

SHINE Emerging Artist Programme 2023

Light Up the North (LUTN) is a network of 9 light festivals across the north of England. In 2023, eight of the festivals are joining together to award funding to emerging artists working with light, to produce and exhibit new commissions at their 2023/24 light festivals.

The SHINE programme aims to nurture and develop new talent, giving artists the opportunity to exhibit or perform new work across the LUTN festivals (Light Night Leeds, Light Up Lancaster, Lightwaves at Salford Quays, Lightpool Festival in Blackpool, Light Night Wigan & Leigh, Illuminate Oldham, Nightfall Middlesborough and BD is: LIT at Bradford). Up to three artists or collectives will be awarded substantial commissions of up to £15K to realise ambitious new artworks (selected artists will not be expected to exhibit at all 8 festivals). Proposals that require less funding to achieve will not be discriminated against. Some basics - the artwork(s) will need to:

- Be suitable for outdoor winter light festivals
- Be artistically challenging/interesting and of high quality
- Be structurally resilient enough to withstand the winter weather at multiple festivals (October - Feb) and transportation across our festival network

For 2023, the successful commissions will also need to:

- Focus on environmental sustainability in their design and embody best practice in their delivery.
- To design artworks for reuse – materials/equipment- building onto what happens at the end of the exhibition.
- Be of mid/large scale – we are encouraging ambitious proposals
- Be created for audiences to enjoy/experience/engage with

As well as financial support, each artist will also receive a full induction to the programme, as well as training and mentoring from across the LUTN partnership. We will work directly with commissioned artists to support their development, with guidance in areas such as marketing, finance, production, risk assessments and fundraising.

To be eligible to apply to the SHINE programme you must be a UK-based artist who is perceived as an emerging talent (regardless of age) with the ability to achieve their ideas to a high quality. Please read the full information and FAQs before [submitting your application via \[lightupthenorth.com/SHINE2023\]\(https://lightupthenorth.com/SHINE2023\)](https://lightupthenorth.com/SHINE2023)

The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday April 21 2023

Useful Information

What can you create?

We are specifically looking for artists with bold, fresh ideas that may also have the potential as light artworks to be enjoyed as a 'roaming' or 'multi-site' experience for audiences. Proposals must be for work of a contemporary nature, possibly utilising digital technology, where the creative use of light is the basis for the idea. The artwork needs to be weather-proof, able to withstand strong winds, be structurally sound (if applicable) and, preferably, be suitable for presenting outdoors (although indoor pieces will be considered) at our varied locations and timescales. We are interested in work which can cater for large audiences, especially projects with the potential for engagement in either the making or operation of the piece, and activities or events which are accessible to families.

The LUTN festivals where you may be exhibiting:

Light Night Leeds (Leeds) – <http://www.lightnightleeds.co.uk>

Lightpool (Blackpool) - <https://www.visitblackpool.com/things-to-do/festival>

Light Up Lancaster (Lancaster) - <http://lightuplancaster.co.uk>

Lightwaves (Quays Culture at Salford Quays) – <http://quaysculture.com>

BD is: LIT (Bradford Light Night) – <https://www.visitbradford.com/whats-on/bd-is-lit-p1908781>

Wigan and Leigh Light Night – (<https://www.thefirewithin.org.uk>)

Illuminate Oldham - (https://www.oldham.gov.uk/directory_record/17795/illuminate)

Nightfall Middlesbrough – (<https://stellarprojects.co.uk/product/nightfall>)

The festival programmes vary and their themes for 2023 are quite broad and you will not be expected to specifically address them. The locations of the festivals are also varied with urban, parkland, industrial and city settings.

NB Each festival will provide standard infrastructure support for your arriving artwork, however all artists fees and artwork production costs must be factored into your commission award.

How we assess your application

A panel of LUTN partners involved with curating SHINE 2023 will assess all applications. We aim to ensure the selected commissions will be high-quality work and afford the best experience for artists, audience members and locations. They will assess the applications based on 5 areas:

- Artistic quality – *the strength & quality of the idea and the artist's previous work.*
- Public experience- *who it is aimed at and how will the public engage with it?*
- Financial viability – *can all elements of the activity be delivered effectively within budget?*

- Project management - *can the piece be created within the time available? Is the work durable enough for the festival dates? What materials are you using when considering the environmental impact and outdoor display?*
- Environmental Sustainability - *in the design and delivery. Can the materials/equipment be reused/ Does the work have a future life?*

When will you find out?

