

The Cultural Spring

Call out for Artists, Makers, Creatives *Set the Sails – The Tall Ships Races Sunderland 2018*

May 2018

1. Introduction

Using Sunderland's historic ship building past and the transition to a modern future as its central theme, The Cultural Spring is seeking to commission two artists, makers or creatives to work with two community groups to create a series of model boats that will be featured as part of the cultural programme to celebrate the arrival of The Tall Ships Races in Sunderland in July 2018.

2. About Set the Sails

From 11th until 14th July 2018, Sunderland will welcome a majestic fleet of Tall Ships to take part in a colourful four day festival of culture and entertainment across the city, before they set sail in spectacular style to compete in the first leg of The Tall Ships Races 2018.

Five community groups in the east area of Sunderland are currently working with artists as part of Set the Sails. We have now secured funding to work with a further two community groups as part of Set the Sails.

The premise for the project is that the groups work with an artist to design a number of boats to scale, either individually or in teams. The boats can be made from any materials (e.g. wood, plastic, paper, cardboard, textiles). The boats don't need to be watertight.

Funding is available for an artist to deliver 20 hours of workshops/sessions with each community group. We are flexible about how this time is planned in and would suggest that the appointed artist and groups agree this in collaboration with The Cultural Spring during their first meeting.

We are hoping that each artist/maker will work with approximately 15-20 young people over the duration of the project and what we need are artists who can help people develop their ideas, designs and realise their own model boats.



Each group will take part in an intensive learning experience, play an important role in the forthcoming Tall Ships festival and develop practical 'making' skills.

It is projected that through the Set the Sails programme up to 80 model boats will be developed (from across the seven Set the Sails groups),

This project will culminate in all of the people involved being invited to take part in the Welcome Parade on Wednesday 11th July, 6-7pm from around the Port and Sunderland's East End. The boats produced will then be displayed in a prominent location during the festival.

The two groups that we are seeking artists to work with are:

Fulwell Junior School:

The school would like an artist to work with pupils from across various year groups and are keen for the finished boat to be proudly displayed in school once the Set the Sails project is over. It is preferred that the artist working with this group is a trained Discover and Explore Arts Award adviser, as one outcome for the young people is that they are supported to achieve Arts Award. Fulwell Junior School would like their appointed artist to start late May and work with the group two-three times a week during June – the days/time each week will be agreed by the school and appointed artist. Interviews for this role will take place on Friday 18th May.

Fencehouses YMCA Learning Difficulties and Disability (LDD) Group:

Fencehouses LDD Group meet every Thursday from 6:15pm -9:15pm at the YMCA, Houghton Le Spring. The group ranges in age from 11-20 years. There is a core group of 10 young people who would like to take part in these workshops. They are interested in working with an artist to do small model boats in any material. The artist will need to have experience working with young people with autism and cerebral palsy. The group are very active and enthusiastic and would also like to achieve Arts Award as part of this commission. The artist will start in the first week of June and run 1.5-2 hour sessions for 6 weeks.

3. About the Cultural Spring

The Cultural Spring is the Arts Council England funded Creative People and Place Programme for Sunderland and South Tyneside

Our aims are:

1. Increase participation in our wards
2. Enable excellent art to happen in our wards
3. Create a lasting social and cultural legacy for Sunderland and South Tyneside
4. Reflect and share learning

For further information visit – www.theculturalspring.org.uk

4. The Workshop Commission

We are able to offer funding of up to £1,250 per project.

We expect this funding to cover 20 hours of workshops/sessions, materials and all other costs. We are open to the art form used for the workshops and completed boats. There is some flexibility within the materials costs, but this needs to be made clear within the budget provided as part of an artist's proposal.

5. Specification

Through this commission we hope to achieve:

- High quality, ambitious art projects with strong artistic integrity
- Projects with a strong connection to the Tall Ships Races Sunderland 2018
- Innovative approaches to building relationships and engaging with community participants –with low levels of cultural engagement - which result in an increase in the amount of people participating in arts and culture and visitors to the Tall Ships event in 2018
- New opportunities for community members to get involved, participate and learn through doing art work that creates a high level of local excitement and pride, as well as attracting attention from beyond the area
- For the projects involving young people we are integrating a Discover and Explore Arts Award qualification as part of the offer, artists with this experience or an interest in training as an Arts

Award advisers are specifically being sought for these two projects

6. Timetable

- W/c 30th April - commission launched
- Sunday 13th May, 5pm - Deadline for submissions
- W/c 14th May – Shortlisted artists invited for interview with the project groups and The Cultural Spring team:
- W/c 21st May projects start with groups

7. Application

To apply please send the following in a single PDF or Word document to Michael.Barrass@theculturalspring.org.uk including reference: **Set the Sails** in your email subject.

1. Please describe your idea and approach to this workshop programme (max 500 words), identifying which group you would like to work with and why? Please note you can apply to work with both groups
2. Please give a brief biography (max 200 words) of your work and for any key organisations and/or artists/individuals involved in your bid
3. Please describe your approach to building partnerships and developing meaningful engagement with the participants involved in the project (max 500 words)
4. Please attach a proposed timeline, confirming your availability to deliver sessions at the groups requested days and times as set out on Page Two of this brief
5. Please attach a budget, specifically outlining your material costs

8. Selection

Through the application process we will assess the following –

1. Quality and ambition of the artistic approach
2. Track record of the company and or individuals
3. Quality of approach to building partnerships and developing engagement with local communities



4. Feasibility and deliverability
5. Value for money

Shortlisted projects will be invited to interview. All contracted artists / makers / creatives will need to have a current DBS and Public Liability Insurance up to £5 million cover.

9. Contact details

For further information, or to discuss a potential proposal, please email Michael.Barrass@theculturalspring.org.uk or Emma.Scarr@theculturalspring.org.uk.