**Mill Race Cultural Programme: Selection Criteria and Application Process**

The Mill Race Cultural Consortium are excited to welcome proposals for arts and heritage projects for the Cultural Programme. This is open to anyone who lives or works in the Lancaster District, from age 18 and up. If you work in the arts or heritage sectors and/or you have a lived experience of, or fascination with Lancaster’s history or heritage, contact us with your proposal.

**The deadline for proposals is midnight on Sunday 15th October 2023.**

There is an overall budget of £12,000 for this set of commissions. This may mean:

* 2 commissions of £6000, or
* 4 commissions of £3000 or
* Several mini commissions of a smaller budget, that engage with specific groups within Lancaster (e.g. student residents in the Mill Race area or particular cultural groups).

**Criteria for all projects:**

NB Projects can be digital or live or both.

* To encourage curiosity and create exciting reasons to visit and engage with the Mill Race area.
* To take place within the Mill Race area or be about the Mill Race area
* To take into consideration multiple perspectives, such as socio-economic disparities, colonial history or others
* To ensure your proposal is not just facing the past but taking into account the present and future
* To link with heritage and the arts. If you’re an artist, please join with a heritage partner. If a heritage partner, please find an arts partner. See \* below.
* To invite public participation within your creative process through workshops or other
* To engage with one or more specific local groups or organisations
* To articulate an outcome and legacy from this project

We will be looking for proposals from those with a strong track record but also invite those working as project leaders in this way for the first time, as we will offer support. We will be seeking a balance of ideas and experience across all commissions.

Please visit the [Mill Race Website](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/99472716985e4b1787220f1665c0be05) and visit the [Information for Artists and Collaborators](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f81935e8d6bd4a81be33fa4eb8cd0b22) to see the thematic strands and overall criteria.

**Application process**

We welcome proposals from individuals or community groups, arts organisations or museums and professional heritage groups and individuals \*

Please answer the following questions in a separate word document

*Please ensure each answer is no more than 250 words maximum*

1. **Please describe your project idea and why you want to do it.**

1. **Please identify all the partners in the project and their backgrounds in doing projects like this.**

1. **How does your proposal respond to the Mill Race area and its various histories?**

1. **How will your project engage with people?**

1. **What do you hope your project will achieve in the short term (right away) and in the medium term (6 months after)?**

1. **How will you know if it has done this? How will you evaluate your project? How do you plan to document activity?**

**The cultural programme will fund the following:**

* Access needs for public engagement (your project will need to take this into account for your partners)
* Photography, filming of project (after agreement on appropriate timing)

**Evaluation**

A small group of consortium members (no more than 3) will be attached to each project to offer support and check delivery is on track.

Each project will be expected to measure their own work against your hoped-for outcomes.

The Cultural Programme has an independent evaluator who will meet with each project at the beginning and end of their projects**.**

**Selection process**

 Applicants will be **notified by 20th October** and interviews for shortlisted applicants will take place over Zoom **interview on** **Monday 23rd October**.

Each application will be measured against the criteria above. In addition, decision making will be influenced by balancing the proposals to take account of diversity of approach, age, gender, ethnicity, and confidence in the ability to deliver as described.

Should any consortium member be connected to any proposal, this will be considered a conflict of interest and they will not be part of that decision making.

We are excited to hear your ideas! Please get in touch with us with any questions and send your completed application and budget to millrace@lancasterarts.org

