

LIGHTPOOL FESTIVAL

Call for Proposals: Artist in Residence at Lightworks

Introduction

Blackpool Illuminations is delighted to have recently secured a grant from the Arts Council to deliver an exciting new artists' research and development programme. It will lead to new works being created for the Blackpool Illuminations, Grundy Art Gallery and Lightpool Festival from 2021.

As part of the programme, we are setting up an artist in residence placement at Lightworks, the bespoke factory and home of the world famous Blackpool Illuminations.

The programme also includes a series of digital commissions to create new work for the promenade, The Blackpool Tower and St John's Square; and working in collaboration with the Grundy Art Gallery and international artist Dr Chila Kumari Burman on a co-commission that will become part of the gallery's contemporary light collection.

Brief for the Opportunity:

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist that has a track record in creating imaginative installations for the public realm and has a particular interest and experience in working with light and its many forms.

We are looking for an artist that is interested in providing magical installations that audiences can connect and interact with; that can create work of scale and respond to the challenges of the often hostile natural environment of being outside by the Irish Sea in the autumn/winter.

You will be a problem solver; open to new applications and approaches; and will build on the experience gained in being at Lightworks to further develop your practice; be willing to share your learning with peers; and be interested in experimenting with digital projections on 3D forms.

Lightworks and the facilities/support available during the Residency:

At the Lightworks facility there will be access to structural and electrical engineers, artists, animators and lighting technicians. The facility also offers computer aided manufacturing including Computerized Numerical Control cutting and carving.

The Blackpool Illuminations team, work with a range of experts in the private and public sector to deliver their programme and the artist may want to explore some of these relationships in developing a certain idea. For example, Blackpool Illuminations is working with the Computer Science department at Lancaster University on a commission with fashion designer Jack Irving to create a major new installation on the seafront with an 'under the sea' theme. Up to 10 projectors will create an interactive digital carpet on the promenade and a bespoke programme is being designed by the Computer Science department to enable people to interact with the projections.

Depending on the ideas that come out of the residency it is envisaged that new work(s) will be an outcome of the residency for the Illuminations season in 2021 or 2022 and/or for the Lightpool Festival in 2021 or 2022.

Budget for the Residency and Timeframe

A fee of £5,000 is available for the artist to cover all their time, subsistence and expenses incurred in undertaking the residency. We envisage the artist committing to working with Blackpool Illuminations over an intense period of approximately 6 weeks starting as soon as possible in June 2021 through July 2021 with a proportion of that time spent on site at Lightworks (but not necessarily exclusively). We have based the fee on the artist working approximately 22 @ £200 per day over the residency period.

Support will be given to the artist in finding accommodation in Blackpool if this is required with the artist having to use an element of their fee to cover this cost.

Materials Budget

The artist will also have a materials cash budget of £4,000 available to them for purchase of materials and equipment in developing ideas into prototypes as agreed with the Project Steering Group.

Management of the Residency and Reporting

The artist will report on a day to day basis to Richard Williams, Illuminations Manager but also regularly meet with the Project Steering Group made up of Richard, Carolyn Primett, Head of Arts at Blackpool Council, Paulette Brien, Curator for the Grundy Art Gallery and Phil Holmes, Creative Director for Lightpool Festival 2021 and Project Manager for the Artists' R&D Programme. You will also get to meet other Creative Producers from the Light Up the North Network who will taking part in the recruitment and selection process for the open commissions in this programme and will be following the journey of the artists involved through on-line and in person progress briefings and sharing of knowledge.

The Artist appointed will be required to contribute to an independent evaluation report which we will be undertaking as part of the requirement for the funding but also so we can learn how to develop more successful residencies in the future.

The Artist will be required to enter into a formal agreement for the residency and be able to provide their Unique Tax Reference number.

Selection criteria:

All applications will be assessed by the Project Steering Group against the following criteria:

1. Evidence of an interest in producing work that the public can connect and interact with
2. Evidence of the consideration of the environmental impacts of displaying work outside in Blackpool
3. Evidence of an interest in digital projection onto 3D forms
4. Evidence of working as part of a team
5. Evidence of previous management of similar scale budgets
6. Evidence of producing project schedules and meeting deadlines

7. Evidence of being able to clearly communicate ideas to a wide range of people
8. Evidence of being able to produce updates and evaluation reports on project progress

Skills development:

Skills development is central to this project, and Lightpool and Blackpool Illuminations will be providing production, marketing, documentation and technical support to make the most of this opportunity.

Timeline:

The completed work needs to be delivered by **July 2021**

The work will be presented during Blackpool Winter Illuminations, 22 November – 3 January 2022

About Blackpool Illuminations

Blackpool Illuminations is an annual lights festival, founded in 1879 and running annually since 1912. Running for 66 days, it welcomes in excess of 3.5million annual visitors, illuminating 7km of coastline and using more than 1million lamps. The Illuminations were the world's first spectacular electric light show, and they occupy a unique place in the UK's cultural landscape and heritage. The Illuminations are principally funded by Blackpool Borough Council and by public donations, and delivered by the Lightworks production team.

About Lightpool Festival

The Lightpool festival began in 2016, to celebrate the Illuminations by bringing contemporary light and fire artists to Blackpool to be inspired by the town's unique relationship with light. The festival won the Large Tourism Event at the Lancashire Tourism awards in 2017.

About Grundy Art Gallery

Grundy Art Gallery is Blackpool's art gallery and offers a year round programme of contemporary visual art exhibitions and events including solo and group exhibitions together with talks, workshops and educational activities. The gallery is housed in a Grade II listed Carnegie building and has a collection that was founded in 1908, following a bequest by brothers John and Cuthbert Grundy. Today the collection includes works by established artists such as Martin Creed, Tracey Emin, Laura Ford, Gilbert and George, Brian Griffiths, Augustus John, Haroon Mirza and Eric Ravilious alongside works by regionally based emerging talent such as Joe Fletcher Orr and Louise Giovanelli. Grundy Art Gallery is supported by Blackpool Council and also receives regular funding as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations.

www.grundyartgallery.com

About Light Up The North

Light up the North (LUTN) is a network of six northern light festivals which have come together to share their collective expertise to support both the development of the partner festivals and the wider sector. Through regional, national and international networking and collaboration LUTN nurtures artistic ambition through artist and producer development, co-commissioning and joint fundraising.

The capacity and depth of cultural practice within the network enables LUTN to support emerging artists, explore technical innovations and create aspirational work to deliver a compelling offer for audiences.

lightupthenorth.com

How to apply:

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please submit the following:

- A statement of why you are interested and what relevant skills and experience you can bring taking account of our selection criteria above;
- An up to date curriculum vitae; up to 10 images of previous relevant work;
- Provide the contact details for 2 referees
- Any document and images sent through should be no more than 5 pages in length and no more than 10Mb.
- Please direct applications to illuminations.admin@blackpool.gov.uk with the subject line LIGHTPOOL R&D.

Application Process:

Step 1 – Closing date for applications – 21 May 2021 at 12pm

Step 2 – Proposal and Interview – w/c 31 May 2021

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to create a brief proposal for the interview. This will also be an opportunity to ask any further questions relating to the project

Step 3 - Announcing the successful applicant.

The selected artists or company will be announced on **Monday 7 June 2021**

For more information or an informal chat please call Philip Holmes, Creative Director, Lightpool Festival on 0771 355 4905.

No late applications will be considered.

