

# Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory & Learning

At 28 Penton Street, Islington



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Barry Amiel &  
Norman Melburn Trust**

Anti-Apartheid, Now – Open Call

- **6 Artist Commission Opportunities during 2022**
- **Third and final Round of Commission Briefs released in this document**
- **A Liliesleaf Trust UK led project, funded by Arts Council England with support from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust**

*Anti-Apartheid, Now* is a Liliesleaf Trust UK (TLTU) led project that draws on the legacy of the UK's movement against apartheid (MAA). Creative commissions will enable Global Majority\* and intersectional\*\* artists and communities to explore and respond to lived experience of race-based injustice and imagine new futures.

During 2022, we will commission artists who identify as from the Global Majority and/or as intersectional artists working across England to produce 6 new artworks, to be hosted online and to explore the contemporary resonance of the heritage of the struggle against apartheid.

We don't expect the artist to be an expert in the heritage of the struggle against apartheid. What is most important is producing a thematic and creative response to the brief which connects with contemporary societal experiences and importantly to lived experience.

The commissions will be hosted on The Liliesleaf Trust UK's new online platform that will hold space for learning, reflection, memory, and creative expression and which connects past to present to support activism and allyship towards ongoing struggles for racial justice.

*Anti-Apartheid, Now* explores how MAA learning can empower communities to lead positive change. The project channels the legacy of the most powerful social justice movement of the C20th to inform how we look at pressing contemporary issues of inequality, injustice, and structural racism today.

Our creative advisory panel will select 3 more artists for new (micro-)commissions that encompass diverse interpretations on themes for contemporary audiences. Commissions are open to artists working across England and will integrate a range of cultural mediums including, but not limited to, visual art (including mixed media work, photography, and film), performance, short-form literature and spoken word. Artists across all career stages may be supported and there are a range of differently-scaled commissioning opportunities to suit a breadth of approaches.

Artists can propose entirely new work or apply to extend or develop existing work. Each commission should take account of COVID-19 safety in its development, including any restrictions in place at the time of creation and presentation of the work.

The project is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust and the London Borough of Islington's Local Initiative Fund.

\*TLTU defines Global Majority as people who are Black, Brown, Asian, dual or mixed heritage, indigenous to the global south, and/or those who have been racialised as 'ethnic minority'.

\*\*TLTU defines intersectional artists as those making work based on their unique experiences, particularly in relation to the themes evoked by MMA heritage and race-based injustice.

Earlier this year, as part of Anti-Apartheid, Now, we launched the first two rounds of commissions. Three artists were commissioned and their work ranges the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of the London Headquarters of the African National Congress in exile and unique explorations the resonances of anti-apartheid heritage today.

Below is part of graphic artists, Penificent's, response to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ANC HQ bombing. The comic strip (and covers) were co-created with a group of young people from Upward Bound (an attainment and aspiration raising supplementary school) during a series of artist led workshops earlier this year as part of the Anti-Apartheid Now project. The comic draws out the socio-emotional effects on those involved with and affected by the bombing as per the perspectives of the young people, who also developed skills in storyboarding and comic design.



In this document we are proud to release the following briefs:

### **Brief 4: Black History Month Commission - Budget of £1,850**

TLTU invites artists to apply for this commission to celebrate 'Black History' more widely than just within a specific month, juxtaposing our intended release date (which will be October) with the premise that there should be year-round celebration of Black heritage within the UK. The commission should, within the artist's own practice, explore and respond to lived experience of race-based injustice and imagine new futures, ideally linking creatively to activism against apartheid and related themes.

This commission is expected to be awarded to an established artist (with 5+ years experience) and will be launched on our website during October 2022. Evidence of their practice must be included within their proposal statement and/or supplied CV.

### **Briefs 5 & 6: Two Commissions with a budget of £750 each**

**(preference given to emerging artists, defined as artists who have been practising for less than 5 years).**

The artist is asked to invite audiences to learn about and from the heritage of the struggle against apartheid from the perspective of relevance within United Kingdom. This may be of historical or contemporary relevance, connecting with narratives of collective or individual struggles against injustice (against apartheid or other). The artist is free to explore how this sits within their own artistic practice and are asked to explain in their proposal how their chosen medium will best respond to MAA heritage in a contemporary setting.