The deadline for submissions is **Friday April 21 2023**. We will shortlist and arrange interviews with artists where applicable in the 2 weeks following, with a provisional interview dates during w/c **Monday May 8 2023**.

Things to consider when completing your application:

- Be clear about your project aims and the artistic idea behind the work. *How can you demonstrate quality through examples of your previous work?*
- Be specific about who your work is aimed at. *Can the public engage with your work in an interesting way? What do you want the audience to get out of your work, and what impact will it have?*
- Demonstrate how your project can be realised for the budget available. If you require match or additional finance for your project let us know which funding schemes or sponsorship you plan to apply for. *(Please bear in mind that the festivals are partly funded through Arts Council England and you therefore may not be eligible for additional funding through any of their schemes.)*
- Give a clear indication of how your project will be managed from start to finish including the type of location(s) you would like to use and how work will be delivered on the night.

N.B. Each festival is currently in the planning phase for their 2024 events so we are also interested to hear about exciting, distinctive proposals from light artists that are likely to require a longer development period or might exceed the available budget for SHINE 2023. Should your proposal fall into this category contact us via the Light Up The North network at: <https://lightupthenorth.com/contact>

Timing

Our festival activities generally take place in the evenings, for the dates/periods listed below. You must produce an artwork that can exhibit for this period of time and tour to

some of the commissioning light festivals. You will also need to consider your install / de-rig schedule.

Leeds: 12 – 13 October for Light Night Leeds

Blackpool: 20-28 October for Lightpool

Lancaster: 2-4 Nov for Light Up Lancaster

Bradford: 3-4 Nov for BD is: LIT

Wigan: 17-19 Nov for Light Night Wigan & Leigh

Middlesborough: 29 Nov- Dec 3 for Nightfall

Salford: 7-10 December for Lightwaves

Oldham: 23-24 Feb 2024 for Illuminate

Finance

The SHINE commission will include all artist fees and materials. If needed, you can apply for match funding from other sources, but ensure you have planned and prepared to do this. Funding will be given to artists based on the quality of their idea and will need to include all technical, installation, operational and material costs, although reasonable travel and transportation costs will be considered separately. Accommodation can be provided by the host festivals if required. Other costs such as meals and general overheads must be factored into the commission. The successful proposals will be supported with agreed additional fees towards the costs of site visits.

Terms and conditions.

By applying to be a SHINE artist you agree:

- Your project/activity will be ready for exhibition at our 2023/24 festivals – (Note: if you have a brilliant idea/concept that cannot be achieved for SHINE 2023 we welcome proposals that may meet festival dates in subsequent SHINE programmes)
- Your work is deliverable within the timescale of the programme and will be delivered on budget.
- To attend an initial induction, production meetings and site visits where reasonably required.
- You must have relevant Public Liability Insurance for your activity, to a minimum £10 million cover.
- To supply, in advance, copy and images for marketing purposes as and when required

- To provide evaluation feedback on completion of the commissioning fund, in line with the framework provided

Support

We can offer successful applicants:

- Production advice and practical support, including technical and producing support
- Training and mentoring
- On-site production support including security, event staff and volunteer stewards
- Profiling through festival PR and marketing campaigns

Key Project Dates:

Friday April 21 - Deadline for submissions

w/c Monday 1 May / 8 May - Interviews (Online) for shortlisted artist(s)

w/c Monday 15 May – SHINE induction day – potentially via Zoom

June – September - Development period for commission(s)

12– 13 October - Light Night Leeds, Leeds

20 - 28 October – Lightpool, Blackpool

2-4 November - Light Up Lancaster

3–4 November BD: Is LIT, Bradford

17-19 November, The Fire Within, Wigan

29 November – 3 December, Nightfall, Middlesborough

7-10 December - Lightwaves, Salford Quays

23-24 February (2024) - Illuminate, Oldham

Dec 2023/March 2024 – Evaluation

NB: SHINE commission(s) are subject to each festival receiving Arts Council England funding

