

**ARTIST COMMISSIONS**  
Hidden High Street Histories of New Briggate  
INFORMATION PACK

**Contents**

Cover letter  
Context  
Process  
Commission  
How to apply

**Cover letter**

Hello,

We are so pleased that you are interested in this post. If you don't already know us – East Street Arts is a creative social enterprise and charity. Our key focus is to support artists to develop their work and careers. Through creating space for making art, social events and learning opportunities we aim to make our neighbourhoods and cities better places to live and work.

Our work can be seen on buildings, as part of the high street and in neighbourhoods and you can find more information on our website: <https://www.eaststreetarts.org.uk/>

We are developing a programme to explore the past, present and future of an important high street in Leeds City Centre - New Briggate.

We are planning **3 artists commissions** and we will work in partnership with Leeds City Council and Historic England and leading a consortium of organisations which includes Leeds Heritage Theatres, Opera North, North Bar and Brewing, Leeds Civic Trust, Age uk and The Churches Conservation Trust - all residents of (or around) New Briggate.

These opportunities are for 3 artists to work individually and collectively as part of a 3 year cultural programme that will celebrate our high street:

- Each artist will be placed in residence across the consortium members and will work with identified neighbourhoods that hold a connection to the high street.
- Each artist will have access to archive and heritage resources through Leeds Civic Trust, The Churches Conservation Trust, West Yorkshire Archive Service as well as the City Libraries for research into the programme themes.

The themes include: **People, Permanence, Performance, Transport, Film, and Food**, these have been selected to reflect the high street.

- The artists will establish initial ideas in relation to their places of residence, and develop ideas for community engagement and cultural celebrations to deliver in years 2 and 3 of the programme. They will make contact and develop relationships with target communities so that the programme is co-created, monitored and evaluated from the outset.

Each of the residencies will be connected but unique, reaching different audiences through the wide variety of themes.

All artists will be selected by representatives from the HAZ Cultural Consortium and will have collaborating roles within the project. The artists will work with different communities of people to identify the key themes and elements of this heritage story that will influence the final cultural programme.

We encourage applications from everyone.

Self-definition is at the sole discretion of the individual.

We are happy to make reasonable adjustments to the application process, the way we work and our working environment to adapt to the needs of artists experiencing access barriers.

If you would like to have a conversation about access, just get in touch – our contact details can be found at the end of this information pack.

If you're interested, read on and apply! We can't wait to hear from you.

## **Context**

East Street Arts is leading a cultural consortium of organisations based on or near to New Briggate on the North side of the city centre of Leeds which is part of a national programme funded by Historic England called the High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ). With big capital developments happening on this street, the HSHAZ programme is all about bringing people together to explore the culture and heritage of New Briggate, so that its history is not lost, it's users can still connect with it, and people's stories are told.

## **Heritage:**

New Briggate is the gateway to the city centre of Leeds - the start of the busy and bustling commercial and cultural High Street. With the oldest Church in Leeds, Saint John's, bordering the High Street, New Briggate was a development of Briggate and became the home of Leeds Grand Theatre in 1878. Since then it has housed other world renowned cultural organisations such as Opera North and The Howard

Assembly Room, as well as a fascinating mix of shops, bars, infamous nightclubs, takeaways, cinemas, afro-hairdressers, trams and buses.

What makes this street special is the range of people who use it each day. It is home to a transient community. People using the frequent bus services, the night owls using the taxi ranks after an evening enjoying the independent bars, clubs, karaoke and take-aways, sex workers, lovers of live theatre, opera and music, and people seeking shelter in St John's Churchyard. All of this brings together a unique mix of people (often conflicting with one another) that you won't find on any other street in Leeds.

### **Key Target Audiences:**

- Local neighbourhoods
- New Briggate residents
- New Briggate visitors
- Leeds visitors
- Young People

The communities you as artists will engage with include people from Little London, Chapeltown and Sheepscar - where there is a large population of people from African-Caribbean heritage and Africa. Woodhouse - where there is a big student population and Burmantofts, Lincoln Green, Richmond Hill and Harehills which are hugely diverse areas of the city with people from all over the world. All of these neighbourhoods sit on the periphery of the city centre and some hold connections to New Briggate. It is these communities alongside the theatregoers, the shoppers, the drinkers, clubbers and the more hidden residents that we are keen to engage with.

