

**Youthful Cities
Coventry City of Culture 2021
Information Pack for Organisations**



Youthful Cities is an international programme for young adults (18-25) to creatively respond to important, urgent and youth-focused issues in their cities. It is produced by Coventry City of Culture 2021-22 and will work with four around the world: Beirut (Lebanon), Bogota (Columbia), Detroit (United States of America) and Nairobi (Kenya).

**COVENTRY CITY OF CULTURE TRUST
C/O THE HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM, JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP
WWW.COVENTRY2021.CO.UK**

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REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

COVENTRY UK CITY OF CULTURE 2021
YOUTHFUL CITIES PROGRAMME

Why Youthfulness?

Youthfulness is an attitude, a gathering of mindsets and a synergy of creative and dynamic ideas. Coventry City of Culture Trust is working with international cities that are moving forward, where their citizens are activists, shaping their own futures through art, creativity, and technology.

For Coventry's year as UK City of Culture 2021, Coventry City of Culture Trust (CCCT) has partnered with the British Council, Positive Youth Foundation and Coventry City Council to deliver a series of cultural and creative skills exchange programmes and commissions with four international cities.

Each programme will develop links between civic and cultural organisations in Coventry and each partner city, supporting international collaboration between young (18-25) artists, makers, storytellers and activists through creative and digital residencies.

About this opportunity:

Youthful Cities is a cultural and creative skills exchange between Coventry and four international cities; Beirut (Lebanon), Bogota (Colombia), Detroit (United States of America) and Nairobi (Kenya). It will culminate in the creation of four new artworks and a three-day Global Youth Summit in Coventry, which brings together the ideas and innovations from the exchanges.

We are looking for three organisations in Coventry to each work with 4 - 5 young adults and create a partnership with a similar organisation and cohort of young adults in one of the three of the international cities. Successful organisations will be compensated for the work on the project. They will each receive £8,000 for session planning and delivery.

The selected organisations will form a Project Team with their international counterpart and collectively support a cohort of 8-10 young adults (4-5 from each city).

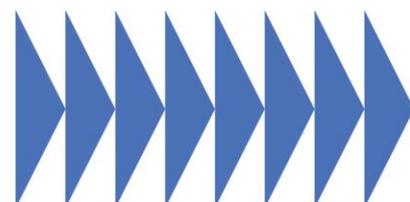
Each Project Team will engage with one of the following art forms and associated city:

- Street art or visual art (for the Coventry X Bogota exchange)
- Poetry, spoken word and storytelling (for the Coventry X Beirut exchange)
- Music (for the Coventry X Detroit exchange)

The exchange also includes Nairobi, however we are only looking for organisations to work on the Bogota, Beirut and Detroit projects, as we already have an organisation working with Nairobi.



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Interested organisations will need to specify which international exchange they are interested in and what expertise they can bring to the partnership. Further details can be found in the Application Form.

Who can apply?

- Organisations should be based within a CV postcode
- Organisations must be able to support the Youthful Cities programme for the duration of the programme (November 2021 – May 2022) and nominate at least two leads to support the programme
- Organisations should have demonstratable experience in one of the following artforms:
 - Street art and/or visual art (for the exchange in Bogota, Colombia)
 - Poetry, spoken word and/or storytelling (for the exchange in Beirut, Lebanon)
 - Music (for the exchange in Detroit, USA)

Assessment Criteria

Organisations will be assessed by a panel from Coventry City of Culture Trust, the British Council, Coventry City Council, Positive Youth Foundation and a local cultural organisation. Assessments will be made according to the following criteria:

Organisational track record

We welcome applications from individual organisations or several organisations working in partnership, particular where they have successfully collaborated on similar projects before. We will consider the track record of the organisation(s) in undertaking projects and programmes of varying scales and will ask for demonstrable impact of this.

Work with young adults

Organisations would need to demonstrate the work they have done with young adults aged between 18-25 and how they would approach working with an international cohort.

Impact of the experience

We are interested in supporting organisations of varying scales and sizes who are able to grow their own experience and portfolio by participating in this programme. As such, we will assess the level of impact this programme will have on the participating organisations.

Strength of connection with programme artforms and overall theme of youthfulness

Applicants must identify alignment to one of the outlined artforms.

