

A call for proposals for Creative Commissions in Calderdale

Background

Landlines and Watermarks is an ambitious new arts programme for Calderdale that tells the story of a place and a people shaped by water. Produced by [509Arts](#) in partnership with people, communities and organisations across the valley it will use local testimony to present tales of change that embrace the epic, the intimate, the spectacular and the human. A turning point for our storytelling will be the floods that swept through the valley at the very end of 2015.

Landlines & Watermarks is funded and supported by Calderdale Council and the Community Foundation for Calderdale and is a partnership project – our partners are Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band, Calderdale College, Freedom Studios, Handmade Parade, Hebden Bridge Arts Festival, Music & The Deaf, Mytholmroyd Festival, St Augustines, Square Chapel Arts Centre, The Piece Hall Trust and Winterlight.

There are three main strands to the project - a community folk opera, a series of six Creative Commissions and the Calderdale People's Fair – a creative and community celebration. 509 Arts will develop these throughout 2017 with local cultural partners and the Calder Valley's many communities and artists.

Creative Commissions

The Creative Commissions will form a series of summer events throughout the Calder Valley and culminate in a large-scale celebration – the community folk opera and the People's Fair - at the end of September 2017 in The Piece Hall, Halifax.

The Creative Commissions are a key element of the project and will be developed with artists and arts organisations of Calderdale.

We are looking for six projects – one for each of the towns and villages most affected by the floods: Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Sowerby Bridge, Brighouse and Elland. Six commissions of up to £10,000 will be awarded, one for each of the identified towns (pending a funding decision at the end of March).

The projects should have a strong element of community participation and engage directly with local people to draw upon the specific identity of each town or village. They can use any art form – theatre, dance, music, spoken word, visual arts, circus, outdoor, interdisciplinary or multimedia.

Each project will be presented in the town that it is made and subsequently taken to at Piece Hall as part of the People’s Fair at the end of September 2017. We are looking for projects that are site-responsive and location specific, that can re-locate to The Piece Hall, and which respond to local character(s), identity, history and/or geography.

Projects can take place throughout the summer or shortly after the end of the Piece Hall event in September, depending on the context and partners involved. They can involve collaborations between a number of organisations/artists, and may be linked to an existing event or activity. At least one key partner or artist must be based in Calderdale.

We have been awarded funding by Calderdale Council and the Community Foundation for Calderdale for Landlines and Watermarks and have made a further application to Arts Council England to realise the most ambitious and engaging project possible. We won’t start work on this project until we know the result of our application at the end of March, but would like to receive proposals before that time.

The Creative Commissions are partnership projects with 509 Arts, and are an integral part of Landlines and Watermarks. They should respond to the theme of ‘a landscape and a people shaped by water’. We do not necessarily expect the projects to be flood-related.

If you have a proposal for a creative commission for one of the six towns, please submit a proposal of no more than two pages of A4 that provides:

1. A description of your idea and the town where it will take place
2. The communities involved and how they will be recruited
3. The artists or arts organisations involved, their skills and experience
4. The budget for the project, including any additional funding you can provide
5. Confirmation of your experience and capacity to manage such a project
6. When it will happen and how you plan to ensure that it has a local audience

Please submit your Creative Commission proposal to jenny.harris@509arts.co.uk by 5pm on 30th March 2017. If you wish to discuss your project informally beforehand, contact Jenny and a team member will get back to you.

We look forward to receiving your proposals.

Alan Dix, Jenny Harris, Matt Burman

509 Arts

<http://www.509arts.co.uk>