

LIGHTNIGHT 2020 – HOME ARTIST COMMISSIONS

Open Culture is seeking artistic proposals for the LightNight Liverpool 2020 commissions programme, working to the theme: Home.

ABOUT LIGHTNIGHT

LightNight is Liverpool's annual one-night arts festival taking place in May. In 2020, the festival will take place on Friday 15 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

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for new works by 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 explore the theme of Home and would be interesting for audiences who are less-engaged with the arts. These commissions will present opportunities for artists to create work that is:

- presented as part of a major festival and reaches a large and diverse audience
- made in collaboration with community
- hosted by an established cultural organisation or venue
- challenging but accessible enough for new audiences of all ages

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 one location or move around the city centre. It might work for a large audience indoors or outdoors. Whatever it is, it should be interesting and spark people's natural 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 – HOME

For LightNight 2020 we will consider Home as a concept, which could be explored through ideas about social identity, inequality, social exclusion and discrimination, human rights,

psychogeography, the built environment, urbanism, Liverpool, community, displacement, migration, refugee experience, planet earth, biodiversity, climate change and environmental sustainability.

Everyone has a different experience of what Home means to them. Is home a pin on a map or does it exist in our hearts and minds?

The Earth nourishes and sustains humankind however, our survival very much depends on the state of the environment. With our fates so inextricably linked and both teetering on the edge of catastrophe, we must examine our often-indifferent relationship with our home planet.

Home is also the cities, town and villages where we live and the buildings within them. It's the space where we sleep and keep our things, where we take care of ourselves and our families. We are connected to our home through memories, objects and familiarity: it is an intimate topography of the self. It's a place of safety and security, where we can truly be ourselves and put down roots.

How does our home environment shape us? As younger generations reject traditional notions of home and family, whether through choice or necessity, what does the home of the future look like?

With homelessness in the UK rising and an enormous number of people around the world fleeing conflict, poverty and fighting oppression, we ask what does Home mean to those displaced and forced to seek refuge in new and unknown geographies?

Home isn't just a physical dwelling with a lock on the door. Feeling at home is a sense of belonging. Communities, both real life and online, are built around common values and shared identities; creating a sense of connection to others, where you are valued and cared for. However, these social constructs also build invisible walls, dividing people and marginalising those of us that aren't perceived as 'fitting in'. We might have a house, but we might not feel at home; socially, culturally or even in our own body.

People can easily become marginalised based on superficial or cultural differences. We come up against barriers to feeling like we belong, and in our search for community, whether through homelessness, discrimination based on age, race, religion disability, gender, or sexuality or mental health. In the face of these barriers, we ask – where is home?

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 15 May 2020 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 repeated 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 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/or what your specifications in terms of the space are. For instance: ability to black out, minimum size, atmosphere, extra equipment required etc.
- If you already have a venue to work with, please include this in your proposal. Some of the locations we have opened as part of LightNight include: The waterfront, Albert Dock, St George's Hall, Constellations, Williamson Square, Church Street, Liverpool Cathedral, Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool John Moores University, Baltic Creative, Liverpool Philharmonic, The Bluecoat, Walker Art Gallery, Maritime Museum, Museum of Liverpool, Victoria Gallery & Museum Leggate Theatre, Exchange Flags etc.
- Your activity must be delivered on time and within budget
- You must have public liability insurance to cover your activity

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. If you are requesting the top amount your work should be able to engage with large numbers of people. We expect to commission 5-7 artists.

SUPPORT

In addition to the 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 overall 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 Home. 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. Where relevant to your practice (i.e. film, music, performance) please give weblinks to videos/recordings of past work
- Your full name, address and contact information
- Details of a referee
- Images or weblinks to support your proposal
- Details about your venue, or ideal venue requirements
- Details about any existing or potential project partners or academics you would be working with

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 on 3 November 2019.

KEY DATES

3 November 2019	Deadline for proposals
Nov/Dec 2019	Applicants notified of outcome (subject to funding)
January/Feb 2020	Meetings with Open Culture
14 Feb 2020	Marketing Deadline (Copy & Imagery)
March 2020	Commissions Announcement
6 April 2020	Full Programme announcement
15 May 2020	LightNight Liverpool Festival
May/June 2020	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 art and culture improve 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.

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