



CREATIVE LEICESTERSHIRE

ADVICE, SUPPORT + GROWTH
FOR CREATIVE ENTERPRISES ACROSS
LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE + RUTLAND

Animating Leicestershire Towns Artist Brief - September 2023

Creative Leicestershire has been successful in applying to Arts Council England for a National Lottery Project Grant for the following creative spaces project running from November 2023 - March 2024. *Animating Leicestershire Towns* takes place in Melton, Loughborough, Coalville, Market Harborough, and Hinckley and is focused on drawing people into the town to engage with creative activity, especially those who might not otherwise come to the town centre. The project aims to build creative communities and networks for local people whatever their interest or involvement in creative activity is.

What is the opportunity?

We are looking for artists who will work in each town to create an exciting interactive creative space in each town centre space for one week that is: welcoming, accessible, visually inspiring, interactive, engaging to a wide range of people and has a low environmental impact with low waste, demonstrating the sustainability of the artist's practice. Specifically, we are looking for one artist / collective to work in each of the 5 towns, so a total of 5 commissions. The projects should respond to the unique heritage, communities or local features of the town.

Melton	27 November – 3 December 2023
Loughborough	15 January – 21 January 2024
Coalville	29 January – 4 February 2024
Market Harborough	19 February – 25 February 2024
Hinckley	4 March – 10 March 2024

Who can apply?

Ideally, we are looking for artists who know their local town and communities well and can respond to their specific histories, communities or areas of interest in the town. We encourage Leicestershire-based artists to apply to work in the closest town to them.

You can apply as a solo artist or a collaboration. If you apply as a group or collective it is the same total artist fee.

You will need to have professional insurances (Public Liability and Professional Indemnity) in place if you are successful.

Creative Leicestershire recognises that the creative industries have a long way to go to be free of systemic racism and we are committed to confronting inequalities and injustice to learn, listen and do the work to create a more inclusive sector. All applications will be welcomed, respected and valued.

Additional benefits

Alongside the paid commission, selected artists will benefit from:

Mentoring to help develop and produce each project. Artist and mentor Khush Kali - <https://khush-kali.co.uk/> explores identity, cultural heritage, personal history and the urban environment. She is committed to inclusive and accessible art-making for all and facilitates workshops in community settings. Khush serves as an independent member of Leicester Visual Arts Network, advocating for meaningful community engagement. She will be available to the chosen artists throughout the project to offer support and guidance. If you apply as a collective or group, the mentoring is available as a group.

Professional Development Network Ruth Singer - <https://ruthsinger.com/> will be running a professional development project for all commissioned artists which will take place from November - March. Successful artists will be expected to attend each of the development sessions.

Further Creative Opportunities for artists and makers will take place during each artist event week, such as talks or networking (facilitated by the Creative Leicestershire team.)

Application deadlines

We have **two project deadlines**; the Melton project is taking place before Christmas, so the deadline is earlier.

Melton deadline - Midday on Tuesday 10 October 2023 . We will let you know the outcome of your application by Friday 13 October.

Loughborough, Coalville, Market Harborough and Hinckley deadline – Midday on Monday 23 October 2023. We will let you know the outcome of your application by Friday 27 October.

Brief

The purpose of the project is to creatively connect with the local community, to bring creativity to a public space, and support local artists and makers to network. Each town is providing a space for the artist to use over the week which may be an empty shop, part of a library or other building. We are interested in employing artists who are local to their area.

The artist chosen for each town will provide -

- A week of interactive activities in the chosen creative space e.g. an exhibition, interactive art installation, participatory workshops. The space will only be open when the artist is there, so we are asking for a commitment of a minimum of 4 days in the space.
- An opportunity for the public to visit and interact in the creative space and to meet a professional working artist.

We want as little waste as possible to avoid materials being single-use only or non-recyclable (eg vinyl lettering, plastic banners, MDF boards). We also encourage the use of recycled materials to build and dress your space and to provide activities.

Payments

Artist Fee - £3,000

Materials - £500

There is a budget for access support for any artists that need it to make their project possible.

Limited travel costs are also available if required.

Application

You will need to answer the following questions in the google form to apply:

Please state a preference for an area using 1 for first choice, 2 for second and 3 for third

What is your connection to your first choice town?

Why do you want to work in this town?

Please tell us about your role or practice within the arts and creative industries sector

How would you share your creative practice in a shop / venue in a town centre? What activities might you do? How could your work connect with the local area or the people in the town?

Please tell us about your experience working with the public or with community groups?

Please tell us why the additional benefits being offered by this project (artist network, mentoring, professional development) will be good for your practice?

How would you make your project low environmental impact and low waste?

Please tell us what you see might be the longer term impact or legacy of your project in the town?

If you have any specific requirements for your proposal, please tell us about them here.

Do you have any access needs which we need to be aware of? We aim to provide adjustments and support where required for successful applicants. This is for information only, it is not assessed as part of the application.

Click on the following link to apply <https://tinyurl.com/animatinglocaltowns>

We will not be interviewing so applications will be assessed on the information submitted. If you wish to submit your answers in a different format, please do contact us and we will make arrangements with you to make it possible for you to do so.

Criteria for selection will be:

- Strength of concept
- Local knowledge
- Experience of working with communities
- Suitability of proposal / artwork for a town centre
- Sustainability and low waste

Any ideas you share in the proposal will be kept confidential and will not be shared.

Contact

If you have any questions or want to talk through accessibility then please contact Cat Rogers, Creative Leicestershire Manager on 07525 367147. Cat is available from Monday - Tuesday from 8am - 6pm or send a message via WhatsApp. We aim to be as accessible and welcoming as possible so please do contact Cat if you want to ask about the application before you submit. You can also contact us with any questions via Instagram @Creative_Leics and we will aim to share answers to any questions via our social media channels.

