



The UK network of creative practitioners making work for the outdoors

National Association of Street Artists: COVID-19 Statement

NASA-UK is a membership organisation of artists, performers, designers and makers who create work for outdoor contexts, both urban and rural, like arts and commercial festivals, community events and shopping centres etc.

The impact of the COVID-19 virus pandemic poses an existential threat to our whole sector. Events will be cancelled. Funding and sponsorship promises will not be able to be met. As artists who have little or no financial security, we face collapse of our income just as we enter what is usually our main earning months. It will have a devastating impact on us as well as on many companies and organisations who employ us.

We welcome Arts Council England's advice for funded arts organisations to 'honour contracts agreed with freelancers and artists and to think about what help you can offer your communities.' We would also ask that organisations help mitigate the loss of income by:

- paying full fees for cancelled contracts where possible, in line with ACE recommendations
- offering postponements where possible
- making staged payments that enable us some income over the coming months
- looking to ways in which we can work outside of specific event delivery dates - an increased focus on R&D for example

This is the time to look after each other. We are integrally linked. An ecosystem. The weight of cancellations and postponements cannot fall too heavily on individual artists.

We ask that our stakeholders consider the ways they can exercise a duty of care for freelance practitioners and small companies, both those with and without regular funding who are the engine of this critical and vulnerable arts sector, and actively negotiate with artists they work with to discuss what solutions and support are possible.

Our work is at the heart of the outdoor event industry and for a tiny percentage of the public purse invested in arts and culture we deliver massive impact. Most don't have regular funding, some no funding at all, and few have reserves to cushion the hardship coming our way. Even postponements will have major knock-on effects and cause critical cash-flow problems. Rent, mortgage, living costs and bills will continue even as all our work is disappearing.

We also welcome ACE's intention to 'refocus some grant programmes to help compensate individual artists and freelancers for lost earnings' and we look forward to further communication with ACE to ensure the needs of our sector are understood and recognised, and that self-employed artists are able to access financial support to ensure their businesses survive.

NASA UK will be collecting case studies and data from its members and supporting the sector with further guidance and representation.

NASA UK's Steering Group: On behalf of it's members and the wider artist community.

The National Association of Street Artists UK

c/o 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space, Communication Way, Greenham Business Park
Newbury, Berkshire, RG19 6HN www.nasauk.org missioncontrol@nasauk.org