

# Leeds Inspired Commmission 2013



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Commission Brief

Leeds Inspired is commissioning a major new artistic project.

We are looking for an ambitious site-specific project to surprise and delight audiences in Leeds. This commission will produce a new piece of work that will culminate in a performance, spectacle or installation with cross generational appeal. The project must be easily found by audiences and capable of bringing together a large number of people in a high quality shared experience that is free or low cost to attend. It should resonate with the city's residents but also have regional and national appeal. We are particularly interested in proposals that have thought about ways in which audiences are able to engage with the event to create a memorable cultural experience.

The work should take place in the autumn/winter of 2013, a time of year when Leeds comes alive with a cultural programme that includes Light Night, Love Arts Festival, Black History Month, Morley Literature Festival, Leeds Film Festival, Thought Bubble and Leeds Digital Festival. In November 2013 these annual events are joined by the Rugby League World Cup which is holding two matches in the city. The last quarter of the year is also significant for everyone celebrating Eid, Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, Durga Pooja and other cultural festivals.

This commission will produce a public facing event that complements and strengthens the city's cultural programme during this time of year. Culture plays a hugely important role in the economic and social life of the city and the successful project will help to raise the profile of the city with both residents and visitors, and reaffirm Leeds as a great place to live, work and play.

Expressions of interest are invited from experienced professional artists, practitioners and organisations of any discipline for a performance, spectacle or installation that is inspired by and inspires the city.

# Practical requirements

- ▶ The commission must be for original work, this might be a brand new piece or a significant development from an earlier piece of work.
- ▶ Project delivery to take place in autumn/winter 2013.
- ▶ Projects must be deliverable within budget and to agreed timescales.
- ▶ Projects must not rely on a major commitment of staff resources from Leeds City Council.
- ▶ Projects must proactively work with Leeds Inspired to create a buzz about the commission in and about the city and to capture the imaginations of Leeds' residents.

## Eligibility

- ▶ Applications are open to established artists, producers, groups or organisations who can clearly demonstrate experience of leading on successful large artistic projects.\*

*\*by large artistic projects we mean single events with budgets in excess of 40k and that have received significant regional or national recognition.*

## Schedule

- ▶ Deadline for submissions – Friday 11 Jan 2013
- ▶ Interviews – Thursday 31 Jan 2013 (to be confirmed)
- ▶ Project development – February onwards
- ▶ Project delivery window – October to December 2013
- ▶ Evaluation complete – February 2014

## Budget

- ▶ The budget is £40,000 to include all development and production.
- ▶ The applicant and Leeds Inspired may work together to secure external match funding, if required. Any additional fundraising carried out by the applicant for the project must be for additionality or new strands to the project. The core project must be deliverable within the original commission fee.
- ▶ Budgets must include all production, infrastructure and artist costs.

# How To Apply

Please submit the following by electronic or hard copy

- ▶ A completed applicant information sheet.
- ▶ A written outline proposal (no more than 4 sides of A4) **and/or** a video pitch (of around 5 mins in length). Projects do not need to be fully formed at the proposal stage but should demonstrate clear viability.
- ▶ Please let us know where your video is hosted (eg Vimeo or Youtube) along with any password required to view the content if it is not publicly accessible. Alternatively you can supply in DVD format.
- ▶ Project budget (supplied in Word, Excel or PDF format).
- ▶ Artists or organisations background information and supporting evidence. This must demonstrate experience of delivering large, high profile projects, including budget information on those projects.
- ▶ Applications from organisations/producers should include confirmed details of the Lead Artists involved.

## Our Process

- ▶ Applications will be assessed by Leeds Inspired in consultation with the Chief Officer for Libraries, Arts & Heritage and the Executive Member for Culture.
- ▶ Short-listed applicants will be invited to interview.
- ▶ The selected applicant will work on the development of the full project plan and evaluation framework in consultation with the Leeds Inspired Co-ordinator.
- ▶ Leeds Inspired reserves the right to re-open the call or not to make an award if applications are deemed unsuitable.

# Further information

Please send all applications to:

**[Jane@leedsinspired.co.uk](mailto:Jane@leedsinspired.co.uk)**

If you have any questions about the commission please contact:

**Jane Earnshaw  
Leeds Inspired  
Leeds City Council  
Town Hall  
The Headrow  
Leeds  
LS1 3AD**

**[www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk)**

# About Leeds Inspired

Leeds Inspired is part of the city's cultural programme that celebrates arts, sport and heritage events throughout the year. We support culture in the city through our grants schemes, commissions and the Leeds Inspired What's On website.

Through our annual grants schemes and commissions we fund cultural projects that create high quality, accessible cultural experiences for Leeds' residents and visitors alike. In the past year we have funded over fifty projects and events including art on canal boats, a childrens ballet, an up-cycled fashion show and a human cuckoo clock.

The Leeds Inspired what's on website brings together the city's annual highlights alongside independent events and fleet-of-foot DIY happenings to create an ever changing inspirational cultural calendar.

**[www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk)**

## About Leeds

Leeds is a modern and diverse city. It is the third largest and one of the fastest growing in the UK and is now home to an estimated 798,800 people. Leeds is the regional capital and the main economic driver for Yorkshire with major road, rail and air connections to neighbouring towns and cities and to national and international networks.

Its diversity can be seen in a population which is made up of residents of over 140 different ethnic groups and the fact that Leeds school children speak over 170 languages with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups representing 17.4% of the population.

A unique and distinctive place, the city has a rich industrial heritage; two-thirds of the district is green belt and it is in easy reach of two national parks.

Known as the leading financial and legal centre in the UK outside London, the city is home to some of the largest financial institutions in the country. It has a diverse economy, excellent universities and world-class culture and sport.

Culture, tourism and sport play a key role in attracting people and investment to Leeds. The growth in the number of visitors to the city has been helped by restoring and developing flagship cultural and sporting venues including Northern Ballet & Phoenix Dance Theatre, The City Museum, The Grand Theatre & Howard Assembly Rooms, The City Varieties, The John Charles Centre for Sport, Carnegie Rugby stand at Headingley Stadium. The opening of the Leeds Arena in 2013 will further add to the cultural offer. Leeds is home to Opera North, West Yorkshire Playhouse, East Street Arts, Phoenix Dance, Henry Moore Institute and a wide range of festivals. It has a vibrant independent music scene and is jam packed with DIY events.

Visit **[www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk)** to get a flavour of what's currently on in the city.

*Information taken from Vision for Leeds 2030 and the State of the City report.  
Both are available for download from <http://www.leedsinitiative.org>*

**If this form is required in large print  
please contact the Arts Officer on  
0113 247 6419**

## **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

### **1.1 Name of lead organisation/artist/producer**

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### **1.2 Contact details**

Named contact for all correspondence:

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Email address:

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Web address:

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Mobile number:

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Daytime phone number:

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Address for correspondence

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### **1.3 Partnership organisations involved (if a joint application)**

If this is a partnership application please list the key partners

A) Organisation:

Lead contact:

Contact number:

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B) Organisation:

Lead contact:

Contact number:

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**1.4 What is the title of your proposal?**

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**1.5 Summary description** (approx 100 words)

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**1.6 List of supporting materials enclosed with application:**

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**1.7 Relevant web links:**

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Signature:

Date:

**Closing Date:** Friday 11 Jan 2013

**Submission by email:** [Jane@leedsinspired.co.uk](mailto:Jane@leedsinspired.co.uk)