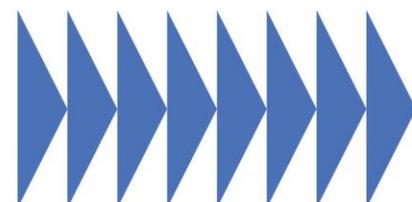
- Street art and/or visual art
- Poetry, spoken word and/or storytelling
- Music

Skills and network development opportunity

We are interested in the legacy and long-term impact of the programme and will be assessing your aspirations and plans for continued engagement beyond the life of the



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project. This may include the creation of networks in the city after the programme ends or embedding learning and practice into your business plans.

Once all the organisations have been selected, the two leads will be responsible for leading the recruitment of the young adults, in collaboration with Coventry City of Culture Trust and its partners.

Application Timeline

Application opens	30 th September 2020
Application workshops - We will be holding two online workshops for those interested in applying and would like more information.	Choice of two online workshops: 5 th October, 1pm 12 th October, 1pm
Application closes	23 rd October 2020, 5pm
Assessments and interviews	26 th October – 6 th November
Confirmation of successful applicants	w/c 9 th November

The Programme

There are five parts to the Youthful Cities programme:

- Youthful Cities Index
- Digital Cultural and Skills Exchange
- Creation
- Global Youth Summit
- Legacy and social change

1. Youthful Cities Index (September 2020)

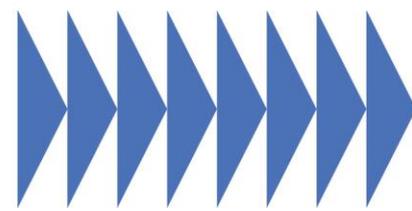
Coventry City of Culture Trust and the British Council partnered with an Canada-based organisation called [Youthful Cities](#), whose mission is to make cities around the world a better place to live, work and play for young people. As part of this, we commissioned them to conduct some research on the 'Youthfulness' of Coventry, Beirut, Bogota and Nairobi.

The research involved gathering youth opinions and understanding the top priority of those cities from a youth perspective. It was conducted by young people through surveys and involved asking at least 500 youth respondents¹ in each city about what is important to them and what they hope for the future of their city.

The research report was produced in September 2020 and will form the basis of each of the exchange and residency programmes. It will serve as provocations for social, cultural and artistic practice, fundamentally asking how art and culture can respond to these issues.



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2. Digital Cultural and Skills Exchanges (November 2020 – July 2021)

From November 2020 – July 2021, the organisations and young adults will form Project Teams with their international counterparts. Together, they will use the Youthful Cities Index research as a stimulus for discussion and debate about areas of celebration and challenge in their respective cities.

Organisations will support the young adults in generating creative and innovative ideas, responses and solutions to areas of interest from the research. This may include offering provocations on how their relevant artforms (for example, street art, or a specific genre of music) are shaping identities and informing narratives of commonality/difference. Also, how they are enabling (or have the potential to enable) new ways to reach diverse global audiences with stories that matter, particularly in times of global crisis.

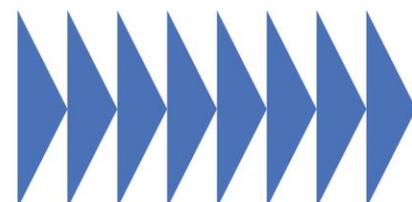
Overall, the Cultural and Skills Exchanges should explore mutual connections and creative synergies, and the respective social and cultural contexts between Coventry and its international partner city (either Beirut, Bogota or Nairobi).

The organisations should support the young adults in working towards a collective creative response, based on their relevant medium and artform, which will be developed during the 'Creation' phase of the programme. Work created will then be showcased at the Global Youth Summit and as part of the Coventry City of Culture 2021-22 programme.

The Digital Cultural and Skills Exchange Programme will be in two phases: **Connection** and **Labs**. An indicative programme of activity has been included below.

Phase 1: Connection (Jan 2021)

Week 1 - Introduction to team members, cities & artforms		
Day 1 A Digital Introduction Event 1. A welcome by Coventry City of Culture Trust.	Day 2 The start of the Project Teams working together. A more in-depth introduction to Project Team members Introduction to the cities within the Project Teams Getting to know each other exercises and activities	Day 3 Exploring artforms, styles and practices



<p>An introduction to Coventry City of Culture & British Council</p> <p>An introduction to Youthful Cities by Robert Barnard covering talk the Index/indicators/journey of YouthfulCities Canada</p> <p>2.Project Teams will meet for the first time in breakout rooms.</p> <p>After the Digital Introduction, individual Cities will continue to get to know each other in person.</p>		
<p>Week 2 - Introduction to the Index & indicators</p>		
<p>Day 1</p> <p>An exploration into the Index in more detail</p> <p>What indicators resonate with individual members, cities and the Project Team as a whole?</p> <p>Use activities and exercises to investigate</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>How the indicators, cities and artforms work together</p> <p>Exploring a narrative</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Making a decision on what indicator the Project Team want to work on</p>

