

National Festival of Making - Open Call for New Festival Commissions

Essential Info:

National Festival of Making releases commission opportunities for artists/makers to develop new pieces of work or projects, the outcomes of which will be shown/realised at the National Festival of Making weekend 2023.

Who is eligible to apply? All Creatives including but not limited to Artists, Makers, Collectives, Performers, Writers, STEM leaders, Facilitators

Budget: £4000, to include all project expenses and artist fees

Deadline for applications: 15th March 2023

Project realisation: 8th & 9th July - National Festival of Making weekend 2023. You must be available for both dates



Projects delivered at the National Festival of Making: Nu Jazz pop-up space; Clocking in by Ash Murphy with More Music; Collective Canal by Playground Collective co-commissioned by Super Slow Way; Performance by Ri Ri's Dance Academy. Photography by Robin Zahler and Derren Lee Poole.

About

The National Festival of Making is a unique celebration of UK making, from the kitchen table to the factory floor. Presenting a programme of work that combines Art, Manufacturing, Making and Communities, we commission international and national artists to create world class works, a year round programme and a participatory FREE FAMILY festival for all to enjoy.

The National Festival of Making weekend will return to Lancashire on the 8th & 9th of July 2023 filling the streets of Blackburn with free participatory making opportunities, workshops, performances, talks, exhibitions, markets and more.

To learn more about our work, visit www.festivalofmaking.co.uk and www.artinmanufacturing.co.uk

The Opportunity

We will commission a number of artists/makers to develop new pieces of work or projects that align with the ethos of the National Festival of Making and are interesting/engaging to our multi-generational audiences over the festival weekend.

We are very open to what the commissions may focus on, however they should connect to some of the themes and aims of the festival listed in the section below.

A commission may be awarded to a newly conceived project/piece of work or an already-existing one that you have previously delivered. This opportunity could allow the work to be further developed to specifically align with the National Festival of Making.

Depending on the type of project/piece of work, it may be created in its entirety in the lead up to the Festival with the outcome displayed for the first time during the festival weekend, or it may entail a live and participatory project/activity with audiences over the festival weekend.

We're open to all ideas, that may include:

- Visual art of any form
- Combined art of any form
- Creative concepts that demonstrate and reflect the diversity of society with an emphasis on 'making'
- Development of a festival structure / props / festival wayfinding

- Participatory festival activity
- Work that results in a festival exhibition
- Performance and music experiences
- STEAM focussed projects - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths
- Sustainability-driven projects
- Projects exploring making or manufacturing histories in a contemporary way
- Outdoor installations for children

We are open to projects that engage any aspect of our intergenerational audience and the diversity of people who engage with our programme.

We are particularly interested in outcomes aimed at:

- Early Years
- Family groups

Festival producers will work with you to develop your project in the lead up to the Festival. The commission outcome must have a presence over the festival weekend, on the 8th & 9th July 2023.



Projects delivered at the National Festival of Making: The Big Reinvention Challenge with Little Inventors; Art in Manufacturing Commission, We Can Do More by Dan Edwards; Personal Histories by Ellie Barrett, Marble Run by Twisted Space. Photography by Robin Zahler and Lee Smillie.

Festival of Making Themes:

MAKING HISTORY / MAKING DIGITAL / MAKING THINGS / MAKING PLACE / MAKING
COMMUNITY / MAKING NOISE / MAKING TASTE

We deliver on 6 strategic aims

- **Industrial Heritage, Contemporary Future** - Promote through art and public celebration, Lancashire's inventive credentials on a national scale as the home of the original industrial powerhouse
- **A Making Celebration** - Host an annual event of national significance that celebrates the joy of making in the form of a participatory, diverse, inclusive and multi-generational festival experience
- **Making Experiences** - Deliver inventive making experiences across the festival programme to inspire multi-generational audiences to become industrious future makers
- **Place-making** - Create accessible place-based experiences by activating urban environments with high quality content and wayfinding to create a vibrant public realm and strong sense of place
- **Sustainable Futures** - Establish sustainable partnerships with the UK's leading makers and manufacturers, local and regional organisations, businesses and artists to create legacy impact* and strategic development opportunities (*social, economic, environment, cultural, skills)
- **Boosting Economies** - Increase regional and national visitor numbers to Lancashire, improving perceptions and encouraging visitor spend and overall economic impact

Practical Information and Budget

The budget for the commission is **£4000**

Your budget should cover your artist fees, materials and any other associated costs. Please also give an indication of travel costs necessary to realise the commission.

Public Liability Insurance of £5m is a requirement and risk assessments should be provided where relevant.

We welcome applications from both established and emerging artists and makers and will support artists to make their exciting ideas feasible where possible.

When developing your concept please give consideration to the environmental impact the new or existing work will have.

Key Dates

Proposal Deadline: 15th March 2023

All development should take place in the lead up to the festival with the final outcome present over the National Festival of Making weekend: **8th & 9th July 2023**

Unfortunately we will not consider proposals from artists who are unavailable on these dates.

How to apply

We aim to avoid the necessity for artists and makers to provide extensive information. As part of the open call we request a 500 word expression of interest with reference to:

- an outline of the idea you're proposing - this does not have to be a fully formed idea at this stage
- your interest in working with the National Festival of Making and our audiences
- experience or interest in presenting artwork within the public realm
- any relevant links to your work online i.e. website, articles, Instagram

If you would prefer not to share online links please send a PDF document with visual examples of your work - PDF no more than 10mb.

Send Expressions of Interest to daisy@decopublique.co.uk with Festival Commission Application as the subject title.

We will be in touch regarding your application no later than 3 weeks after the deadline.

Get in touch with us if you have any questions regarding this opportunity. If you would like the application information in a different format, or to discuss alternative ways to submit an

application, please email daisy@decopublique.co.uk. We are open to many alternative ways to submit including video/audio recordings of commission proposals.

Festival of Making CIC's aim is that our workforce, contributors and partners are representative of the diverse society we live in and that each individual feels respected, supported and able to give their best. We encourage applications from all backgrounds and communities and welcome discussions about specific individual requirements. Please contact us by emailing Daisy on the details above, or email info@festivalofmaking.co.uk

Find out more about the National Festival of Making:

Festivalofmaking.co.uk [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**