



# Mobile Arts Space

## Design and Build Competition:

Bring culture to every corner of the New Forest.

### The Project

We're commissioning an innovative, mobile performance structure to take high-quality arts and culture to towns and villages across the New Forest. It will tour May–September each year, then be based at Applemore College through the darker months, offering a flexible, inspiring venue for learning and community use.

What we're looking for:

- A robust, transportable, all-weather structure that deploys quickly on varied sites (greens, squares, car parks, recreation grounds).
- A flexible space for performance, workshops and exhibitions—welcoming, inclusive, and distinctive.
- A practical build within a total budget of £80,000 (incl. VAT).

### At-a-glance

**Budget:** £80,000 (incl. VAT, design, materials, construction, delivery)

**Audience:** Seating ~120, or up to 250 standing with raised stage

**Indicative footprint:** 10–13 m diameter (for circular concepts)

**Power:** Tour-ready (battery/solar/generator compatible). Mains available at Applemore College.

**Where it goes:** Outdoor sites across the New Forest (summer) → Applemore College, Roman Road, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4RQ (Oct–Jun)

**Use cases:** Music, theatre, dance, spoken word, multimedia; school productions, lectures, talks, celebrations, talent showcases, careers events.

## Key requirements (what your design should do)

### 1. Mobility & Deployment

- Towable or vehicle-transportable; assembled by a small team; stable on uneven ground.

### 2. All-weather Operation

- Durable materials; shelter for audiences, performers and tech.

### 3. Flexibility & Functionality

- Modular/expandable layouts; good outdoor acoustics; FOH/box office + sound/lighting position; adaptable audience capacity.

### 4. Access, Scheduling & Inclusion

- Wheelchair access; neuro-inclusive design; clear, safe circulation and sightlines.

### 5. Aesthetic & Community Appeal

- A distinctive visual identity with options for branding/colour schemes.

### 6. Sustainability

- Eco-friendly materials; low-impact construction; efficient transport & storage.

**Applemore College site** - showing access and area for location of theatre: [LOCATION Google map](#)



## What to submit

Please provide:

- Concept design & 3D visuals (2 × A2 PDFs, ≤10MB each)
- Technical drawings & structural calculations
- Outline construction & assembly plan
- Transport & storage strategy
- Company details & contacts

- Relevant experience & portfolio
- Design concept & approach (how it meets this brief)
- Detailed cost breakdown
- Project timeline & milestones
- Sustainability approach
- Any supporting documents

## Timeline

20 December 2025 — Expressions of Interest deadline

10 January 2026 — Interviews

15 January 2026 — Final artist/team selection

January 2026 — Site visits

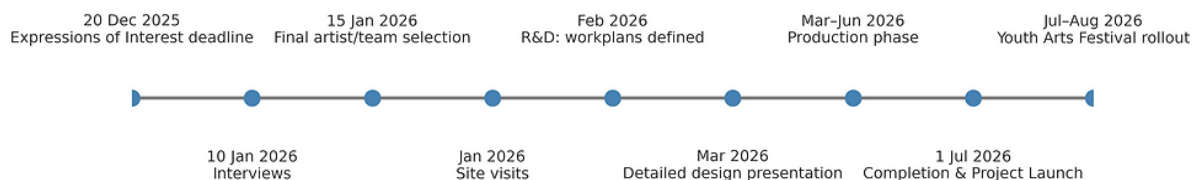
February 2026 — R&D: workplans defined

March 2026 — Detailed design presentation

March – June 2026 — Production phase

1 July 2026 — Completion & Project Launch

July–August 2026 — Youth Arts Festival rollout



## Evaluation (how we'll choose)

- Design Innovation & Suitability
- Functionality & Adaptability
- Sustainability & Environmental Impact
- Experience & Capability
- Cost-effectiveness & Value for Money

We welcome collaborations between designers, architects, theatre makers, fabricators, and engineering partners.

## Site & context

**Touring:** Designed for village greens, town squares, car parks, recreation grounds.

**School base:** Applemore College (Oct–Jun) within a ~30 m wide treelined area; mains power available.

**Local context:** Dispersed communities, limited public transport — this venue meets people where they are.

[Applemore College location](#)

## Site images



## Accessibility & inclusion considerations

- Step-free routes and wheelchair access to stage and audience areas.
- Neuro-inclusive wayfinding & quiet zones; adjustable lighting levels and acoustic treatment.
- H&S: Safe circulation, secure anchoring/ballast strategy, weather protocols.

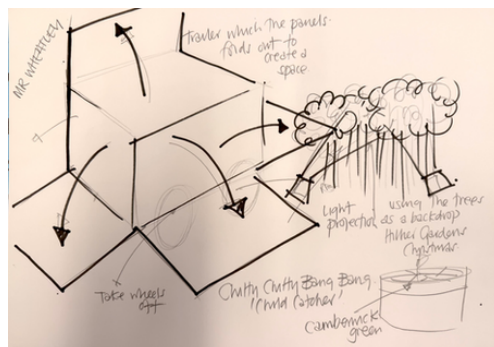
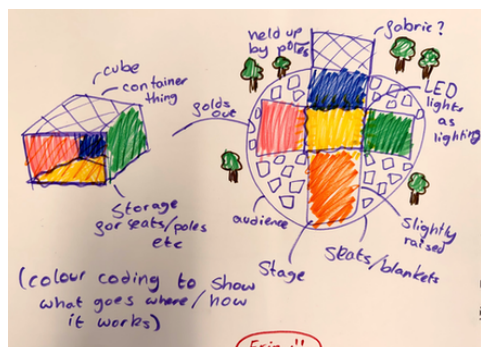
## Sustainability expectations

- Material choices with low embodied carbon; circular design principles.
- Efficient transport & storage; modular parts sized for minimal trips.
- Options for battery/solar integration; shore power ready at school base.
- Durable, repairable components with maintenance plan.

## Consultation

Work undertaken with young people at Applemore College

Feedback from the staff and students at Applemore College: [Download Report](#)



## **FAQ**

### **Who can apply?**

Design/build teams, studios, consortia and collaborations with the capability to deliver both design and construction within budget.

### **What's the total budget and what must it cover?**

£80,000 (incl. VAT) covering design, materials, construction and delivery.

### **What audience capacities should we plan for?**

Approx. 120 seated or up to 250 standing with raised stage. Seating can be lightweight, stackable/foldable and able to be easily stored after events.

### **Do we need to provide power?**

Designs should be tour-ready (battery/solar/generator compatible). Mains supply is available at Applemore College.

### **What about storage and transport?**

Include a clear transport & storage strategy with footprint and load list. The design should be towable/van-transportable and stable on uneven ground. It should be transportable on roads without creating access issues or the need for escort vehicles.

### **Will branding change by event?**

Yes—include options for temporary branding, colour schemes or interchangeable cladding/skins.

### **Is there a preferred shape?**

No, but circular (or semi-circular) concepts often work well outdoors; a 10–13 m footprint is a good benchmark.

### **What are the key selection criteria?**

See Evaluation above for weightings.

For further enquiries → [mark@spud.org.uk](mailto:mark@spud.org.uk)

**The tender application is being managed by New Forest District Council.**

This project is being funded by New Forest District Council using Community Infrastructure Levy contributions and all tenders are through the New Forest District Council portal.