

**Oxford Road Corridor Light Festival – Cultural Producer
Call for Expressions of Interest**

Background

The Oxford Road Corridor is Manchester's innovation district home to a unique concentration of knowledge, business and cultural assets. The area is overseen by a partnership comprising the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester City Council, NHS Foundation Trust, Bruntwood, Manchester Science Partnerships, RNCM, HOME and wider representation from the city's leading cultural institutions.

Our vision by 2025 is to be Manchester's cosmopolitan hub and world-class innovation district, where talented people from the city and across the world learn, create, work, socialise, live and do business; contributing to the economic and social dynamism of one of Europe's leading cities.

The 'Culture on the Corridor' Group have secured match funding to develop a proposal to Arts Council England (ACE) for a new light festival aimed to engage both communities and institutions in what makes the Oxford Road Corridor unique to Manchester.

We are now seeking expressions of interest, from Greater Manchester based cultural producers, both organisations and individuals, for us to select a producer to include in our bid to ACE for a festival in Autumn 2021¹.

The core festival budget will be in the region of £165k, however we expect there to be a number of co-commission opportunities, in-kind contributions, potential sponsorship, and we will continue to explore additional funding avenues. A key aspect of the role will be to support the partnership to unlock these opportunities to grow the festival budget, scope and audience reach.

Curatorial Statement - Excerpt

A curatorial statement has been developed by the partnership, setting out our ambition and key themes for the festival...

*Language is an expressive medium and commissioning poetry, literature, spoken word, visual art and performance, we will produce a festival led by the innovation and spirit in which Manchester is best known. **Corridor of Light** aims to promote the protection and preservation of languages and encourages multilingual education. Language is an inseparable part of our culture and helps define the social, economic and political motivations of different cultures. Not limited by geography, we create languages to interpret science, cultural heritage, music and engineering, history and even computer programming.*

Whilst the current pandemic crisis has made evident how fragile our society is, we will champion the transformative and powerful role arts and culture can play to support communities and inspire people to envision better futures during challenging times like this. We will take the opportunity to celebrate new public spaces and developments including Symphony Park - Manchester's newest greenspace, Contact Theatre, the new poetry library and School of Digital Arts, as well as highlight iconic urban infrastructure like the Mancunian Way, the viaducts and Oxford Road train station, alongside heritage treasures such as the Holy Name Church, Central Library, St James' Building and Whitworth Hall.

¹ Please note that the festival is dependent on the partnership securing ACE funding.

Featuring exhibitions, public art commissions, publications, podcasts and performances as well as workshops, art trails, demonstrations and a street art opera experience, we will encourage audiences to slow down, participate and enjoy the experience on what is normally the busiest bus route in Europe. We will highlight incremental changes taking place within society rather than the fast-paced transformational change. In a world that suffers from segregation, the festival programme will promote unity, compassion, and a celebration of differences.

Expressions of Interest

Your EOI should be no longer than 2-pages highlighting your:

- Experience of curating and producing art festivals and events in a multi-stakeholder and place setting.
- Outline how you would maximise the opportunities for participation, community engagement and access.
- Indicative costs for artist direction and production.
- 2-3 suggestions of artists you propose working with.

Deadline

We are seeking proposals by the close of business on Friday 16th October 2020. Depending on the level of interest and quality of EOI's in round one, we may request further information from you and also be required to conduct interviews.

Please forward your proposal to: info@oxfordroadcorridor.com.