

Artists' Studios at Snape Maltings

Dear Artist,

We are working with Aldeburgh Music to investigate the feasibility of developing artists' studios at Snape Maltings; please find below our initial thoughts. At this stage we would like to spread the word about this opportunity as far as possible and to assess interest.

If you are interested in the possibility of renting a studio, can you please complete the questionnaire and return it to us either by email to calum@acme.org.uk or by post to Calum F Kerr, Acme Studios, 44 Copperfield Road, Bow, London E3 4RR. Further copies of the questionnaire and this information sheet can be downloaded from www.acme.org.uk/snape.php

You can indicate on the questionnaire whether you would like to be kept informed as the project develops and we would then treat your response as a first expression of interest.

*The deadline for return of questionnaires is **Friday 9 April 2010**.*

Thank you very much for your time.

Background

Aldeburgh Music wishes to examine options to expand the availability of workspace for creative organisations at Snape Maltings including the provision of affordable artists' studios and work/live space in some of the redundant buildings.

The aspiration for the **Snape Hub** is a new type of creative centre that mixes the arts, creative industries, social enterprise and technology, with artists and artists' studios at its core. The provision of affordable space for artists will both meet a significant need for good quality studio space and create a national and international focus for contemporary visual arts activity to complement and link with Aldeburgh Music. In addition to studios for artists some of the units may be available for creative and technology organisations either rented on a short- or long-term basis, and, depending on space, a recording or community studio may also be possible.

The hub is intended to draw on the existing creative strength of Snape Maltings, made up of Aldeburgh Music and its inspirational surroundings. It could also draw on the research work being undertaken into improved remote tuition for music and the performing arts. For further information about Aldeburgh Music see: www.aldeburgh.co.uk

Acme Studios is advising Aldeburgh Music on the design and specification of space for artists and is undertaking a demand study to help determine if such a development is feasible.

Buildings and studios

The current study focuses on two, currently redundant, adjacent maltings buildings – buildings 7 and 8. There are two large kilns within building 8 which will be retained as a Heritage Centre and be accessible to the public.

The initial design concept for conversion of the buildings produces between 9 and 13 studios and 6 work/live spaces across two floors. The studios and work/live spaces in building 7 have been conceived as being contained within a 'new' steel-framed clad and lined structure within the existing building leaving the historic external walls exposed and accessible via a dramatic perimeter walkway. Internal windows in the units align with those of the original structure with additional large rooflights to units on the first floor.

Building 7 will be serviced by a lift and staircase, and building 8 by a central staircase.

The smallest studios are around 25 square metres (270 square feet), the largest twice that size. All are self-contained and with high ceilings (between 2.9 and 3.2 metres minimum heights). Some studios have their own sinks and WCs, others share washroom facilities.

All studios will have sub-metered lighting, power and heating and be Wi-Fi enabled.

Location, facilities, access and parking

Snape Maltings is located in the village of Snape, five miles inland from Aldeburgh, and approximately 30-40 minutes from Ipswich. There will be a loading and drop-off point by the studios and free parking available elsewhere on the site.

There is a café and meeting place for musicians and other campus users.

Units in building 7 are wheelchair accessible, as are the ground floor units in building 8.

Renting a studio

If the project were able to go ahead it is proposed that the studios would be made available to artists to rent for an initial maximum period of five years. Tenants would be able to give two months notice at any time after the first six months. Short-term rentals (six months to a year) may also be considered.

The rent would be inclusive of all charges with the exception of electricity which would be sub-metered and charged quarterly in arrears. For the purposes of the demand study rents are based on a figure of between £7.50 per square foot per annum; for example a 270 sq. ft. studio would cost £170 a month.

Allocation

Given the high-quality and affordability of the studios, their location and the opportunity of being part of the wider Snape Maltings community, if this project were to prove feasible and go ahead, it is envisaged that there will be considerable demand from artists. Artists would therefore be selected for studio space and would be eligible if they work in fine art practice (e.g. painting, sculpture, print-making, fine art photography, installation, performance, multi-media, video and time-based work).

Artists applying would need to provide a curriculum vitae and description of their work, together with a statement as to how they would intend to use their studio and how it would benefit their practice.

Work/live spaces

The initial design concept provides for 4 work/live units located on the first floor of building 7. Each has a mezzanine with a bed space and shower, and an open plan working and living area with a small kitchen and WC. The total size of each is 56 square metres (600 square feet) with over 5 metres in height to the apex of the pitched roof.

The intention would be to make these work/live units available for funded residencies (of between three months and a year) for artists from the UK and abroad.

The rents for these work/live studios would be based on a figure of £10 per square foot per annum, so an average unit of 56 square metres (600 square feet) would cost around £500 a month.

Acme Studios

44 Copperfield Road
Bow
London E3 4RR
020 8981 6811
www.acme.org.uk



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