

Manchester City of Literature



Festival of Libraries 12-16th June 2024

Manchester City of Literature is seeking proposals from writers, artists and arts companies for creative work to be part of the Festival of Libraries programme in June 2024.

The Festival of Libraries is a Greater Manchester-wide celebration of public, independent, specialist and heritage libraries. It aims to reinforce the roles of libraries as community and creative hubs.

Examples of previous commissions:

- New work was commissioned from three writers working with three creative technologists in partnership with The Writing Squad
- Artist residencies were offered including writer, illustrator and songwriter residencies for 13 days in the run-up to the Festival
- Hawk Dance were commissioned to re-stage their family show Getting From A To B with two shows per day in five different libraries over five days

In 2023 the Festival of Libraries consisted of 111 events across every borough of Greater Manchester. More than 75 artists were involved. The festival had a digital reach of 4.2million.

What?

Applications are sought for work or residencies that engage local residents as co-creators, participants or audiences. Quality of engagement will be prioritised over large audience numbers for performed work. Work can be in any art-form and should address one of the following themes:

- Literacy and self-expression
- Sense of place



A UNESCO City
of Literature

Manchester City of Literature

- Everyday creativity, learning and personal development
- Community activism
- Environmental responsibility

Work should be able to tour to a minimum of three libraries during the week of the Festival or if based on one library or location, demonstrate engagement with multiple groups of residents. Three commissions are available with a fixed fee of £5K for up to five days of activity across multiple libraries or a residency. Work should be ready to be delivered in summer 2024 or in development prior to that. There is one commission which includes a sum of £2.5K for development work for new work that will need to be self-produced.

When?

The 2024 Festival will take place between Wednesday 12 and Sunday 16 June. The work should take place during this period or the outputs of a residency should be delivered in this week. By submitting an application, artist(s) are confirming their availability for this period.

Who?

In order to be selected, applicants should complete the jotform or submit a video application that includes the following information

- Description of the proposed activity (approx 250 words)
- Description of how the work or residency meets the themes of Festival of Libraries 2024 (250 words)
- Description of how the work or residency supports at least one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (250 words)
- Describe one relevant creative experience you have had, for example working with community groups, libraries or similar (250 words)
- Tell us why you're excited to create work in partnership with a library and its users (250 words)
- Answers to basic production questions such as target audience age and tech requirements etc
- A link to your website and social media and/or artist/company profile or CV

A minimum of two commissions will be awarded to artist(s) or companies who live or work in Greater Manchester.



A UNESCO City
of Literature

Manchester City of Literature

Please note: if you are submitting by video, you should also use the questions found in the jotform link, to ensure we have all the information we need.

Application Process and Dates

All applications and/or queries should be completed via jotform linked here <https://form.jotform.com/231712450386049> by the closing date of 21st July at 5pm.

A panel from Manchester City of Literature will short-list artists and then a community panel will make the final selection.

Applications Announced	30 June
Application deadline:	21 July at 5pm
Shortlisting Panel Meets	25 July
Interviews with library panels:	w/c 7 August
Selection :	w/c 14 August
Funding Confirmed:	w/c 1 Jan 2024
Festival of Libraries:	12-16 June 2024

Library partners in the Festival of Libraries include: Archives+, Central Library, Chetham's Library, John Rylands Library, Manchester Poetry Library, NHS Libraries, The Portico, Working Class Movement Library, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Greater Manchester libraries (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan)

Manchester City of Literature Vision and Values:

The selected songwriter will support the realisation of the collective vision for Manchester City of Literature, formed through conversations with stakeholders across the city, for:

An innovative, distinctive, equitable, globally connected city of reading and writing, where diverse voices are celebrated, where creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.



A UNESCO City
of Literature

Manchester City of Literature

The selected songwriter will demonstrate and promote the City of Literature's core values, which are:

Distinctive - creating distinctive cultural experiences inspired by Manchester's unique, radical character and rich cultural heritage whilst looking to the future.

Inclusive - celebrating the rich diversity of voices in the city, building on the strengths of Manchester's people and widening participation in literary activity.

Transformative - developing skills, nurturing creative talent and transforming lives.

Connected - linking and supporting literacy activity and enabling collective advocacy for Manchester's literary community and international collaborations.

World-leading - a beacon for high quality, culturally democratic, truly diverse literary activity.

www.manchestercityofliterature.com



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



A UNESCO City
of Literature