

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts Programme

Enhancing the town through art in public spaces



Mentee Artist Brief: 'Changing Face of Dewsbury'- Mentee Artist Opportunity

Budget: £2,000 + VAT if applicable

Timeframe: March - September 2023

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 how artists work in public spaces?

This is a unique opportunity for an early career artist to shadow an experienced artist who will be delivering a creative public engagement commission in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. The commission is currently in development and will be a participatory photography/ portraiture-based commission that connects local people in Dewsbury with the regeneration and changes happening in their town, how the town feels and how they hope it will feel in the future.

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 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."

The cross-cutting theme across the programme is to explore local people's connections to key places in Dewsbury as the town undergoes major transformation through the Blueprint regeneration plans. These may be untold stories, hidden histories, capturing moments of change or hopes for the future, all told from diverse viewpoints.

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

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.

The Blueprint includes plans to make Dewsbury a destination town by introducing more green space, making the most of the town's heritage assets, by improving and extending the public realm, making it a more attractive and pleasant place to spend time.

The appointed lead artists for this commission are [Lenny & Whale](#), a partnership between Artist Fabric Lenny and Creative Producer Katrina Whale. They deliver exciting projects that culminate in playful artwork and interventions. They love working with people, in the outdoors and in non-traditional art spaces, bringing the magic of creativity into the lives of people in a way that is ambitious and accessible. They often use workshops as a starting point for gathering and developing visual ideas and themes which then evolve into distinctive pieces of artwork, shared and celebrated within the public domain.

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 early career 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 artistic 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 About you

- You will have a keen interest in engaging with people as part of your artistic practice
- You will be highly motivated to use this mentoring opportunity to take your development as an Artist to the next level
- An interest in photography as a medium is desirable, but formal skills in this area are not a requirement
- You will have a strong interest in exploring the potential for presenting your work in public places and spaces which you will explore through this opportunity

4.3 What are the benefits?

You will gain:

- Understanding about what is involved in designing artworks for public places and spaces
- 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 artistic practice in the public realm

4.4 What will it involve?

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

4.5 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	26th January 2023
Deadline for applications	Monday 20th February 2023, 10am
Informal virtual interviews	Wednesday 1st March 2023, (morning)
Artist appointment	w/c 27th February 2023
Initial meeting with mentor & Beam	w/c 6th March 2023
Attendance at site visit & briefing	tbc
Shadow / support research and concept development & delivery of stakeholder / community engagement activity	March - May 2023
1-2-1 meeting with Beam	April 2023 tbc
1-2-1 meeting with mentor	May 2023 tbc
Shadow Lead Artist on public presentation of the artwork (format to be agreed)	Jun - August 2023
Attendance at evaluation meeting	September

6. BUDGET

Artists will be eligible to receive a bursary of £2000 + VAT if applicable to support the artists time and travel costs. Approx. 10 days work is expected to be delivered within this fee.

7. PERMISSIONS

All relevant Beam and Kirklees Council policies and procedures will apply to this commission and any related work. All work will be subject to relevant permissions prior to implementation.

8. 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.

9. INSURANCE

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

10. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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

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.

11. ACCESS & SUPPORT

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 for a confidential conversation.

If you have an Access Document you can attach this to your application.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for applications: Monday 20th February, 10am

Your application should be made by email to frances@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/1dzyorwfhfyfbU4n2Dmr7vlyeWB0DA788jDr6BqPkh7b0/edit>

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

13. DATA

Please note by accepting 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

The lead creative producer for this commission will be - Frances Smith, Principal Consultant, Beam

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