

# **Wakefield Council – Light Up Art Trail**

## **November - December 2020**

### **Welcome to the Light Up Art Trail commissions**

As we enter autumn Wakefield Council is working with partners on a district wide programme to celebrate our heritage and community as we continue to feel the profound impact of Coronavirus restrictions on our lives.

We are planning to deliver an exciting, safe and inspiring programme taking place in November and December which will include a large scale outdoor light installation and high quality speciality markets.

The Light Up Art Trail is a new Creative Challenge designed for Wakefield district artists and makers to create work to be at the heart of this programme. It will provide opportunities to showcase creativity, connect with district wide cultural life and support artist's professional practise.

The Creative Challenge programme is to support artists and creatives to secure work during the impact of coronavirus restrictions, whilst also making a big difference to the lives of residents and wider business. Already this year we have supported 34 new projects and the Light Up Art Trail will continue to provide direct support and investment to Wakefield's creative sector through a series of micro-grants.

We are keen to support Wakefield creatives with grants of between £500 and £1,000 to create new work, or to present existing, high quality visual and digital artworks that can be safely presented in a range of indoor empty retail spaces, including indoor market units, and other appropriate exterior spaces in Wakefield city centre, Pontefract, Castleford, South Elmsall and Ossett. The Light Up Art Trail will take place from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

These pieces will be viewed by shoppers and others visiting our city and town centres as they visit during the festive season. We are looking to work with a diverse and broad range of artists and will particularly welcome applications from creatives for whom this would form their first professional commission.

### **What we are looking for**

The Light Up Art Trail is part of a wider cultural and festive programme to help welcome back and encourage shoppers and visitors to feel safe whilst maintaining social distancing across our city and town centres.

We are looking for the Light Up Art Trail to provide playful, inspiring and memorable artworks for shoppers and visitors to enjoy and experience, and to encourage them to explore the trail (and the markets, shops and hospitality venues along the way). Creativity has a vital role to play in helping to sustain our mental and physical wellbeing and we are passionate about celebrating and showcasing local artists' works to a larger and wider audience.

## **What do we want to achieve?**

Through offering at least 10 micro-commissioning grants we want to try and achieve the following:

- Provide an enhanced and cultural experience for visitors and residents to our city and town centres and encourage footfall.
- Ensure continued investment in Wakefield's creative sector and professional development opportunities, particularly supporting early career and developing artists.
- Artworks will explore and reflect the theme of 'Colour and Light', maximising on visual and emotional impact for audiences as we enter the winter months. Light focused and digital artworks are particularly encouraged.
- Continue to develop Wakefield district's approach of arts and culture forming a key part of our communities and place identity.

## **What do we require you to do?**

- Each micro-commission will form one part of the Light Up Art Trail.
- Artworks must reference the theme of 'Colour and Light'.
- Pieces will be in situ for at least 3 weeks and maybe longer and must remain at a high quality standard throughout the installation.
- Location of pieces will be determined by the commissioning panel, but artists are encouraged to give several preferred options from the spaces available.
- Works intended for interior display should be free standing, or must be presented on a plinth, easel or similar to ensure they are visible through a window.
- Works intended for outdoor display must be weather proof and durable and simple to secure. Temporary or collaborative murals will be considered for this section of the brief.
- Works should be visually focused. This could be any form of painting, photography or sculpture. Due to the nature of the display areas artworks cannot include sound.
- Digital or light artworks including silent films will also be considered.
- Lighting will be sourced and provided by us, and requirements will be determined in consultation with successful artists.
- Existing artworks which are relevant, or could be adapted to be so, can be proposed.
- Artists will be responsible to the install and de-install of their artwork, with support from Council colleagues onsite.
- Risk Assessment information for both the piece during display, and the installation process must be supplied by the artist.
- Creatives must have adequate insurance to cover both the install and de-install, as well as to cover their artwork throughout the installation.

## **Proposed locations of the work**

Please find attached various city and town centre maps with locations and supporting information.

## **Grant information**

- There will be at least ten micro-grants available.
- Grants will range from £500 - £1,000.
- Grant amount will include all artist fees, time, materials and costs associated with install and de-install.

- One grant will be available per artist.

## **Timeline**

- 14<sup>th</sup> September – Commission Open
- 1<sup>st</sup> October, 12midday – Commission Deadline
- 7<sup>th</sup> October – Artists appointed
- 9<sup>th</sup> October onwards – Onsite visits to allocated locations
- w/c 9<sup>th</sup> November – Artworks installed
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Light Up Art Trail Launch
- w/c 7<sup>th</sup> December – Artworks expected to be de-installed

## **Application Process**

- All applicants must complete the expression of interest form, available for download [here](#).
- Applications should be emailed to [creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk) by midday on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- Images, sketches, photos or other visual aids must be included in the application form. Large scale files should be transferred by WeTransfer, with the link emailed to [creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk) by the submission deadline.
- Any questions in advance of submission should be emailed to [creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:creativewakefield@wakefield.gov.uk).