

## **LIGHTNIGHT 2019 – RITUAL ARTIST COMMISSIONS**

Open Culture is seeking artistic proposals from artists for the LightNight Liverpool 2019 commissions programme, working to the theme: Ritual.

### **ABOUT LIGHTNIGHT**

LightNight is Liverpool's annual late-night arts festival taking place annually in May. In 2019, the festival will take place on Friday 17 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.

[www.lightnightliverpool.co.uk](http://www.lightnightliverpool.co.uk)

### **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 Ritual. These commissions will present opportunities for artists to create work that:

- presented as part of a major festival that reaches a large and varied audience
- made in collaboration with community
- hosted by an established cultural 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 – RITUAL**

A ritual is a structured series of actions, performed in a particular order using specific objects, words or movements. Rituals of all kinds, ancient and modern, are seen in cultures from all over the world; where there is community, there is also ritual.

Humans construct rituals for all manner of reasons; for celebration, comfort, ceremony, catharsis or religious belief. From the individual to the collective, personal or public, ritual permeates every facet of our existence.

Some rituals are rooted in nature and seasonal changes or the calendar, creating a link between the past and future. Some allow participants to have a transformative experience, marking or creating a personal change; whether they are moving into a new stage of life or connecting with another person or community through marriage or initiation. Some offer a means to explore spiritual beliefs and to express reverence, creating a deeper connection with a deity or ancestors.

Carnivals are thought by anthropologists to allow communities, framed year-round by social tensions such as class, race and gender, to invert their normal social order through masking, play and performance. This creates an environment where social stressors can be played out collectively, and an experience that is elevated and distinguishable from the everyday.

Ritualistic qualities can be found in even day-to-day activities, such as how we choose to greet each other or dance together. These customs and habits can help us carve out sense and order from the chaos of our lives.

Many of us also have private rituals, that we enact through repetition or routine; whether it's getting ready to go out, marking an anniversary or lighting a candle for a loved one there is a deliberateness, a level of choice, in ritual that offers significance beyond a simple action.

For LightNight 2019, we will consider ritual as a universal phenomenon, spanning the breadth of human history, and also as an artistic process by which we shift our state of mind. Ritual offers us an active and creative process by which to create shared meaning, understand the world, and define – and transcend – our place within it.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Your proposal must be artist-led (although you can talk about any partner organisations).
- Your proposal must respond to the theme.
- Your activity needs to take place on LightNight Friday 17 May 2019 in Liverpool city centre. It should 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. The value of the commissions will be between £1k — £3.5k each, depending on the scale of your proposed work. We expect to commission a minimum of 6 artists.

## **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 Ritual. 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 all costs for artist fees, planning and delivery, travel, materials and equipment.
- Please also include any in-kind support in your budget (i.e. free use of equipment, etc.)
- 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](mailto:christina@culture.org.uk) by the deadline midnight on 5 November 2018.

## KEY DATES

5 November 2018	Deadline for proposals
21 December 2018	Applicants notified of outcome
January 2019	Production Meetings with Open Culture
4 March 2019	Marketing Deadline (Copy & Imagery)
18 March 2019	Commissions Announcement
15 April 2019	Full Programme announcement
17 May 2019	LightNight 2018
June 2019	Feedback & Debriefing

## 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Open Culture on 0151 478 4928 / 4550 or email [christina@culture.org.uk](mailto:christina@culture.org.uk).

PRODUCED BY

**OPEN CULTURE**

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



FUNDERS



SPONSOR



PARTNERS