### **The Roles**

Each artist commission will form an artist residency with the organisations across the consortium.

Each of the residencies will reach different audiences through the wide variety of themes. For example working with The Grand Theatre and Opera North you may explore the history of performance (theatre, film, music, dance and costume) on the high street and work with Leeds Grand Youth Theatre to develop ideas for a possible performance and/or short film to be performed/screened or live streamed as part of Leeds 2023 - landmark year of culture in the city.

Or focusing on the bars on New Briggate you may research the history of the nightlife on the street, collate Oral Histories by working with the transport services,

takeaways, bars and clubs, and develop material for a night-time heritage tour to feature at events such as Light Night.

There are many directions in which this could go - but the first year will be about research, consultation and development of ideas, forming a strong foundation to go into years 2 and 3. You will hold a suite of knowledge and resources to further explore and co-create with the community an innovative and accessible cultural programme for all to enjoy.

## **Process**

The project will have 3 main phases over the 3 years:

### **Year 1: July 2021 - April 2022**

#### **Research and Development**

Commissioning of artists - embedding, preparation, research and consultation

### **Year 2: May 2022 to April 2023**

#### **Co-creation and Community Engagement**

For this phase in the project the artists will work directly with the communities identified using the research and consultation from year one. Each community will take part in a series of activities where they learn about the history of New Briggate, how it connects directly to their neighbourhood and co-create/test a series of participatory events, activities and artworks celebrating the past, present and future of the high street.

### **Year 3: May 2023 - October 2023**

#### **Delivery**

The final year will include a culmination and celebration of what has taken place in the first 2 years, it will tie into city-wide events and activities already planned like Leeds 2023 that will bring national and international media attention to the HAZ programme. The stories and histories uncovered will be imprinted on New Briggate and documented for future learning, whilst new memories are created by the communities involved.

This could include events such as the reintroduction of Leeds West Indian Carnival to New Briggate. Oral History inspired 'Sound Stops' in place of the bus stops (which are to be moved as part of the physical programme). 'Take-Away Art' from the main take-aways on the street, outdoor theatre, music and film. We don't know exactly what these events will look like yet as activity will be co-created and defined by the community through the initial engagement and participatory work.

## **Commission**

**Fee:** £14, 000 per artist across the 3 years for approx 56 days @ £250 per day

A separate budget will be available for resources and activities  
A separate budget is also available for access.

**Timeframe:** July 2021– Jan 2024 (renewal of contract subject to annual review)

**Artforms:** Interdisciplinary, research, socially-engaged, public realm

The exact nature of this engagement, including time commitments, can be determined with each artist. Ideally we are looking for artists who are committed to social change, have demonstrable experience in co-design and co-creation, and an active interest in heritage and public art.

East Street Arts will offer a large volume of in-kind support spanning workspace, engagement support, producing capacity and guidance where needed.

### **How to Apply**

Please submit:

- A proposal of no more than 2 pages that outlines your approach to the 'Hidden High Street Histories of New Briggate' commission
- A breakdown of your previous experience in research and/or delivering socially-engaged or co-created art projects, no more than 2 pages
- Upto 5 images and/or video links of your previous work

If you would prefer to make an application by video or voice recording, it should be no longer than 5 minutes and be provided as a google link.

Applications are due for submission by **5pm on 19 July 2021**. Please submit your application to: [helen.moore@esamail.org.uk](mailto:helen.moore@esamail.org.uk)

We will aim to get back to you within four weeks.

Your application will be reviewed by a selection panel that will include local residents, staff from East Street Arts and representatives from the project's partners.

If selected you will be invited to an informal interview **w/c 2 August 2021** we are happy to accommodate this as a virtual or in-person meeting.

If you are interested but need more information before applying, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: Helen Moore, Engagement Lead on [helen.moore@esamail.org.uk](mailto:helen.moore@esamail.org.uk)