

WYSING ARTS CENTRE CATERING OPPORTUNITY



ABOUT WYSING

Established in 1989 and located nine miles west of Cambridge, close to the village of Bourn, Wysing Arts Centre delivers a range of programmes that offer opportunities for personal development and artistic enquiry. Integral to Wysing's ethos as a campus for art production, is the provision of space and support to enable artists to experiment.

Wysing's site is comprised of ten separate buildings across 11 acres of land alongside a growing collection of outdoor sculpture. The majority of the buildings include artists' studios, with up to twenty artists and staff work on the site every day. In addition, across the year, artists travel from across the UK and further afield to take part in residencies, retreats, and other activity, staying in on-site accommodation for up to eight weeks.

Wysing hosts many public events and we currently organise catering ourselves on an ad hoc basis. There is scope to operate a café for the public at weekends for events and during gallery exhibitions; there are usually two to three exhibitions per year, each lasting eight weeks. We host occasional space hire activity and other non-public events for which we work with external caterers. And we also currently bring in external caterers for our annual music festival.

THE WINDOW ROOM

The Window Room is a communal space where artists working from the site join each other and staff for lunch every day, currently individuals bring in their own lunches.

The room has been decorated by artists The Grantchester Pottery (Giles Round and Phil Root). A budget for initial modest improvements to the Window Room is available.

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There is a seating area measuring 13 x 5.3 m (approx. 67 square metres) and a kitchen area with an open hatch, measuring 3.5 x 5.3 m (including counter and cupboards). There is an outdoor seating area with wooden picnic tables that are a popular place to sit in the summer months.

The kitchen has catering tables, overhead extractor fans, two sinks, a freezer and fridge-freezer. There is a domestic-scale cooker which is likely to need upgrading. An area for stock storage is available and there is scope to explore an onsite allotment to provide vegetables and produce if of interest. There is ample parking space for vehicles on site and easy access to the kitchen area for deliveries. The site has 24 hour access and is locked overnight. A care-taker lives on the site.



The Window Room



Kitchen Area of the Window Room

THE OPPORTUNITY

Wysing's site has seen visitor numbers increase year on year since we re-opened following a capital development project in 2008. We now feel that it is the right time to explore whether onsite catering is a viable proposition. For us, to have a caterer work from the site provides a better experience for visitors and artists, it simplifies the catering provision for events and space hires and it provides additional motivation to visit the site.

We are looking for a small to medium artisan catering or food business that needs premises to work from and run a lunchtime offer for artists and staff working from site, alongside public events at specific time across the year, and catering for external space hires and other activity.

Ideally, the catering or food business would use the site as a base for producing food for distribution at other outlets alongside the provision for Wysing; it would currently not be viable for food sales to Wysing staff and artists on a daily basis to be a sole income strand.

HOW TO MAKE AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are inviting expressions of interest in this opportunity and ask that you provide a proposal to include:

- Information on your business and the type of food you are producing; please provide three sample menus or overview of your food offer with prices
- How you see your business operating at Wysing and how being at Wysing would support the development of your business

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Please also provide:

- Two customer referees
- Your last three sets of accounts

If you would like to visit the site for a tour and an informal conversation about this opportunity, please contact Donna Lynas on donna.lynas@wysingartscentre.org.

The deadline for proposals is 20 March 2016

FINANCES

The contract is offered on a yearly basis initially, with the option for a further three years after this. Rent for the space should be paid monthly by direct debit, and a deposit of 1 months' rent will be required in advance. The monthly rent is negotiable.