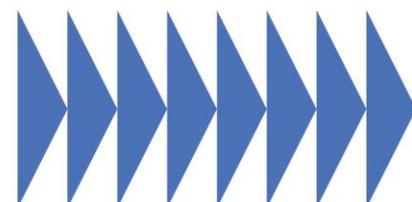
Between the Connection and the Labs, suggested activity could be masterclasses / inspirational speaker sessions from young people who are arts activists, 'go and see' activities, get togethers with some tasks

Phase 2: Labs (between May - June 2021)

There will be a Lab in each city which will last for a suggested duration of 2 weeks.



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Week 1		
Day 1 More in-depth look into the two cities. Exploring artforms and opportunities for expression, performance etc. in their city	Day 2 & 3 What does the chosen indicator mean to each city? Exploring ways of expression through the artform and the indicator	Day 4 Each member shares something they have discovered about the indicator (present a form of artwork, a mood board, etc.)
Week 2		
Day 1 & 2 Workshops with a practitioner/artist/activist on their work within the chosen artform or related to the indicator	Day 2 Bringing all ideas together	Day 3 Ideas continued NB: *Days in between can be for further research * If needed, there could be another workshop with a practitioner/artist/activist

2. The Creation (between July 2021 - April 2022)

After gathering inspiration from the Labs in the Digital Cultural and Skills Exchanges, the Project Teams will be commissioned to create a response that incorporates the chosen indicator and the artform. Mutuality and collaboration between the international cities are crucial to this global exchange and should be embedded in process, design, delivery and work created.

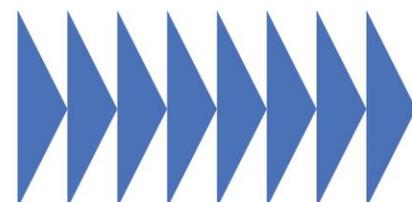
The Project Teams will develop their thinking around innovative approaches to the work that they will create. They will start with an outline concept and project idea to take forward. They will have a clear sense of their project plan, resources needed, roles and responsibilities and agreed milestones.

Breakdown of Creation:

- City of Culture will provide a production and commissioning budget for the creation of new work



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- The Project Team leads will oversee the budget
- Within a Project Team, participants can work in smaller groups/pairs or create as one team
- The work created amongst the Project Teams will be showcased at the Global Youth Summit and as part of the Coventry City of Culture 2021-22 programme (see below for more details)

The Project Teams will be invited to present their creations as part of the following Coventry City of Culture events, based on their artform:

Coventry X Bogota Creations will be showcased at **Concrete Canvas** (working title), which is a brand new street art festival, highlighting the best graffiti murals and visual art to decorate the walls of Coventry in July 2021.

Coventry X Beirut Creations will be showcased at **BBC Contains Strong** Language, which is a poetry and spoken word weekend in 23rd – 26th September 2021

Coventry X Detroit Creations will be showcased as part of the **City of Cultures music programme**, which take place in February 2022 (further details tbc).

Coventry X Nairobi Creations will be showcased as part of the **City of Cultures digital programme** for April 2022 (further details tbc).

The Project Teams will come together after each showcase to share their experiences, learning and reflections to the wider cohort as part of a continual development process.

If there are no restrictions, the International teams will be coming to Coventry for the Coventry City of Culture events as part of the Creation stage.

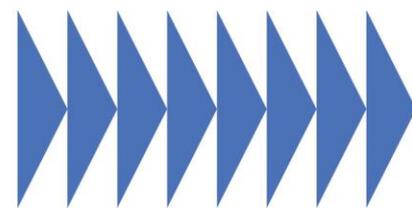
3. The Global Youth Summit

In November 2021, this 3-day summit will gather young people and young adults across the UK, with a focus on civic innovation through storytelling and social action in a global context. The summit will be an opportunity to showcase either R&D or finished work from the Project Teams, who will present to key and influential decision makers, funders and other stakeholders to move one or more of their ideas forward.

The Global Youth Summit will explore how young adults can drive forward change in their respective cities, and debate some of the biggest global challenges we face together. Imagine a large-scale science fair, but instead of science experiments, it will



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showcase artwork from young adults around the world that demonstrate dynamism, innovation, playfulness and curiosity.

