and television included The Avengers, Z Cars, All Creatures Great and Small, Minder, Hi-de-Hi, Coronation Street and many more productions for cinema and television between 50's and 2005.
- Bob Todd, born in Faversham a local farmer, who in the 60's gave up farming to become a comedy actor working film and television with Oliver Reed, Spike Milligan, Benny Hill, Dick Emery and Arthur Lowe.
- Swale also has a wealth of writers and artist whose work will be featured in the museum or library including author Pat Monteath who lived in Teynham.
- Edward Ardizzone who lived in Rodmersham, painter war artist and author of illustrated books many for children. Paintings include 'At the Brasserie' 1931 'The Meeting' 1931 In the second World War was posted overseas as full time war artist he completed almost 400 sketches and watercolours of the war, most of which along with his diaries are held in the Imperial War Museum. Edwards's daughter in Law Aingelda studied at Slade School of fine art, she wrote the story The Little Girl and the Tiny Doll when her own children were small

she also lives in Rodmersham. Edwards's son Nick Ardizzone student of graphic arts was a documentary and television cameraman and before his death in December 2004 was an early committee member of the British Entertainment History Project and recoded his memories of his work as cameraman for their archive.

We will also feature the work of Sound mixer Peter Maxwell who lives in Bredgar and worked on over 200 films and television series including Four Weddings and Funeral, The Importance of Being Earnest, Mr Bean, Lady Chatterley television series director Ken Russell.

We are also looking to collaborate with other local artists who are part of Swale's rich creative media heritage.

With sincere thanks,

Helen Stock and Steve Kane
SWALE MEDIA ARTS CENTRE