

Redacted Application Three

What is your Grand Plan and why do you want to do it? (300 words)

I am an artist based in Margate, specialising in painting. My work is deeply rooted in hybrid culture and I draw inspiration from the outside world, everyday life, symbolism, rituals, and the people I meet. I grew up in Leicester in a working-class family and went on to become the first person in my family to attend university, where I received an MFA in Fine Arts.

My paintings have predominantly been figurative/portraiture-based, but since moving to Margate and taking up open water swimming, my work has been heavily influenced by the sea. This led me to collaborate with a local historian, [REDACTED], who is researching sunken slave ships around the Thanet coast. Using his research, I created a large mural for the Rise Up residency in Margate, exploring ancestral water bodies that are still part of the ocean. I continued to incorporate water-based themes into my canvas paintings and was shortlisted to complete a globe for The World Reimagined, which focused on the healing nature of the oceans and African sea goddesses.

As I continue to explore the sea as a part of my practice, I am struck by its healing and inspiring nature, and I want to share this experience with my brown/black creative community here in Margate. Margate is home to the Wonderful People Dem collective, a black-brown organisation. My idea is to host a series of "[REDACTED]" (including a sea plunge), providing a space for unapologetic rest, healing, and inspiration for ten Black, Asian, and brown females. The session will involve hiring the Margate beachside sauna for an hour, followed by a circle session with a local empowerment coach. I will document the session, gathering material for new paintings on the theme of reconnecting with nature.

Why is now the right time for your Grand Plan?

I believe that now is the perfect time to take my work with the sea swimmers and Black Aquatic History and centre it within the community. I want to create a group called "[REDACTED]" which will help build a circle of women. This will be a space for storytelling, Belly laughter, and healing. Additionally, I aim to bring the health benefits of open-water swimming to my community. I have noticed that the majority of swimmers in Margate are white, middle-aged women, and I would like to change that. Although I have applied for DYCP funding on many occasions, I have never been successful. Therefore, a boost to move forward with funding is just the thing my confidence as a creative needs.

How will you spend £1000?

£95 Sauna Hire in [REDACTED] (On the beach front ,with direct access to sea) x 1 sessions for 10 Black Asian Brown identifying females

(Be wonderful, to gift the first session for free and then share costs for future monthly sessions, once I have set it all up)

£300 for Local Empowerment Coach and therapist circle session after the sauna

£200 Artist materials and canvas and stretchers for [REDACTED]

£400 Artist pay to complete the works, and set up [REDACTED]