It will be a global gathering of thoughts and ideas. The summit will also involve talks, workshops and performances based around the theme of 'What are the conversations young people are having across the world?' giving platforms to brilliant thinkers and activists on their take on global issues.

Our long-term ambition is for this to become a biennial summit in Coventry, anchored around the vision of 'Civic Innovation' and we will be seeking the support and backing of the city council, international partners, sponsors and funders.

4. Legacy and social change

We have big ambition for this programme and want every young adult who participates in this programme to go on to achieve great things and fulfil their true potential. We want this to be led by the young adults and organisations and encourage everyone to ask themselves: What is the change you want to see in your city and in this world, and what role do you want to play in making it happen?

We will work with these responses and develop opportunities and creative programming – from masterclass speakers to invitations to speak at summits around the world – as the programme develops and we understand more about the particular aspirations of the young adults.

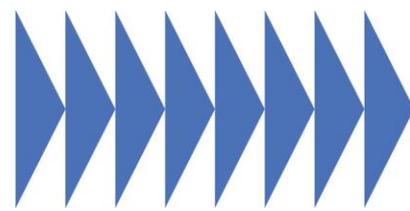
We will also connect each local organisation in their respective countries to their local governments and councils, facilitating discussion between the current decision-makers around policy and governance in each place, with the young adults that live, work and play in those cities.

This part of the programme is the most 'flexible' and 'open' as it needs to be shaped and driven by the participants. We'll be working with you, as the lead organisations, to develop this aspect of the programme through the year.

The Youthful Cities programme aims to spotlight the ways in which digital technology and art can come together to highlight the global conversations, solutions and art which young adults can create together. Coventry has positioned itself as a leading city in the UK in building relationships with international partners. The Youthful Cities programme can take this further by positioning Coventry as a leader in supporting the younger generation, leaving a lasting legacy of this programme. This is where the Global Youth Summit comes in, along with global youth networks and other initiatives that emerge from the programme.



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Organisations will also be required to participate in the City of Culture evaluation throughout the duration of the programme so we can continually learn, adapt and develop, as well as measure the impact of Youthful Cities.

What would it mean for your organisation to be a part of the Youthful Cities programme?

Build connections

The cities involved will all go through the same indexing process, work together collaboratively, and build international connections and relationships.

Global Programme

The cities have all been chosen because they are catalysts for change, curious, explorative and dynamic as well as activist spirit and civic innovation. The cities will connect to make a global programme for the City of Culture year.

Artistic commission

An opportunity for local and international organisations and young adults to receive a generous commission to create together a professional, high quality piece of work that will be a part of the Global Youth Summit, City of Culture and shown or displayed on multiple platforms.

Young people to be a part of the Global Youth Summit in 2021

The young adults involved in the Youthful Cities programme will come together to share experiences, create cultural narratives for their city and connect with each other for future work.

Young people contribute to other programmes and events across 2021

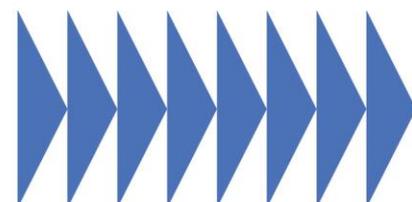
Work created from the Youthful Cities programme could be a part of the many other programmes, festivals and events put on by the City of Culture as well as programmes in the international cities.

Civic Change

Empower younger people/young adults to have a creative voice in their own cities and to make change happen that has long lasting impact and that creates a world which they want to live in.



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What will you be responsible for?

Organisations will be responsible for:

- Supporting the recruitment of young adults to the programme and being their main point of contact throughout the programme
- Liaising with counterpart organisations and taking the initiative to deliver activity in line with the programme vision, aims and milestones
- Active engagement in each part of the programme, including contributing content, facilitating sessions and hosting conversations
- Supporting the development of artwork and overseeing commissioning budgets
- Keeping in regular communication with Coventry City of Culture Trust as the lead commissioner of the programme
- Supporting the long-term ambition of the programme, including working with local governments and leaders
- Contributing to the evaluation of the programme

This is not an exhaustive list, but instead provides an indication of the role you will be expected to play as a partner organisation.

How to apply

Please download and complete our application form which can be found on the website. Once completed please send to Titi Dawudu via email titi.dawudu@coventry2021.co.uk. The deadline for submission is 23rd October 2020, 5pm.

We would invite you to join one of our online Q&A sessions where more information will be provided about the programme. You can also contact Titi via the above email if you have any questions.



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