

Open Call: LightNight 2017 – Time Artist Commissions

Open Culture is seeking artistic proposals from artists for the LightNight Liverpool 2017 commissions programme, working to the theme of Time.

About LightNight

LightNight is Liverpool's late-night arts festival taking place annually in May since 2010. In 2017, the festival will take place on Friday 19 May.

LightNight Liverpool is an unforgettable trail of events for all ages including light projections, street performance, exhibitions, open studios, theatre, dance, walks and tours, live music and many more special activities. Over 50 city centre organisations keep their galleries, museums and venues open until late, staging over 100 special cultural events for visitors of all ages.

Most events are free, and they are created for residents and visitors to the city alike. LightNight 2016 events had over 72,000 visits.

LightNight is produced by Open Culture, and aims to promote the city's arts and cultural offer to those who may not usually engage with the arts.

What we're looking for

We are looking for emerging or established artists living or working in the UK. Proposals in any artform are welcome including visual arts, sculpture, technology, moving image, spoken word, performance, installation, light art or any combination of these.

We are looking for high-quality projects that are thought-provoking and engaging to the senses exploring the broad theme of Time. These commissions will present opportunities for artists to create work that is:

- presented as part of a major festival that reaches a large and varied audience
- made in collaboration with a new organisation or venue
- challenging but accessible for new audiences

LightNight provides a platform for artists to reach new audiences; as such we are especially interested in work that can appeal to families, young people and people who wouldn't normally engage with the arts.

Your work could happen in a set location, or move around the city centre. It might work for a large audience indoors or outdoors, and equally it could be ideal for a more intimate space, or use a corner of the city never normally seen. Whatever it is, it should be interesting and spark people's curiosity.

We anticipate commissioning a wide range of activities to ensure LightNight can offer a truly diverse programme of events and hands-on activities for audiences of all ages.

Festival Theme

The theme for LightNight 2017 is Time.

There is no literal definition of time. It works as a unit of measurement that we use to help us understand and describe our experience of reality. An indefinite and continually changing flow, time allows us to organise our lives and our perceptions into past, present and future. There is no escape from it – our lives are inextricably tangled against the onward march of time.

Scientists also debate whether Time is a dimension, which opens questions of time and space and time-travel. Your activity might explore the more linear concept of time and how it relates to humans – memory, aging, mortality and experience. Mindfulness of the present, memories of the past or imagined futures.

Alternatively, you might explore the influence of time in academic areas including philosophy, physics, astronomy, quantum mechanics and relativity.

Requirements

- Your project proposal must respond to the theme.
- Your activity must take place on LightNight Friday 19 May 2017 in Liverpool city centre. It must take place between 5pm - late. Ideally your piece would be presented for a minimum of 5 hours throughout the evening, or at intervals so that as many people as possible can experience your work.
- Your project must be a high-quality artistic offer
- Your project must be an original piece of work, which is either brand-new or a new development of an existing project
- We expect most proposals will not have a fixed venue planned – as such please include details of any venues you may have in mind and what you need in terms of space etc. As well as the venues below we encourage the use of non-traditional spaces such as outdoor city centre streets and squares. Some of the venues that have taken part in LightNight include St George's Hall, Liverpool Cathedral, Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Philharmonic, The Bluecoat, Walker Art Gallery, Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Victoria Gallery & Museums etc.
- If you already have a venue to work with please include this in your proposal.
- Projects must be delivered on time and within budget.
- Projects must have public liability insurance in place.

Budget

Successful projects will receive up to £1000 for all artist fees and materials.

Support

As well as an artistic fee and materials budget Open Culture will provide practical advice, curatorial support and mentoring where needed during each stage in the planning and delivery of your work.

We will also work with you to develop your proposal and facilitate any collaborations with other organisations if relevant to your work – providing contacts and networks to elevate your activity. In addition, and if necessary we will work with you to secure a suitable city centre venue / outdoor location. Open Culture deliver the marketing and PR for your activity as part of the significant LightNight promotional campaign.

Submit a proposal

Your proposal should be no more than 3-4 sides of A4 and should include:

- Outline of your idea. Tell us about your proposed activity and how it explores the theme of Time. What would the audience experience be? Tell us why it's a high-quality artistic offer.
- If your activity is performance-based or will take place across multiple locations, please provide details of the number of performances / locations.
- Budget breakdown to include fees for planning and delivery, travel, materials and equipment. Please include any in-kind support (free use of equipment, etc) where appropriate.
- Confirmation of PLI insurance
- Details of one or two relevant past projects, which show your experience of producing high-quality artistic work
- Images or weblinks to support your proposal
- If you have suggestions or conformation of locations or venues please include details
- If there is a particular organisation or university department you would be interested in working with please include details

Selection will be based on the quality of your idea and your ability to deliver the work within the timescales and budget.

Please email your proposal to info@culture.org.uk by the deadline 5pm on Sunday 8 January 2017.

Key dates

5pm on 8 Jan 2017	Deadline for proposals
12 January 2017	Applicants notified of outcome
27 January 2017	LightNight Social – networking and social event
3 March 2017	Deadline for festival guide / promotional materials
10 April 2017	Programme announcement
19 May 2017	LightNight 2017

About Open Culture

Open Culture is a creative social enterprise, which aims to increase the profile of and engagement with arts and culture on Merseyside. We believe that arts and culture improves quality of life and wellbeing for individuals and communities.

Open Culture has produced LightNight annually since its inception in 2010.

www.lightnightliverpool.co.uk

If you have any questions, please contact Open Culture on 0151 478 4550 / 4928 or email info@culture.org.uk.