



Lewisham



Commissioning Framework Lewisham Borough Of Culture 2022



Introduction

The programme for Lewisham's Borough of Culture year emerged from an intensive period of stakeholder engagement, as well as some focused work with a small group of experienced curators and programmers from Lewisham organisations. This led to an outline programme that formed the basis of our successful Bid to become Borough of Culture. You can read a summary of this [here](#).

There continues to be high levels of interest in the programme and we are committed to being open and transparent about how we allocate funds and commission organisations and artists. We also intend to adopt the principles of Cultural Democracy wherever possible and involve communities directly as projects develop. Set out below is a framework for our commissioning with different approaches proposed for different aspects of the programme. Please note that the titles of the projects and strands may evolve as they develop.

1) Open Calls

Artists and organisations will be invited to respond to a published brief, widely publicised as an open call. Successful applicants will be chosen via a shortlisting and interview process conducted by a panel of experts and key stakeholders. Projects that will be commissioned in this way include:

In Living Memory

Our diverse communities will narrate the untold history of post-war Lewisham, a striking new story of Lewisham's past.

A call for project proposals aimed at residents and community groups is now open, with up to £7,500 funding available for each project. Successful expressions of interest will be developed in more detail through a series of workshops, where they will be paired with Goldsmiths researchers and creative practitioners.

Now Open >> (until 31 May)

Liberty Festival

Liberty is the Mayor of London's flagship programme celebrating D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists. Since 2019, it has developed into a touring festival and, as part of the Borough of Culture programme, Lewisham will be hosting Liberty Festival 2022.

The Mayor of London is offering new funding for Research & Development projects. Successful applicants will be invited to share their project's work-in-progress as part of Lewisham's Borough of Culture Opening event in January 2022.

Now Open >> (until 30 June)

Climate Carnival

Lewisham's first low carbon carnival, showcasing the power of culture to highlight issues, increase understanding, promote debate and stimulate action within our communities.

A production team, including an artistic director will support the creation of several carnival hubs across the borough. These will be led by partners such as voluntary organisations, housing associations, creatives, academic institutions, community and carnival groups. Each hub will create content for their carnival group through a process, which could include workshops, co-creation or open calls. Technical advice on the Climate Emergency and production support will be available.

Open Call for hub partners: August 2021

Open Call for artists and creative content: September 2021 onwards

With One Voice

Drawing on the power of art and culture to reflect on and transform lives, this programme strand will bring together artists with communities whose voices are less heard. It will amplify different perspectives and shine a light on the needs and aspirations of Lewisham.

Open Calls: June/July and September/October 2021

Revolution Through Music

Celebrating Lewisham's musical and activist heritage with events across the borough that use music to raise issues, bring people together and inspire change. As well as open calls, there will be direct approaches made to high profile artists and partnership arrangements.

Open Call: September/October 2021

Climate Commissions

Large scale artist commissions, community commissions and a year-long conversation will inspire and shock us into action on the climate emergency. As well as open calls, there will be direct approaches made to high profile artists and partnership arrangements.

Open Calls: June/July and September/October 2021

Artists of Change

Artists will take up residence in Lewisham Council teams to facilitate dialogue with communities and explore creative solutions. Commissioning will reach out to lead artists and/or artist collectives through both direct approaches and open calls.

Open Call: September 2021

Creative Futures

A programme to showcase inclusive careers in the creative industries. It will address the underrepresentation of Lewisham's diverse communities in the creative and cultural workforce, with a range of opportunities 16-24 year olds.

Open Call for organisations: October 2021

2) Micro-commissions

Small grants will be made available to community organisations, schools and individual artists. We will publish criteria for funding and successful applications will be identified by a panel of experts and key stakeholders.

Applicants will need to show how they are connected to the community they will work with and how this is directly shaping the project. We are keen to see collaborations between community groups and artists; we can help create matches where this support is needed.

Open Calls: May 2021 and January 2022

3) Direct approaches to high profile artists

Where national and international artists can make a significant contribution to our Borough of Culture themes, raise the profile of the programme, open it up to new audiences or bring opportunities for learning, a direct approach may be made and involve a paid commission. We may approach a shortlist of artists or one specific individual. Projects that will use this method include:

- Climate Commissions
- Aspects of Revolution Through Music
- Aspects of Mass Dance
- Aspects of Creative Challenges

4) Partnership Arrangements

During the Borough of Culture engagement process, there were some organisations that submitted ideas to us that then became part of the successful Bid. In some instances, these were distinct and discreet ideas and the organisation is taking a lead role in developing the projects with us. In other instances, the initial idea was a seed that helped shape an aspect of the programme and we are working collaboratively with organisations and partners to develop and realise the projects. Projects being developed with partners include:

Climate Home

Climate Home blends culture, climate justice and community asset building in a programme of work led by Sounds Like Chaos, a company of teenagers who specialise in making new, devised theatre and creative, community focused projects. This project will see young people co-design, build and perform in a low carbon temporary cultural space. We anticipate that some of the community commissions will be linked to Climate Home.

Mass Dance

A large scale public performance and dance party exploring the impact of migration and diversity on South East London's dance scene. The project will bring together participants from schools, communities and professional dancers to create together – following a participation programme across the borough. The project is being developed with IRIE! Dance Theatre who are based at the Moonshot Centre in New Cross where they deliver the UKs only BA Honour Degree in Diverse Dance Styles.

With One Voice

The With One Voice project was partly inspired by a proposal from Spare Tyre Theatre Company. Their proposal called 'We Will Be Happy Here' also inspired us to create our manifesto. We will be working with Spare Tyre Theatre Company on one aspect of the With One Voice project.

Creative Challenges

Much of this strand will be delivered in partnership with local and national organisations and initiatives to maximise the impact of the work. Some of these partnerships will also provide opportunities for local freelancers and we will announce these throughout the year.

5) Projects that fall outside of the Core Programme

We have had many approaches from individuals and organisations with ideas and seeking funding. In some instances, it is possible to align these to one of the core projects with an invitation to respond to an open call. Others may be suitable for micro-commissions. However, in many instances we will not be in a position to directly fund projects that fall outside the scope of the core programme but we may be able to assist in other ways:

- linking projects to potential venues
- providing endorsement for funding bids
- including in the Borough of Culture marketing and publicity

Bid Budget

We are committed to delivering our ambitious Borough of Culture programme, however the budget is tight, with significant fundraising and earned income targets. These targets will be reviewed as the programme develops; they are a shared responsibility between Lewisham Council and our lead delivery partner, the Albany.

Income

Greater London Authority (GLA)	£1,300,000
Lewisham Council	£865,000
Fundraising / ticket sales	£1,000,000
Total	£3,165,000



Expenditure

Programme	£2,000,000
Project Management /Staff Costs	£665,000
PR/Marketing	£400,000
Evaluation	£100,000
Overheads (absorbed by Lewisham Council)	£0
Total	£3,165,000

