



Leeds Inspired Carnival Commission 2017

I'm Carnival Happy: Celebrating 50 years of Leeds West Indian Carnival

A Leeds Inspired commission in partnership with Leeds West Indian Carnival.

Introduction

2017 sees the 50th anniversary of Leeds West Indian Carnival, the longest running carnival in Europe. To celebrate this historic event Leeds Inspired are working in partnership with Leeds West Indian Carnival to create a mass participation project celebrating the creativity of carnival costume artists.

What are we looking for?

We are looking to commission 5 artists to create striking original, themed, headpieces during autumn/winter 2016. The theme for each commissioned headpiece will address one of key stages of the journey of Leeds West Indian Carnival from the Caribbean to Leeds.

These themes are: **Emancipation – Migration – 1960's – Now – Future**

The commissioned headpieces will tour Leeds visiting schools, community groups, local festivals, businesses and shopping centres. In each location visited, participants of all ages will be invited to pose wearing one of the headpieces and have their portrait taken by a professional photographer. The project will capture 500 portraits of people of all ages from across the city to build excitement and get more people involved in celebrating the 50th birthday of one of Leeds greatest home-grown events. The images will be connected with the strapline #CarnivalHappy50 to encourage everyone in the city to feel proud of the event and to encourage attendance at Carnival in August. They will be shared online via social media channels and used across the city on print and outdoor media.

How to apply

If you're a carnival artist or designer and would like to be considered for this commission please complete the application and email it to jane@leedsinspired.co.uk with a link to your online portfolio of previous work. If you do not have an online portfolio then do not worry, you can send us images and details of your experience as email attachments or by post. Remember to provide us with evidence that you can create something amazing. Our address is Leeds Inspired, Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 3AD. If you have any questions about the commission please don't hesitate to ring us for a chat. The office number is 0113 3786009

Closing date for applications - Monday 14 November 2016
(late applications will not be accepted)



Our Process

- All submissions will be assessed by a panel made up of representatives of Leeds Inspired and Leeds West Indian Carnival.
- From the applications the panel will shortlist up to a maximum of 10 artists. The 10 artists will each be paid a development fee of £150 to work up designs responding to the theme allocated to them by the panel.
- The designs submitted by shortlisted applicants will be assessed on artistic quality, representation of the theme and the spirit of Caribbean Carnival.
- The panel will then select up to 5 of the submitted designs to go on to be fully commissioned. Each of the 5 selected commissioned artists will be paid a fee of £1000 inclusive of all materials to create the headpiece.
- Leeds Inspired reserves the right to re-open the call or not to make awards if submissions are deemed unsuitable.

Key elements for the commission

- The headpiece design must be original new work.
- The headpiece design must address one of the five themes.
- The headpiece design must appeal to and be suitable all ages.
- The headpiece will be worn by Leeds residents to create a series of static photographic images. The design and construction needs to work within tight dimensional parameters and will therefore need to capture the essence of Carnival while being compact in scale.
- The headpiece construction needs to be adaptable to different headsizes and be robust enough to withstand repeated transportation around the city and stand up to being worn by potentially hundreds of different participants.
- The commissioned artists are responsible for both the design and construction of the headpieces. Once completed and delivered, minor maintenance (if needed) will fall under the remit of Leeds Inspired.
- The final headpiece design will need to be signed off by Leeds Inspired (Leeds City Council) and Leeds Carnival before production/installation begins.
- The commissioned headpieces must be completed and delivered by 20 January 2017.
- The fee for each commissioned artist is £1000 including all materials and will be paid in instalments on receipt of invoices as requested by Leeds Inspired.
- On completion of the project in August 2017 the headpieces will remain the property of Leeds West Indian Carnival.



About Leeds Inspired

Leeds Inspired works with communities, arts organisations and artists to create, enjoy and share culture in Leeds. We support culture in the city through our grants schemes, commissions and the Leeds Inspired What's On events website.

Through our annual grants schemes and commissions we fund cultural projects that create quality, accessible cultural experiences for Leeds' residents and visitors alike. We have funded over 300 projects and events that have transformed spaces, told stories and inspired new pieces of work to happen. Our recent commissions include a huge light projection and sound work (Theatre of Illumination by Omni Pictures) for the city's Light Night and a series of illustrator commissions (Leeds Inspired illustrators).

The Leeds Inspired What's On website works with event organisers across the city, bringing together the city's annual highlights alongside independent events and fleet of foot DIY pop-ups. Leeds Inspired is part of Leeds City Council.

www.leedsinspired.co.uk

About Leeds West Indian Carnival (LWIC)

One of the North's biggest events and held annually on August Bank Holiday Monday, Leeds West Indian Carnival was founded in 1967 by Arthur France and Caribbean students as a remedy for homesickness. The first Carnival in the UK to incorporate all three essential elements of authentic Caribbean carnival – costumes, music and a masquerade procession - it is Europe's longest running Caribbean carnival parade and the biggest outside London. Featuring warm up events including the UK's biggest Carnival King & Queen Costume show, LWIC brings phenomenal costumes, rhythmic steel pan and soca music together with the arts, crafts and cuisine of the Caribbean. Anticipation for the jaw dropping display of colour and sheer joy that winds its way through the streets of Leeds, builds with events that present the best of carnival culture. Plans are underway for citywide celebrations to mark the Carnival's landmark 50th anniversary celebrations in 2017.

www.leedscarnival.co.uk

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