### **Relevant to all briefs:**

The medium for the artwork is left to the discretion and choice of the artist with the premise that it will be displayed digitally on our website. Expertise in, or an existing knowledge base of the heritage of the struggle against apartheid is not a requirement, though it is expected that the commissioned artist will explore and research this to inform their work. We can suggest research pathways through our network, for example, the opportunity to speak with former anti-apartheid activists or signposting to relevant archives. What is most important is producing a thematic and creative response to the brief which connects with contemporary societal experiences and importantly to lived experience.

#### **Who we are looking for**

We are interested in hearing from individual artists, emerging artists and artist collectives who:

- identify as Global Majority/intersectional artists. This reflects our foundational organisational commitment to championing diverse voices and responds to increased

need from artists who have faced disproportionate challenges resulting from the pandemic.

- work in and across England (you may live more widely within the UK but your portfolio of previous work must have been accessible to audiences in England) and able to accept payment on receipt of invoice to a UK bank account.
- if deemed necessary for the success of your proposal, you must hold, or be willing to acquire if commissioned, public liability and professional indemnity insurance, such as that offered by a-n the artists information company (current cost c. £38 per year <https://www.a-n.co.uk/about/insurance/> ) and Artists Union England (included with membership <https://www.artistsunionengland.org.uk/public-liability-artists-insurance/> ).

### Key dates

- **Deadline** for responding to the brief: 5pm on Monday 18 July 2022
- **Selection** will take place by our panel in late July 2022
- **Notice of commission** will be communicated to the successful artist(s) by 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- **Announcement** of commissions by Liliesleaf Trust UK by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- **Commission completion date** by mutual agreement between artist(s) and The Liliesleaf Trust, UK
- **Commission Launches** TBC by The Liliesleaf Trust UK (between September 2022 – January 2023)

### The Budget

The allocated budget will need to cover all the costs of the commission, including artist fees, materials and any travel and/or expenses and digital production of their piece. The artist(s) will be expected to supply bio information and document the production process of their work. Short pieces of writing about the work will be required, this will be supported by TLTU's Project Producer.

- by special agreement an additional £200 may be accessed for special production needs. Please note the budget must include VAT.
- further budget may be released to invite the artist to participate in a public programme which celebrates the Anti-Apartheid Now commissions, for example, talks and workshops.

### Support

- Access budget for disabled artists, those with additional needs and those with caring responsibilities
- Additional production costs of up to £200 provided these are detailed in budget
- Regular check-ins with the commissioning team to support delivery
- Mentoring support if requested provided by [Cubitt Artists](#) (time to be set between commissioned artist and Cubitt at outset of project)
- Marketing and promotional support

## Access

We actively look to reduce barriers for artists applying for our opportunities and commissions, and are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive. We offer a range of support for artists and project participants, including an Access Budget.

If you have access needs (including caring responsibilities), you can apply for additional funds up to £200 including VAT to enable you to undertake the commission. We recognise that not everyone who needs additional support will identify with the term Disabled. We aim to be as transparent as possible about the possibilities and limits of what we can offer, and we are aware that this budget cannot cover everything that an artist might need. You can also submit an access document that includes an outline of your needs, alongside your application. See [www.accessdocsforartists.com](http://www.accessdocsforartists.com) for more information and guidance.

If you would like to discuss individual access needs, please contact the Project Producer, at [antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com).

## How to apply

- Please send an Expression of Interest of either no more than one side of A4 (written format) or 2 minutes in length (video format), that
  - briefly outlines your practice and how you feel it relates the mission of The Liliesleaf Trust
  - self-identifies you as a global majority and/or an intersectional artist. For the latter, please set out how this applies to you
  - indicates which of the briefs you are applying for, including an outline of your idea for a new work and what it is about this opportunity that interests you.
  - o indicates how your artwork can be displayed digitally
  - a brief outline of how you'd spend your allocated commission budget
- Attach a document that showcases your previous work (PDF, PPT or Word format) that includes no more than 5 images.
- Please include a link to your CV, or a PDF of your CV in your application email. If you would prefer to apply via a format not listed above, please contact us to discuss.

