

OPEN CALL: LIGHTNIGHT 2018 – TRANSFORMATION ARTIST COMMISSIONS

Open Culture is seeking artistic proposals from artists for the LightNight Liverpool 2018 commissions programme, working to the theme: Transformation.

ABOUT LIGHTNIGHT

LightNight is Liverpool's annual late-night arts festival taking place annually in May. In 2018, the festival will take place on Friday 18 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.

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. LightNight presents a great opportunity to try a new idea out on a big scale.

We are looking for high-quality projects that are thought-provoking and engaging exploring the broad theme of Transformation. 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 or experimental 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 – TRANSFORMATION

Understood as a significant change in people or place, Transformation is happening all around us. Visible or invisible, turbulent and political, personal and emotional, for better or for worse.

Liverpool is a place of constant change. The fabric of the city is ever-changing, with old spaces lost and new buildings constructed. We too are in constant flux; our perceptions and behaviors change as we age. The cells in our bodies renew themselves over and over, and our bodies change and we change our bodies. Transformation is in our nature, but it also exists in the culture we create with the people around us.

Transformation in society is often triggered by a crisis, adversity or a deep need which provides the catalyst to effect great change. Liverpool is a community that is defiant in our collective solidarity, with a history of radical and forceful opposition when confronted with hate, injustice or inequality.

Cultural or ideological shifts can happen very slowly, or be set into motion by a crisis, adversity or cataclysmic event that propels us to strive for something better. Our beliefs and actions can create ideological transformations and political revolutions. Our attitudes and preferences shape the cultural landscapes we move in – are we more powerful than we realise?

This LightNight we will question and reflect upon the transformative nature of the self and the world around us. Your activity might explore social or political movements such as Feminism or LGBTQ+ rights, urban sociology, psychogeography, the utopian dream, ecological issues, the Butterfly Effect, ethical or philosophical questions or even experiment with the transformation of form, function and matter through science, making and art.

REQUIREMENTS

- Your activity proposal must respond to the theme.
- Your activity needs to take place on LightNight Friday 18 May 2018 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 activity must be a high-quality artistic offer
- Your activity 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. Please include details of any venues you may have in mind and what your specifications in terms of the space are. For instance ability to black out, minimum size, 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 locations we have had previously include: The waterfront, Albert Dock, St George's Hall, Scandinavian Church, Williamson Square, Liverpool Cathedral,

Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool John Moores University, Baltic Creative, Liverpool Philharmonic, The Bluecoat, Walker Art Gallery, Maritime Museum, Victoria Gallery & Museum etc.

- If you already have a venue to work with please include this in your proposal.
- Your activity must be delivered on time and within budget.
- Your activity must have public liability insurance in place.

BUDGET

All commissions are subject to funding. Three commissions of up to £1k will be selected and a further three commissions of up to £3k will be considered.

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

If you want to talk about your proposal prior to submitting please get in touch with us on the details below.

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

- Outline of your idea. Tell us about your idea, your proposed activity and how it explores the theme of Transformation. What would the audience experience be? Tell us why it's a high-quality artistic offer and what makes it interesting.
- 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
- Your full name, address and contact information
- Details of a referee

- Images or weblinks to support your proposal
- If you have an ideal venue or 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 to a high artistic standard and within the timescales and budget.

Please email your proposal to christina@culture.org.uk by the deadline midnight on 31 October 2017.

KEY DATES

31 October 2017	Deadline for proposals
30 November 2017	Applicants notified of outcome
December 2017	Meetings with Open Culture
15 February 2018	Activity Update Due
1 March 2018	Commissions Announcement
28 March 2018	Deadline for festival guide copy and imagery
1 May 2018	Full Programme announcement
18 May 2018	LightNight 2018
11 June 2018	Final Activity Report Form Due

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 4928 / 4550 or email christina@culture.org.uk.