**Call out: Leicestershire Libraries Early Years Festival - October 2025**

We are looking for Creative Practitioners with a speciality of working with the Early Years audience and their families, to run events in 8 libraries in October.

**Commissioning organisation:** Leicestershire Libraries, Culture Leicestershire

**Location:** Libraries across Leicestershire

**Submission deadline: Tuesday, 26th August at 10am**

**About us**

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. Our Library service provides access to reading, learning, information, and culture through physical and digital spaces. This is with the aim of improving wellbeing and opportunities for the people and communities of Leicestershire, in line with the Libraries Connected Universal Library Offer. This includes providing family-friendly spaces and opportunities to encourage all children to fulfil their potential. For more information please visit:

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

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

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

**Children’s Events Programming Vision**  
Leicestershire Library Service has been working to enhance our cultural offer in libraries for children and their families. We have a wide range of community libraries within our portfolio with diverse audiences. We are looking to widen access to cultural activities and experiences to inspire children with their own creative journey and build confidence with parents to share and enjoy art and culture activities. This includes promoting the Reading Well for Families Collection developed by The Reading Agency.  
  
We are seeking multiple creative practitioners with a speciality of working with Early Years, to run 8 events across 8 libraries in October. We are planning for each event to be run by a different practitioner to create a diverse programme across the county.

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| **Leicestershire Libraries** | | | |
| Birstall Library | Melton Mowbray Library | Oadby Library | Shepshed Library |
| Hinckley Library | Glenfield Library | Market Harborough Library | Syston Library |

**We are looking for:**

* Practitioners with experience of with children under 5
* Practitioners with experience of working with parents and carers to enhance wellbeing
* Practitioners that can work with groups ranging from 15 through to 40 participants \*Please note workshop size depends on the library site and space
* Stand alone or one-off sessions that can be delivered in 45minutes through to a maximum of 1 hour.
  + Typical delivery times would be between 10-11.30am or 1-2.30pm
* We are looking for Creative Practitioners that can:
  + Be inclusive and engaging
  + Stimulate creativity and wellbeing
  + Enable children to participate flexibly according to their needs
  + Provide differentiated sessions for 0-1, 1-2 and 3-5 years
  + Provide parents/carers with confidence to participate with their child and share skills
  + Provide parents/carers with the opportunity to develop their wellbeing through interaction with their child
  + Enhance our existing library early years programmes including Wriggly Readers, Leicestershire Libraries relaxed, friendly, story and rhyme sessions for babies and pre-schoolers
  + Support early years development as outlined in national EYFS Framework, including physical, communication and language, expressive art and design, and literacy
  + Provide marketing materials including images, description and content for social media
  + Provide risk assessments for their session, DBS, and public liability insurance
  + Can provide content for social media
  + Can work in partnership with Culture Leicestershire including libraries and library staff

Timelines and Fees Available

We are looking to select creative practitioners to deliver workshops, events and activities for October 2025. These events will link with wellbeing, movement, imagination, play, and creativity.

Successful creative practitioners must have their session plans, promotional materials and risk assessments signed off by the project leads at or before 8th September 2025.

Leicestershire Library Service is committed to paying creative practitioners at industry rates in line with the Artist’s Union England. Further information can be found at [www.artistsunionengland.org.uk/rates-of-pay/](http://www.artistsunionengland.org.uk/rates-of-pay/). In line with this, our total budget per library is up to £250 however there is a level of flexibility for activity that is bespoke, needs additional planning or that requires more than one practitioner.

**What we need from you:**

Please complete our Events Expression of Interest form (which can be found [here](file:///\\lccfp2\comdata\SHARED\Participation%20Team\Creative%20Practitioners\CP%20Application%20Form\EVENTS%20Creative%20Practioner%20EOI%20Form%20Final%20Version.pdf)). Alongside your application, please share any supplementary documents including images of previous activity.

We want to work with new and/or established creatives but would like to find out more about you, your artform and see some examples of your work that will help us know more about your practice.

**Timeline for applications**  
Submissions should be made by **10am** on **Tuesday 26th August 2025** to [**libraries@leics.gov.uk**](mailto:libraries@leics.gov.uk)

Additional information regarding dates for delivery during October, library locations, payments and invoicing will be discussed and arranged directly with any selected creative practitioners.

A working group will review all submissions and will let shortlisted candidates know by Friday 29th August. In some cases, an informal conversation may follow.

**And finally...**   
We are committed to attracting and recruiting diverse candidates and welcome applications from underrepresented groups.

If you require Leicestershire Libraries to make any reasonable adjustments to the process of receiving your ideas and make it more accessible for you, please contact: [Libraries@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Libraries@leics.gov.uk)

**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:

Victoria Barton, Librarian

[Victoria.barton@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.barton@leics.gov.uk)

0116 305 4574

***Thank you for taking the time to review this brief.***