**Please send your applications FAO: Project Producer - Anti-Apartheid, Now**  
**BRIEF X (insert appropriate numbered brief) at**  
**[antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com) by 5pm on Monday**  
**18 July 2022.**

Copyright for the work will remain with the artist and will allow The Liliesleaf Trust project team and affiliated partners to use it in its entirety and in agreed elements, such as images and content for non-commercial purposes, with attribution, for example in research reports, publications, online and in-conference presentations and to remain accessible on our website. We will ask you to acknowledge this project and the ACE and/or BANMT funding in any future iterations of the work though the project should be exclusive to The Liliesleaf Trust UK for the duration of 2022.



## Contact

For more information or with specific application related queries please contact us at [antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:antiapartheidlegacy@gmail.com).

## About Liliesleaf Trust UK

The Liliesleaf Trust UK is a Black/lived experience-led organisation, established in 2018 to advance knowledge of the movement against apartheid (MAA) within Southern Africa and the UK's role in this global struggle. As former MAA activists and organisers, we bring together deeply rooted experience across its political, international, and grassroots dimensions, and draw from this world-changing history to promote solidarity, social justice, equality, and anti-racism.

We work across sectors to connect artists, activists, communities, cultural organisations, schools and universities to collaborate through empowering participation activities that draw from MAA's models of positive leadership to build skills and aspiration in underserved/disenfranchised communities. In 3 years, we have engaged audiences of over 50,000 with co-developed exhibitions, community programmes, family workshops and in-school education. Our programme is delivered off-site and through partnership as we redevelop 28 Penton Street, Islington – a central organising site for the MAA - to become the first UK venue dedicated to sharing the legacy of this underrepresented Black-led history.

Anti-Apartheid, Now comes at a pivotal moment in our development, whilst we work towards completion of the Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and Learning at 28 Penton St, Islington, opening in 2023: the first permanent venue dedicated to this heritage in the UK.

28 Penton Street, a four-floor townhouse in Islington, was the London headquarters of the African National Congress, in exile, between 1978-1994. 28 Penton Street was the nerve centre for coordinating international solidarity against the apartheid regime in South Africa, and a base from which anti-apartheid activity was coordinated both within the UK and further afield (including covert operations within South Africa).

It was here that international solidarity campaigns were coordinated, a weekly press digest sent out and a monthly magazine edited. The ANC worked with other liberation and anti-apartheid focused organisations, with 28 Penton Street being a hub for their collaborations. Amongst these and many other activities, it was from here that Oliver Tambo, leader of the ANC in exile, and Thabo Mbeki, later president of South Africa, worked together to plan the overthrow of the oppressive regime.

After 1994, when the ANC's Nelson Mandela became the first democratically elected South African president and until 2006, the building was home to Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) the successor to the Anti-Apartheid Movement. In 2014, a commemorative plaque was unveiled on the building, in partnership between Islington Council and the Nubian Jak Community Trust as part of a 20th anniversary celebration to honour the work of the formidable anti-apartheid activity within the borough of Islington.

We are simultaneously evolving an accessible, optimised online platform that extends reach and impact of activities across geographical and physical barriers. In the context of Covid-19, post-Brexit, Black Lives Matter, the relevance of our activities is more profound than ever. It is essential to our mission that our heritage is activated for the contemporary moment, responding to many of the most pressing social and racial equality issues today with the legacy of learning from anti-apartheid.

These commissions sit at the foundation of these plans, initiating extensive audience and community upscaling to shift programmes from locally-based and partner-dependent to become fully owned, nationally and internationally relevant. Launching our online platform with bold, engaging artist-led content, will support us to make this transition with quality, relevance, and ambition embedded at our core.

Please follow us on:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)