



Micro Commissions Info Pack

[The Coventry City of Culture Trust](#) has formed a new partnership with [Unlimited](#), a national arts commissioning programme that enables new work by disabled artists to reach UK and international audiences.

Through this partnership, we are inviting d/Deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent artists who live and/or regularly work within a CV postcode (this covers Coventry and parts of wider Warwickshire) to apply for **ten micro commissions of up to £1,000 each**.

These micro commissions are open to artists of any discipline and of any level to either; create new work, enhance their skills and/or explore different creative processes within the Trust's key themes.

Coventry City of Culture Trust

The Coventry City of Culture Trust are working to build a cultural programme that reflects Coventry, its people and its ambitions for the future. We are a diverse, modern city which is re-imagining the role culture can play in bringing people together. Coventry is a city of welcome, a city of activists and pioneers, a city of peace and reconciliation, a city of innovation and invention, a City of Culture.

Access and inclusion for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists, citizens, audiences and staff is an important focus for the Trust across all our work. We want to lead the way in ensuring our work is accessible, considers potential barriers and provides opportunities for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists.

Unlimited

Unlimited is an arts commissioning programme that enables new work by disabled artists to reach UK and international audiences. It is the largest supporter of disabled artists worldwide.

Unlimited is a commissioning programme, transitioning to an organisation. It works with disabled artists from all over the UK. Unlimited aims to change perceptions of disabled people by commissioning disabled artists to make new, ground-breaking and high quality work.

The Brief

Reform The Norm - providing an opportunity to challenge past and existing 'norms' to replace them with something better.

The global outbreak of COVID-19 pressed pause on life as we knew it. Any idea of what was 'normal' was suspended as we tried to adjust to a new way of living. As the government now gears up for recovery and reset, how can creative thinkers, artists and makers reflect on this time and re-imagine a new and better future? How might you use theatre, dance, photography, film, spoken word, digital media and other creative forms to articulate your vision for a world that works better for everyone and looks to re-imagine a new, reformed normal?

Our Ambition

We want this call out to support a range of creative projects by outstanding d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists and companies that explore **Reforming The Norm**. Projects can include film, live art / performance, theatre, poetry / spoken word, dance, music, visual arts and more but must be creatively led by disabled people themselves.

Coventry City of Culture Trust particularly encourages work that links with themes of;

1. **Art as activism** – using art as activism, injecting your voice into art as a way to raise public awareness around something you want to see changed or challenged
2. **Community Collaboration** - working with our diverse communities and grassroots groups across the city to co-create cultural activity
3. **Environment, Nature and Green Futures** - wild, green and environmental creative projects working across the natural and built landscapes of the city
4. **Public Realm & Public Spaces** - explore Coventry's built environment. Artists are invited to reimagine the streets of the city with playful interventions, from garden projects, to construction projects, from lighting to street art
5. **Digital** - exploring a playful use of digital technology or media

These focuses are already embedded into a number of the Trust's programmes and plans. We are encouraging artists to respond to any of these themes in whatever way they feel appropriate. Artists may want to consider more than one aspect.

You can find out more about the Trust's key themes here; <https://coventry2021.co.uk/producers/>

Platforming opportunities will be given for artists to share the work in relation to the wider Coventry 2021 programming. Later this year, we will hold a Reform The Norm gathering, a place where artists, communities and social changemakers will present our new ideas for a better society in the form of art, discussions and workshops.

The works will also be represented on the Unlimited website, where all commissioned works are listed, and the artists will join the Unlimited alumni.

We want this call out to support disabled artists to

- develop their creative and artistic practice
- create work that will live on after these unprecedented times
- develop a digital legacy

We are looking for:

- ambitious work that reflects the above themes (in whatever way), challenges thinking and asks audiences to re-consider commonly held beliefs
- work that engages as fully as possible with the digital medium rather than simply filming what would or could have happened live.

We encourage artists to consider:

- ways that audiences can engage with the work pre, post and during presentation if appropriate.
- work that is relevant to marginalised communities;
- work that can be shared and promoted online by Coventry City of Culture Trust and Unlimited by other promoters beyond this

We are particularly keen to receive proposals from disabled artists who expect to be continuing to isolate after lockdown restrictions are eased.

Proposals must be original, and not from an artist's existing work, unless it is truly relevant and timely to do so, such as a digital realisation or element of a pre-existing R&D. If the work replicates pre-existing copyrighted content (particularly music), it should do so creatively, and be flagged in the application.

We expect the work to be made adhering to relevant public health advice around social distancing and / or isolation depending on individual circumstances

Access

We encourage artists to consider creative methods of integrating access for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent online audiences into the work from conception. We can support artists with exploring how best to do this and will work with you on captioning, audio descriptions and other access elements, if required.

Who can apply?

D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists, creatives and disabled-led companies that support disabled-led work across all art forms and who are based in and/or work in a CV postcode (Coventry and wider Warwickshire).

We are defining disability based on the **Social Model** approach, which, by focusing on the disabling barriers imposed by society, embraces all physical, sensory and invisible impairments, learning disability, mental health, neurodivergent and fatigue conditions. If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply.

Coventry City of Culture Trust are keen to encourage diversity and intersectionality in the arts and so actively encourage proposals from artists from under-represented communities and artists who identify as LGBTQIA and / or BAME.

What will you receive?

Up to £1,000 commission: Please be realistic about the scale of the project / length of the work. (The Trust can offer advice and support on this if selected)

Production advice and support, if required, for your project: e.g. through online resources or video calls / chats and emails using text, voice and BSL to discuss practical issues, timeframe and access.

Marketing support in promoting the commission and any potential output activity

For most artists, it is assumed access costs will be met by Access to Work. If not, these can be included either within or in addition to the £1000 commission fee, depending on the nature of the work and the budget requirements.

What do we need?

You will need to answer 5 simple questions.

- Tell us your name and some information about the art you create. You can also give us a weblink to a site where we can find out about your work or attach an example.
- What do you want to do?
- Why do you want to do it?
- How does your proposal connect with the City of Culture key themes?
- How will you spend the £1000? Tell us your budget.

Please provide a maximum of 250 words per question.

How to apply

There are a number of ways you can apply.

You can respond to these questions via a word document or within an email to us at programme@coventry2021.co.uk

We are also accepting proposals in video / audio format and BSL – please send a film / audio file, no longer than 3 minutes responding to the five questions to;

programme@coventry2021.co.uk or send us a link to download the file to the same address.

We also ask that all applicants complete our [Diversity and Equal Opportunities Form](#).

Though we are not asking for a detailed budget, your proposal will need to include an overview of costs. We may come back to you for further information if we need it.

Please ask us if you would like this information in an alternative format.

If after reading all information provided you have further questions on access, please let us know by contacting access@coventry2021.co.uk or call [024 7710 3550](tel:02477103550)

The deadline for us to receive your application is **21st August 2020 at midday.**

All applicants will receive news by 29th August 2020. Awards will then be publicly announced on 2nd September 2020.

Selection Process - Key Criteria

A panel comprising Coventry City of Culture staff, Unlimited Staff and independent creatives will review all applications and make a final decision. The panel will take their decisions against the following key criteria:

- disability-led
- individuals or organisations living or working within a CV postcode
- quality, innovation and ambition
- evidence of how the award will support wider practice or artistic development
- how the proposals links to the Reform The Norm strand and above programme themes.

We will attempt to provide all unsuccessful applicants with feedback on their applications.