



## 2019 digital commission - brief and call out

### Context

Spot On Lancashire is part of the Arts Council's national portfolio and presents professional performing arts to audiences who would otherwise not be in a position to access them in libraries and rural settings across Lancashire. We do this without compromise, bringing the best artists and companies that are able to tour small scale to the county. We work closely with volunteers and librarians to select, host and promote the work. Spot On Lancashire is a service delivered by Blackburn based Arts Project Management company, Culturapedia. [www.spotonlancashire.co.uk](http://www.spotonlancashire.co.uk)

Not content with live performing arts we have funding from Arts Council England to develop a new digital arts strand. This will be the first commission in what we hope will be a long series of commissions over the next few years.

The plan is for the finished piece to 'tour' to libraries and village halls across Lancashire in October/November 2019 with a possible launch during National Libraries Week in 7-12 October 2019. At the beginning of December, the work will be shared nationally as part of our new digital gallery on the Spot On Website. It is important to note these opportunities and their possible limitations. All content must be suitable to be shown in public spaces.

### Theme

## Lancashire

Lancashire, in England's North West, is a county with a history that includes, invasion, war, ships, factories, textiles and precision engineering. Its landscape includes the coast and the Pennines, it hosts vast market gardens and hardy hill sheep. Its population is culturally, economically, aspirationally and demographically diverse. It is an interesting place. We are

seeking something that records, reflects or challenges all or a tiny element of Lancashire and resonates with audiences across the county and beyond.

## What do we mean by digital arts?

Including but not limited to: New film, archive footage, light design, audio, new digital technologies, 3D printing, animation, multimedia, social media. We are really open to artists suggestions given the clear limitations (budget, showcasing requirements, libraries, village halls and online).

## Who are we encouraging to apply?

Individual artists, companies, collectives and collaborators with something interesting to say or share digitally.

## Who are the panel?

We have collected a crack team of young, digital native, librarians from across the county to help commission this new piece of digital art. The commissioning panel will be responsible for selecting the artist. Arts project management company, Culturapedia, who deliver Spot On, will manage the process and contract the successful candidate/s.

## Budget

There is a budget of £4500 (plus VAT if necessary). This is to include

- All artists time/travel
- Any materials/equipment used in creating the work
- Delivery of the finished piece

We can provide

- A maximum contribution of £50 towards travel costs for each artist/company/ collaborator invited to presentation/selection day.
- Advice and support
- Access to some of our spaces (libraries and village halls) for visits, to run sessions or do some work.
- Introductions to the people and places of Lancashire

There will be a programme of stage payments available for appointed artist/company/ collaboration.

- £1500 on appointment
- £1500 following the mid-point sharing event with the digital commissioning panel
- £1500 on completion of the commission

## How to apply

Please send your whole submission as a single PDF. This must include:

- Your full contact details
- Artists/company/collective CV or details of background and relevant previous work/projects
- Links to examples of your work online, (we recognise that you may want to show us work that is not freely available online. We confirm that any such examples/closed links will not be shared beyond Culturapedia and the commissioning panel)
- Confirmation that you can conform to the timetable described below
- A brief description of how you would approach this brief (no more than two sides of A4) gives us a clear idea of the digital medium/s that you would plan to use, how do you think your idea links to the theme and what stages/processes you think would be necessary to complete the commission
- Confirmation that you understand what the budget is and what it covers

Submissions to be sent to Robert Howell, [robert@culturapedia.co](mailto:robert@culturapedia.co), by noon on 1 July

## Selection criteria

Our panel will assess and score all applications based on:

- A well conceived proposal which links with the theme of Lancashire
- Feasibility of the proposal related to budget, time and how, where, and when it is to be presented.
- The proposal has followed our guidelines and all requested elements are present
- As part of our commitment to the Creative Case for Diversity, the selection panel encourages applications from artists and companies with protected characteristics including artists of colour and/or who identify as LGBTQ and/or disabled that are currently under-represented in Lancashire.

## Timetable

Date	Activity	Who
28 May 2019	Call out and publication of brief	Culturapedia
Noon, Monday 1 July 2019	Closing date for submissions	Digital artists/companies/ collaborators
2-9 July 2019	Shortlisting and scoring by group members leading to a shortlist of 4 to 5 Digital artists/companies/collaborators	Digital Commissioning Group
10 July 2019	Invitation to artists' presentation event to shortlisted digital artists/companies/ Collaborators.	Culturapedia
Thursday 17	Artist presentations to commissioning	Digital artists/companies/

July 2019 10:00-16:00	group followed by a decision as to who to appoint	Collaborators & Digital Commissioning Group
Friday 18 July 2019	Appointment of chosen digital artist/companies/collaboration and contracting process	Culturapedia
Late August	Halfway progress sharing by digital artist/companies/collaboration to commissioning group. (probably a half day)	Digital artists/companies/ Collaborators & Digital Commissioning Group
Late September	Completion of/hand over or finished artwork	Digital artist/companies/ collaboration
October/ November	Tour round Spot On library and rural venues with promotional support from digital commissioning group	Culturapedia & Digital Commissioning Group
Early December	Publication on Spot On website	Culturapedia

## Copyright

Artists will retain copyright of all work that is produced. This commission requires that it be shown in multiple venues across Lancashire in Autumn 2019, to be determined by Culturapedia. It also requires that the finished piece or a representation of the finished piece is made freely and permanently available via the Spot On website.

If you have any questions arising from this brief, please contact Robert Howell, Director, Culturapedia, 01254 674777 / [robert@culturapedia.co](mailto:robert@culturapedia.co)



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