

2022 Cultural Activities Feasibility Funding Tender Brief

This opportunity is to support the feasibility stage of cultural activity¹ proposals in readiness for commissioning/funding opportunities for activity delivery during 2022.

Background

Sitting within the neighbourhood division of Birmingham City Council the Cultural Development Service supports a range of activities which enable local people to engage with and shape arts and culture on their doorsteps, empower future generations to develop their creativity and play an active part in the culture and heritage of the city, whilst supporting the growth and development of artists and companies working in this sector.

Through this opportunity, we want to invest in the development of arts-led cultural activity proposals which aim to create opportunities for Birmingham residents to be engaged as participants, audiences, leaders and volunteers in a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences during 2022. This funding is for the development of potential activity proposals to get them commission ready.

The Tender Brief

In readiness for commissioning/funding opportunities for activity delivery during 2022, the Cultural Development Service is investing in the feasibility stage of up to twenty project proposals (city-wide) which will be co-designed by Birmingham artists/arts leaders², arts organisations/groups³, residents and communities⁴.

Through this investment we want to;

- enable people Birmingham residents to be involved in cultural activities in the city and the cultural voice of residents to be valued, enabled, developed and shared
- strengthen the skills, knowledge, experience and confidence of artists/arts leaders and arts organisations/groups; encouraging them to be bold and ambitious and
- encourage artists/arts leaders and arts organisations/groups to become active and influential within their local communities
- encourage and facilitate connections between artists/arts leaders and arts organisations/groups (amateur and professional, those that operate locally or internationally, and those with a specific focus point or a far-ranging scope)

Outcomes and Outputs

The proposals developed via this funding strand will detail the feasibility process, everyone involved plus outline all elements of the proposal and its delivery e.g. activity details, artists/leaders, delivery partners, beneficiaries, risks, outputs/outcomes and budget etc. Further information and guidance will be provided to successful applicants.

The feasibility stage will focus on the development of proposals that;

- have been co-designed with Birmingham residents enabling the cultural voice of residents to be valued, enabled, developed and shared

- will be delivered during 2022 if they are successfully funded/supported
- are artistically bold, ambitious, exciting whilst being realistic and deliverable
- create cultural experiences bringing Birmingham residents together
- are achieved through new relationships and partnership working
- support citizens to have pride in where they live and a strong sense of belonging
- showcase the creativity within Birmingham
- celebrate the characteristic diversity and originality of Birmingham residents, places and spaces

We are also interested in the development of proposals that respond creatively to the Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme curatorial lines;

- Our place in the Commonwealth
- The present moment
- The stories of Birmingham and the West Midlands

Applicants

We are seeking applications from Birmingham based freelance artists/arts leaders and arts organisations/groups that can demonstrate;

- A proven record of delivering innovative and ambitious creative work to a high standard with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- An open approach to partnership and a commitment to innovative, collaborative ways of working with Birmingham residents, community groups and other organisations/artists (locally, nationally and internationally)
- An understanding of how engagement in culture can support local placemaking
- A proven record of creatively engaging with residents and communities directly and indirectly, online and offline
- Up to date policies, procedures, practices and a clear understanding of and commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, diversity, equal opportunities and health and safety (including COVID-19 safety)

Timescale and Fee

Delivery will take place between November 2020 and March 2021 with all contracted tasks completed by Monday 2nd March 2021. Applicants must have capacity to undertake the tasks within the contract timescale.

A total of £80,000 is available to commission twenty feasibility proposals across Birmingham's ten parliamentary constituencies⁵.

The total amount payable per commission is £4,000 including all expenses and travel. Successful applicants will be required to provide their own working environment, computer, telephone and email communication.

Tender Brief Submissions

Your submission needs to be no more than a 3 x A4 page proposal to detail your response to the brief and set out your relevant experience.

Your proposal for this tender must include;

- Identification of the neighbourhood(s)⁶ you would like to work in and reasons why (e.g. experience and knowledge of the area or community)

- An outline of your experience of artistic concept/project/programme development and working with communities and individuals through a collaborative approach to achieving arts-led cultural activity. Please provide a copy of your constitution if you're an arts organisation/group.
- information about;
 - the main focus of your artistic/creative activities including your main artistic/creative achievements to date and the target participants/audiences for your work now or in the future. Please include any relevant website or social media links.
 - how you will approach resident/community engagement for this scheme and how you will make sure residents have a quality experience
 - any other artists, arts organisations, or creative practitioners who will be directly involved in shaping the proposed activity with communities. Please include any relevant website or social media links.
 - how you plan to make sure that the developed project proposal will be accessible to people who might experience barriers to taking part. These barriers might be related to disability, for example, or socio-economic status.
- A proposed budget breakdown including research, co-design elements/approach expenditure and proposal development time. Please detail any in-kind support towards this feasibility stage and whether it is confirmed or expected.

Important Information

This investment is not a guarantee that the resulting applications for funding to Birmingham City Council or any other funding body will be successful.

Where possible the Cultural Development Service will assist with developing the proposals into applications for funding and support following the feasibility stage.

Deadline for applications: 5:00pm, Friday 16th October 2020

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a short interview via Microsoft teams on Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd or Friday 23rd October 2020.

Please email your proposal and any enquiries to art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk

For more information about Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/arts

[Click here to subscribe to our Signposting and Opportunities Mailing List](#)

¹ 'Culture' means many things to many people and is often used to refer to food, religion and other forms of heritage. Throughout this brief we use it to mean; performing arts, visual art, craft, film & photography, digital arts (art that is made or presented using digital technology), combined arts, museums, heritage and public art

² Artists/arts leaders living in Birmingham who work professionally in the arts or an arts-related field e.g. artists, producers, curators, arts project managers etc.

³ Arts Organisations/Groups registered in Birmingham who have arts as the main object or purpose in their Constitution or Articles of Association

⁴ Residents and communities of the Birmingham neighbourhood(s) identified by the applicant

⁵ We anticipate that we may receive several applications for one area and none for another. Information in your application may help us to match you with an alternative constituency if you are successful but there are several successful submissions for the area you have identified

⁶ This opportunity seeks to support two applications per parliamentary constituency. Information about Birmingham constituencies and wards/neighbourhoods can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk/wards