

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts Programme
Enhancing the town through art in public spaces

Artist Mentoring Opportunity



1. SUMMARY

Are you seeking to expand your artistic practice in public spaces and places?

Do you live, work or study in Kirklees, West Yorkshire?

Do you want to refine your engagement & consultation skills and deepen your understanding of the public art commissioning process?

This is a unique opportunity for an early career artist to shadow an experienced artist who will develop design proposals for permanent public artworks in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Bursary + Travel allowance: £2,000 + VAT if applicable

Timeframe: October 2022 - June 2023

Deadline for Applications: 5pm Monday 31 October 2022

2. WHAT IS THE DEWSBURY CREATIVE TOWN ARTS PROGRAMME?

Arts organisation Beam has been appointed by Kirklees Council to produce the Dewsbury Creative Town Arts Programme (DCT) between 2020 - 2023 which is part of the Dewsbury Blueprint 10-year plan to revitalise the town.

The **overarching vision** for the programme is:

The Creative Town Arts Programme will enhance Dewsbury's ambitious future plans through art in public spaces engaging with its diverse communities, celebrating its unique heritage and inspiring creativity. The programme will bring all communities together and have a positive impact on everyone's experience of the town centre.

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/dewsbury-blueprint/key-areas/creative-town-arts-programme.aspx>



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3. CONTEXT

The Dewsbury Blueprint 10-year plan seeks to honour the heritage of this beautiful town and build on recent investments. It aims to bring more activity into the town centre, make it more attractive and improve accessibility.

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/dewsbury-blueprint/index.aspx>

An experienced artist is being commissioned to develop detailed designs for permanent artworks for the new **Town Park**. The Town Park will offer a high quality public space in the heart of the town, creating a relaxing green space in the very centre of Dewsbury on Longcauseway. The park will incorporate the Memorial Gardens and the area around the Walsh Buildings. [Read more.](#)

4. MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

4.1 Overview

With support from Arts Council England, we are pleased to be able to offer an early career artist with connections to Kirklees, the opportunity to shadow an experienced artist and receive mentoring. This opportunity has been developed to help break down some of the barriers emerging artists may face in developing an artistic practice in the public realm.

Mentoring is a two way exchange via a supportive relationship between two people – an experienced ‘mentor’ and less experienced ‘mentee’. The mentor will invite you to shadow their design development process, attend site visits and project meetings, support their engagement and consultation activities as well as 1-2-1 meetings. As an artist with connections to Kirklees the mentor may wish to draw upon your local knowledge and connections to aid in their research and engagement process. In addition, you will have a number of meetings with Beam as producers of the programme to gain insight into the commissioning process.

4.2 What are the benefits?

You will gain:

- Understanding what is involved in designing artworks for the public realm
- Understanding of the costs involved
- Knowledge of the practical considerations when designing artworks for public spaces
- Hands on experience around public consultation and engagement and how this can feed into design development
- Increased connections
- Signposting to further opportunities
- Space to consider how you might develop your practice in the public realm

4.3 What will you have to do?



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Following an initial meeting with Beam and the mentor you will be invited to attend project meetings and site visits, spend time with the mentor during the design development process, support the community engagement activity and join 1-2-1 meetings. Keep a menteeship / learning journal to review at an evaluation meeting. The bursary estimates a minimum participation of 10 days plus travel.

4.4 What support will you get?

Beam will provide ongoing support via email and phone as required as well as holding a 1-2-1 meeting. Upon completion an evaluation meeting will be held.

5. OUTLINE PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

Activity	Outline Timing
Brief promoted	w/c 26th September 2022
Deadline for applications	5pm Monday 31 October
Informal virtual interview	w/c 14th November
Artist appointment	w/c 7th November
Initial meeting with mentor & Beam	w/c 21st November
Attendance at site visit & briefing	w/c 21st November
Shadow / support research and concept development & delivery of stakeholder / community engagement activity	November - March
Attend interim meeting to discuss engagement & design development	w/c 16 January 2023
1-2-1 meeting with Beam	February
1-2-1 meeting with mentor	March
Attend concept design presentation	w/c 17 April
Shadow detailed design refinement period	April / May
Attend detailed design presentation	w/c 5 June
Attendance at evaluation meeting	June

6. BUDGET



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Artists will be eligible to receive a bursary of £2000 + VAT if applicable to support the artists time and travel costs.

7. HEALTH & SAFETY / CHILD PROTECTION

Beam and Kirklees Council's Health & Safety and Child Protection Policies will be applied to these commissions and any related work as appropriate.

8. INSURANCE

The artist will be required to hold Public Liability insurance and provide details. If required, advice on this can be given following appointment.

9. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We welcome applications from artists underrepresented in the field of public arts.

Public Arts trading as Beam is fully committed to providing equal opportunities for all board members, employees, freelancers (including Artists), job applicants, participants and audiences and to eliminating unlawful and unfair discrimination.

The Company aims to create a culture that encourages and values diversity, and that appoints, rewards and promotes board members, staff and freelancers based on merit and are committed to taking positive action to address lack of equity within their working practices and to being an anti-racist organisation.

The Company will not unlawfully discriminate against any board members, employees, freelancers, job applicants, participants and audiences because of any 'protected characteristic', as stated in the Equality Act 2010, namely: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership status; pregnancy and maternity; race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin); religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation.

Beam and Kirklees Council's relevant Equal Opportunities, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policies will be applied to this commission.

10. SUSTAINABILITY

The appointed artist will be encouraged to adopt a sustainable approach to their participation in the project which may include:

- utilising public transport to attend meetings / holding virtual meetings whenever possible;
- utilising digital options for promotion and minimising print requirements;
- minimising impact of community engagement activity, e.g. ensuring that catering utensils / tableware is recyclable, minimising packaging, selecting a location that is accessible via public transport etc.

11. ACCESS & SUPPORT



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Applications can be made in written, video or audio format.

If you require support or have any access requirements to complete the application process please do not hesitate to contact us via the details below. If you have an Access Document you can attach this to your application.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for applications: by 5pm Monday 31 October

Your application should be made by email to kate@beam.uk.net in PDF format, short video or audio file (max 5 minutes) to include the following. We will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email.

- **Contact details:** name, email, phone, web, social media accounts if applicable.
- **A statement detailing:** how you feel this opportunity could support your development including information about your practice / work to date and ambitions to work in the public realm. Please outline your connection to Kirklees e.g. live, work, study.
- **Up to 4 relevant examples** of your work including images and accompanying descriptive text. Please include weblinks where appropriate.
- Submissions should be 10MB or less. Maximum 6 sides of A4 and saved in PDF format.
- Completion of anonymous Equality and Diversity Monitoring form optional) via this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dzyorwfhyfbU4n2Dmr7vlyeWB0DA788jDr6BqPkh7b0/edit>

Applications will be appraised on the potential for impact on the applicants future career.

13. DATA

Please note by applying for this commission you are consenting to your personal data being shared with Kirklees Council teams, which include, Investment and Regeneration, Creative Development and Communications teams.

14. CONTACT DETAILS

Kate Watson, Principal Consultant, Beam

E: kate@beam.uk.net / T: 07718 564 376 / Beam, The Art House, Wakefield, WF1 2TE
www.beam.uk.net



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