

The Barn Dance Effect

The Client

Arts Partnership Surrey (APS) is a strategic alliance of nine local councils and trusts working together to shape and deliver a cultural offer for Surrey. Improving the health and wellbeing of our communities is a current priority for APS.

The Programme

Arts Partnership Surrey is looking to commission a participatory live arts experience to take to new or existing community events and festivals in Surrey. Our key aims are to reach people who don't normally take part in the arts and create an interactive and informal arts based 'shared experience'. The activity/event should be open all age ranges. It's important that the community can engage as little (they may just want to watch) or as much as they want (hands on and have a go). Whatever each individual's response, they have been able to take part.

We are open to applications from artists, companies, musicians or collaborations working across any art form. The arts practitioners/ company could create a new artwork or develop an existing work with communities in Surrey. In any case, the project should be responsive to the people taking part.

The successful arts practitioners/ company will carry out research and development in eight Surrey communities from February 2019 and will also use the 'Forgotten Festivals' research document. The final piece will be taken to up to eight events or festivals in 2019.

The project should also be flexible in terms of its set up and nature as we anticipate that the festivals will be quite diverse, ranging from rural to urban, small scale to larger, indoor and outdoor.

The artist fee is for £18,000 in total. This should cover all the associated costs of development, and a tour of up to eight events in Surrey. It may also be that the successful company brings additional resources or supplements this award with additional funding.

In addition, the commissioners and partners will offer contacts, advice and, where possible, access to equipment and rehearsal/ storage/ office space. We will work with the appointed artists to create an evaluation plan that will guide the aims and outcomes of the project. We anticipate that each event or festival will provide the basic infrastructure, e.g. a marquee or village hall.

Projected timeline:

1. Expressions of interest received by Dec 10th
2. Shortlisting and 2nd stage proposals in by Jan 25th
3. Interviews week commencing tbc early Feb
4. Arts practitioners/ company appointed by early February
5. Idea to be developed from February/ March/ April 2019
6. Piece to tour from summer 2019
7. Evaluation report due by end of f/y 2019/20

Application criteria:

1. A two-page declaration of interest describing what the idea is, who it is for, who you are, why we should work with you and how your idea meets the project ambitions – essential
2. Please tell us of an arts project experience which you have devised/delivered where you have achieved positive outcomes. - essential
3. Please explain how you will reach out to our communities - essential
4. Project to be suitable for single-day touring engagements in marquees, village halls or potentially open air, so should have minimal set up and technical requirements – essential
5. Demonstrate knowledge of link between arts, health and wellbeing - desirable
6. Additional resources or match funding – desirable

Additional information:

1. The artist team may need to undertake DBS checks if working with young or vulnerable people and be expected to follow the Surrey Safeguarding policies for children and adults.
2. Arts practitioners/ company to be responsible for overall risk assessment with input from project team and will then create risk assessments for each event with individual area officers.
3. Artist team/ company to have £5 million public liability insurance.

Selection Criteria:

All applications are assessed and scored in accordance with Equal Opportunities policies. Among other things the selection panel will be looking for a sense of:

- The overall response to the concept, the key themes outlined above
- Approach to working in community settings
- Quality and depth of creative practice
- Appropriateness for the context

How to apply:

1. An open call for a **two-page** declaration of interest describing what the idea is, who it is for, who you are, why we should work with you and how your idea meets the project ambitions. **Closing date:** Monday 10th December sent by email to chantal.noble@runnymede.gov.uk
2. From these a shortlist of 3 – 6 will be asked to create a more detailed 2nd stage proposal including budget breakdown to be submitted by Jan 25th
3. Interviews to be held: Early February 2019