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**‘Creative Expressions in Libraries’ at Loughborough Library**

**Eye Spy Wall Art Project**

Brief for Creative Practitioner

**Commissioning organisation**: Culture Leicestershire, Cultural Participation Team

**Location**: Loughborough Library, LE11 3DU

**Submission deadline**:

**We are looking for a Creative Practitioner to create a painted wall of art within the children’s area of Loughborough Library. The piece will need to incorporate various ‘eye-spy’ elements that will be decided by local children. Our aim is to engage both existing and new audiences, provide a fun activity embedded within the library, and provide a welcoming experience to the children’s library.**

**Commissioning Organisation**

Culture Leicestershire is Leicestershire County Council’s Libraries, Museums, Heritage, Collections, Learning and Participation Services. We have been awarded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and funding from Arts Council England to support them to deliver the ‘Let’s Create’ strategy. For more information please visit:

[Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation Investment programme](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/NationalPortfolio23)

[Culture Leicestershire](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/)

[Leicestershire Libraries](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries)

Our Libraries NPO strand is called ‘Creative Expression in Libraries’. Our aim is to commission specific creative activities to develop new library audiences and make libraries vibrant cultural hubs in our communities. Loughborough Library, alongside three other Leicestershire Library sites, has been identified for the third year of the NPO programme. These libraries will appoint a Creative Practitioner to create new activities for communities, with a focus on Children and Families as a target audience.

**Project Activity / Role of Creative Practitioner**

We are excited to be seeking a Creative Practitioner to work at Loughborough Library to create a large piece of art that spans the wall/s of the children’s library. It will be necessary to work closely with the Community Participation Worker (CPW) that leads on this project as the artwork will need to integrate various elements in the format of an eye-spy style game. These elements will be decided by children in the local area and will be collected and collated by the CPW; suggestions so far have ranged from local people and places to nature and storytelling. All suggestions will be shared with the successful practitioner at the design stage. We will also be working with Charwood Museum to incorporate some of their objects into the design.

The children’s library is a large space and as such the artwork will need to be a substantial and eye-catching design across one or more walls to grab the attention of library users, whilst also considering time and budget. Photos of the children’s area in the library are below; the exact location of the art is open to discussion.

Once designed, the intention is that the artwork will be directly painted onto the wall/s while the library is open in order to provide the local community with the opportunity to see the art develop. On completion of the artwork, we would like to engage both new and established audiences through a minimum of 6 launch events that should include cultural activity linked to the artwork. These audiences will be recruited by the CPW. Although these events can have the same format, there is an expectation that they will be tailored to the different groups where necessary.

**Project Vision and Aims**

* To offer people in Loughborough an exciting, meaningful engagement opportunity to view cultural activity being developed and delivered in their library
* To embed cultural activity into the library during the course of the project
* To connect the library both with its current users and with non-users, promoting community cohesion and the library as a welcoming public space for all
* To promote the library as an accessible and culturally vibrant space
* To meet Arts Council England’s ['Let's Create'](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create) aims and ambitions

**Creative Practitioner requirements**

* To develop a piece of art in collaboration with the CPW to ensure incorporation of the elements described above
* To create the art ‘live’ within the library during opening hours. The art needs to be painted direct onto the wall using breathable paint
* To design a visually engaging and easy to read ‘worksheet’ for the eye-spy game
* To plan, manage, deliver and facilitate workshops to engage audiences in the completed artwork
* To provide content for advertising and recruitment purposes such as images for social media posts
* Provide photographic documentation of the progress of the work, using organisational consent forms where required
* Devise and share risk assessments, with a particular emphasis on the live art aspect of the project
* Support the collection of evaluation as required by Culture Leicestershire
* Collaborate regularly with Culture Leicestershire staff, including local library staff and local
* partners
* Ideally, we are looking for artists who can demonstrate knowledge of the local town /area and who can respond to the specific needs and interests of the local community including local heritage
* Manage the budget and provide a comprehensive audit trail

**Skills and Experience**

* Creating and co-creating art within the cultural or education sector
* Creating ‘live art’ in cultural spaces
* Project Management skills including full understanding and compliance with associated health and safety requirements
* Communicating and working with children and young people
* Connecting with communities using art as a catalyst
* Working within the Cultural and Heritage sectors
* Planning, delivering and co-creating participatory artwork
* Working with community groups and partners including children and families, and bringing people together through culture
* Offering innovative ideas that provide something new, inspirational, and dynamic with a lasting legacy
* Good communication skills across a wide range of partners/stakeholders
* DBS clearance or intention to obtain this

**Submission Information**

The artist should enter a submission using the application form linked below, including the following information:

* Any skills or experience (see above requirements) that demonstrates suitability for this project, including photographs or links to any relevant previous work
* It is essential that evidence of previous work is included in the application
* A strategy for how to integrate the eye-spy elements
* Details of how the proposed work can take place within the library space, bringing people together through cultural activity
* An outline of envisaged timescales for all stages of the project i.e. initial meetings with CPW, planning, delivery and evaluation
* A rough idea of session plans for the launch events
* A breakdown of how you would use the budget (please see the application form for more details)
* Details of insurance and liability to deliver the proposed project, or intention to obtain this

**Support**

Community Participation Workers within the Culture Leicestershire team manage the work of Creative Practitioners commissioned by Culture Leicestershire, providing support, direction and advice. They will be your main contact point. They support liaison with relevant people and groups inside and outside of Leicestershire County Council as well as contract manage the overall project from beginning to end. They will also provide support with payment, evaluation, promotion, partnership work and other aspects of the project.

**Process**

The Creative Expressions in Libraries, Loughborough Library working group will review all submissions. The working group is made up of a Community Participation Worker, Library Supervisors, Library Services Assistants, a Librarian and other relevant partners including those from the target audience.

Submissions should be made by submitting the Creative Practitioner application form, found [here](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/coalville-library-community-outdoor-art-project/) on the Culture Leicestershire website. Due to limits on file sizes please include any images, video, or large files as links, or email separately where this is not possible.

Applicants that have been short listed will be invited to have an informal discussion.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback and details will be kept on file (with permission) for future projects.

**Timescales**

Deadline for expression of interest: 24th June at 9am

Planning stage to start July 2025

Art installation to take place in August 2025

Launch events to take place in August-October 2025

**Budget**

The fee available is up to £4,000. This should cover all of your time and materials including

* Initial planning meetings to plan artwork including eye-spy elements
* Purchase of all materials required for artwork including the paint
* Delivery of ‘live art’ installation
* Planning and delivery of up to 6 workshops to launch, celebrate and promote the artwork, including providing materials
* Additional costs including admin and transport

You do not need to use the whole budget if it is not required, a strong expression of interest will show a breakdown of costs and clearly demonstrate how the budget will be spent.

**Terms and conditions**

• To abide by Leicestershire County Council’s data protection and GDPR.

• Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community. All provision is expected to be in accordance with this principle.

• As a consultant you agree to grant full copyright license and ownership to Leicestershire County Council to use any final artwork, resource or creative output resulting from the project, in any manner they deem appropriate.

* For all or any aspects of the project to be filmed for the purpose of promotion or training

For informal enquiries, please contact:

Steph Strange, Community Participation Worker

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Photos of Loughborough Library Children’s Area



