

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Creative visual output on local democracy

Research for Action is looking for an artist to work with us on a creative output on an action research project on democratising local governance. You could be an illustrator, animator, designer - if you know how to represent ideas in a visually engaging way, read on.

About Research for Action:

[Research for Action](#) is a worker co-operative undertaking research to support social, economic and environmental justice. Founded in 2017, our work aims to bring about change: by identifying points of intervention, countering dominant narratives, making struggles and inequalities visible and disseminating alternatives.

The project:

With this action research project, we want to amplify citizen analyses and narratives about improving and transforming local democracy. We plan to use 'democratic governance' as the way in to ask deeper questions, generate insights, and to identify changes needed in approaches and processes, and for how change might be pursued. We will use collective learning and reflection in two cities where local governance has emerged as a site for collective citizen aspirations and action for healthier, more inclusive and expansive, local democracy.

This project is a collaboration between Research for Action, [Solidarity Against Neoliberal Extremism](#) (SANE) in Glasgow and campaigners from [It's Our City Sheffield](#). Together, we will organise co-learning events to speak to those working on local democracy.

In addition to research, we aim to build and strengthen alliances of groups that can work together in the future to organise and campaign for more radical and democratic governance on the local level.

We want to document the learnings in order to present them to the wider public, making sure that what we produce is not simply another report that is read by campaigners or journalists, but content that reaches a much wider audience and can help start conversations on radical democracy that are not yet happening.

Your role is to work with us throughout this process to create the output that tells the story of the project.

Deliverables:

We want visual materials that explain the project and ideas coming out of it. This could be posters, a zine, series of comic strips or illustrations or an animation - we are open for your suggestions. The output needs to be easily approachable, interesting and reach audiences that otherwise wouldn't be interested in this area, yet still be informative enough to set out our thinking on democratising governance. The materials will be published online on the websites of the participating organisations, as well printed out to distribute at events. You will be welcome to post them on your website too!

Approach to work:

You will attend co-learning events in Sheffield, Glasgow and/or online, record those conversations in a way that works for you and then draft an output. As this is a collaborative project, there will be several discussions and opportunities for feedback on the work in progress.

Schedule:

The co-learning events in Sheffield and Glasgow (or possibly online depending on Covid situation) will take place between November and January. You will then design and produce material in February-March to be launched in April 2023.

Person specification:

We would like you to:

- Be a creative with an engaging idea and the skills to turn it into reality
- Have experience of collaborative working
- Have an interest in local democracy, social movements or governance
- Be able to travel to Glasgow and Sheffield for events

Fee: £4,000 (plus expenses paid for attending meetings and events)

Expressions of interest / how to apply:

Please send us a short synthesis of your idea, a portfolio of work and a one-page statement of why you are interested in this project to info@researchforaction.uk. Deadline for expressions of interest is 5pm on Monday 24th of October.

Possible zoom interviews will take place the week beginning 31st October. We will let you know by the 4th of November if you have been successful.