

stellar projects

Nightfall Light Festival 2021 - Artist Brief

Commission opportunity to create artworks/features for Children's Light Trail

Summary

Nightfall is a magical family-friendly outdoor event which will take place at Stewart Park in Middlesbrough from Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th December. It is a self-guided trail of light-based artworks complemented by music, storytelling and performance. The event will be enhanced by beautifully decorated dwell areas where visitors can participate in hands-on workshop activities, take a break and share some warming refreshments. A high quality, playful and engaging visitor experience is at the heart of what we will deliver and our aim is to create a joyful atmosphere of connection, of families sharing an experience together.

Nightfall is produced by Stellar Projects. It is funded by Middlesbrough Council, Arts Council England and Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The commission opportunity

We are looking an artist or creative company/collective to create a series of artworks/features aimed at children. The features will be developed in response to the Nightfall theme, *A Stellar Rainbow* and will create simple ways that children can engage with the theme as they make their way around the Nightfall light trail, providing moments of joy, colour and playfulness for our younger visitors and their families.

The successful artist/company will be required to create:

- Six individual artworks/features which will be positioned at different locations throughout the Nightfall light trail
- Features that will help children engage with the theme, adding moments of magic and excitement to their Nightfall experience
- Features can be new pieces of work or adaptations of an existing idea (but must relate to the Nightfall theme)
- Artworks/features which offer short interactions for children – we are looking for work which captures the interest of our young visitors, but doesn't require lengthy engagement which may create queues or bottlenecks
- We would like the artworks to link to online activity on the Nightfall website where possible, to extend the engagement opportunities for visitors. For example, this

could include making activities, stories (additional budget is available for the development of online engagement activity).

- Work of a high artistic standard which is suitable for an outdoor event in December

We are open to ideas about what the commission may include, as long as the proposed artworks/features will work in the context of a light trail. For example, the trail may include different artforms such as light, visual arts, audio, video projection etc.

A production schedule will be agreed with the selected artist(s). The children's trail will need to be installed at Nightfall by Wednesday 1 December

Please consider Covid guidelines when thinking about ways that visitors may engage with the artworks.

Artists should consider the use of environmentally responsible materials, including LED lighting where possible.

The successful artist/company will be required to provide Health & Safety documentation for the artworks including Risk Assessments and Method Statements and evidence of £5million Public Liability Insurance.

The theme

The theme of this year's Nightfall is *A Stellar Rainbow*. Our intention is to bring a world of colour to the night skies of Stewart Park and provide an escape to the grey that we have been experiencing during a challenging year. We will celebrate the colours hidden deep within the night – inspired by colourful stars, comets, planets and nebulae, transforming the familiar park environment for visitors and highlighting the beauty of the evening time.

The children's trail should be uplifting in tone and words to inspire the features might include: entertaining, joyful, magical, enchanting, curious, playful, humorous, thought-provoking.

The Nightfall route

The route will take visitors through a section of Stewart Park, with lots of areas which provide interesting backdrops and locations for artworks including: woodland sections, ponds, a folly, grassed areas; ending in the Victorian courtyard of Askham Bryan college which is surrounded by Grade II listed buildings. Sections of the route are quite dark, so we are not short on atmosphere!

We have identified a number of locations for the children's trail, the majority of which will be in woodland areas. Specific locations will be agreed with the successful artist/company and a tour of the site will be a requirement of the commission prior to designing the artworks.

Target Audience

Nightfall attracts a predominantly family audience, including children of all ages. Most visitors attend the event in groups, with family and friends. The artwork must reflect our

commitment to attracting audiences of all backgrounds and ages and our intention to create joyful and playful shared experiences.

Fee

The fee to create the six artworks/features for the children's trail is £6,000. Artists can divide this budget between the artworks as they see fit. The fee is inclusive of all design and creation costs, materials and artist artwork installation costs. Additional budget is available to design online activity linked to the trail. Crew can be provided to assist with the installation and derig of the work. Technical and production support during the event will also be provided. Additional travel and accommodation budget can be provided if required. Any access costs will also be covered in addition to the fee.

Application process

To apply for this commission, please send:

- a CV/biography detailing your previous experience and any similar projects you have undertaken
- a summary of your idea and creative response to the brief
- supporting images (max 5) and/or link to a website where we can see images of your previous work

Proposals can be sent in a range of formats, including written, audio or video files.

Deadline: midday on Friday 20 August

Please send applications to: hello@stellar-projects.co.uk

We welcome and encourage applications from people who identify as D/deaf, visually impaired, disabled or neurodivergent, as a person of colour, and/or as LGBTQIA+. 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, please contact hello@stellar-projects.co.uk

More information about the event can be found at www.nightfallfestival.co.uk

Further information about Stellar Projects can be found at www.stellarprojects.co.uk

Event location – Stewart Park, The Grove, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8AR

Any questions about the commission please get in touch via e-mail at hello@stellar-projects.co.uk