

Bubble Up Creative Commissions

Guidance for Applicants – Spring 2022

Bubble Up Creative Commissions has been created to address the lack of diversity within the cultural education workforce in the North West.

It is a new programme, specifically aimed at those who have been excluded from developing their career as facilitators of arts activities with young people. In particular, we want to hear from Black, Asian, Ethnically Diverse and Disabled practitioners and organisations.

The commissions are for North West based freelancers and organisations, working across any artform (including, but not limited to, visual arts, theatre, dance, circus, music, literature and film).

We want you to work with children and young people in your neighbourhood who are often excluded from the mainstream, and to inspire and empower them through the arts.

Successful applicants will also have access to a specially designed professional development training and support programme, which will run alongside their commission.

Who can apply?

- Freelance practitioners and artists
- Arts and culture organisations (please do not apply if you are a National Portfolio Organisation) *
- Grassroots organisations

You may not have lots of experience but have a brilliant idea of how to work with people in your local area that you could co-create with another artist and organisation.

You might have lots of experience and want to create something that challenges and develops your practice alongside an arts organisation.

* If you are a large, established organisation and are interested in mentoring and supporting one of the projects or applicants, please contact saphena.aziz@curiousminds.org.uk.

Eligibility and basic information

- The activity, the applicant and their partner organisation **must be** based in the North West of England, preferably your local area.
 - Projects can work across any artform (including, but not limited to, visual arts, theatre, dance, circus, music, heritage, literature and film).
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- The majority of participants must be children and young people aged 11 to 16yrs old. If the participants have special educational needs or disabilities, the age range can be widened, please explain in your application.
- The activity must be free to the participants.
- Participants can be an existing group, but they must be doing significantly new activity.
- The sessions must happen outside of regular school time. It can be linked to an existing group, school, or a youth organisation, but does not have to be.
- The work must develop the professional and/or creative practice of the person delivering it.
- If you have previously delivered Bubble Up activity, you can still apply for this.
- You can apply for either a £3000 or £8000 commission, you cannot apply for both.
- Only one application can be submitted for a single project.
- Activity must take place before the end of October 2022.

Budget available

We are not asking you for a budget breakdown at this stage, but please make sure you are confident you can deliver the activity you describe for the amount you are applying for. We will ask you for a detailed budget if you are successful.

For £3000 we would expect a minimum of 12 hours, for £8000 we would expect 30 hours of activity to be delivered.

As a rough guide, we expect your budget to be used for:

- Your own time for delivering the activity (approx. £50 per hour)
- Marketing and Comms
- Venue Hire
- Equipment and materials
- Professional development
- A fee to your partner organisation for mentoring (if necessary)
- Anything else necessary for the project to take place

Partnerships

Bubble Up is about creating partnerships between organisations and practitioners.

If you are an individual applying, this is an opportunity to work with an organisation you can learn from, and which can help your career and practice to develop.

If you can secure a partner yourself, please go ahead and discuss this opportunity with them. If you need support to find a suitable partner, Curious Minds can help and you can contact us at any point to ask for support. It is not essential for you to have a partner in place to complete this application.

If you are an organisation applying, we would want the work to enhance your inclusive practice alongside developing the person or team delivering the work.

Application Process

You must submit your form by midnight on Sunday 10th April. [Application is via an online form here.](#)

Please note, you will not be able to save and return to your online form. We suggest you draft your responses on a word document before you start and then transfer them into the form when you're ready to submit. You can [download a list of the questions and the word counts here.](#)

If you need support to complete the form, please email saphena.aziz@curiousminds.org.uk and we will be happy to assist.

Emailed confirmation of online form submission is not issued automatically. However, you will be offered opportunity to print a copy of your submission for your records. If you have any queries about your application, please contact saphena.aziz@curiousminds.org.uk.

We aim to acknowledge and respond to all applications within 10 days of the deadline passing.

Next Steps

If we need clarification on anything you have written in your form, we may contact you.

If successful, you will be asked to:

- Attend an induction session
 - Submit a more detail project plan in due course
 - Submit a budget using a template provided
 - Provide evidence of necessary insurance and DBS checks
 - Plan what additional support you will need (individual mentoring from an organisation you wish to learn from, access to a bespoke CPD programme tailored to the needs of the successful applicants, support from Curious Minds staff)
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