

Creative Estuary is seeking a lead organisation to deliver a co-commission in Grays, Essex



MOONSEED by the MOONSEED Collective, a Creative Estuary Co-commissioned with Electric Medway 2021.

Creative Estuary invites proposals for a commission or series of micro-commissions that generate opportunities for creative practitioners to learn new skills, produce new work and make new connections. The invitation is open to organisations of all art forms based in or connected to Thurrock.

What is the co-commission for?

At the heart of the co-commission is the desire to generate opportunities for creative practitioners living in South Essex. In addition, the co-commission should benefit the lead organisation, for example:

- Broker new partnerships (between cultural and community organisations and businesses)
- Explore new ways of working (innovation, technology)
- Increase ambition and scale
- Find new audiences
- Deliver in alternative places and spaces (public realm, heritage sites, meanwhile use)

What do we mean by a co-commission?

Examples could be: several new commissions sited along a high street / a collective exhibition / a performance that could travel between venues / a festival of programmed activity. Whilst we are commissioning a lead organisation, we are looking for an activity that promotes

collectivism and enables and strengthens creative practitioners to produce new work and make new connections. We anticipate that the outputs should be free to access for the public. You can see examples of previous Creative Estuary co-commissions [here](#).

What is a creative practitioner?

Creative practitioners include artists, makers, producers and curators working across the creative industries.

The lead organisation

It is expected that the lead organisation has experience working with the creative industries. They will be responsible for all commission delivery and all matters relating to securing necessary insurance, permissions and licensing, contracts and agreements. The lead organisation can be based in Thurrock or have a connection to the area.

What is the investment?

We are offering up to £20,000 towards the delivery of the co-commission. This is inclusive of VAT. It is anticipated that a minimum of 70% of the total funding will reach creative practitioners. We anticipate organisations will seek additional cash and in-kind funding.

What is the timescale?

- Application deadline – **7th December 2022**
- Interviews – w/c 12th December 2022
- Appointment – January 2023
- Delivery - Spring 2023

How to apply

Please set your response to this invitation on no more than four pages A4, including images and weblinks if useful. We want to hear about your exciting ideas and ambitions and how you will work with creative practitioners to deliver a co-commission. Your proposal should tell us about the following:

- what you'd like to do
- how your project will involve and support creative practitioners
- who will benefit from your project and how audiences might engage
- what difference the co-commission will make to your organisation, and what will the impact be on your work
- how this supports your longer-term ambitions
- where your project will take place
- your connections to Grays and Thurrock
- how your project fits our ambitions for the Creative Estuary Co-commissions
- an indication of match funding and support
- your experience delivering a project like this

Criteria for selection

1. How clear your plans are to engage with and support creative practitioners
2. Evidence of how the co-commission will impact your organisation and its longer-term ambitions

3. How clearly you have demonstrated that this is new work and that it responds to this particular brief
4. How realistic and achievable is the co-commission in terms of delivery and budget

Selection

The successful lead organisation will be selected by a panel comprising members of the Co-commissioning advisory group (made up of curators, commissioners and producers with expertise across a range of art forms, including dance, performance, live art, music, film and visual arts), the Creative Estuary Project Director and a representative of Thurrock Council.

Deadline

Responses to this invitation should be emailed to Catherine Byrne, Creative Estuary Project Officer C.P.Byrne@kent.ac.uk, no later than noon on **7th December 2022**. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Catherine Byrne at the email above.

About Creative Estuary

Creative Estuary supports a wide range of cultural projects with new commissions for Estuary-based producers and artists, from activity for emerging cultural activists to large scale commissions with a diverse mix of partners. The Co-commissions raise widespread awareness of existing creative talent across the region and support creative practitioners and organisations to make and present new work. We are committed to engaging our local communities to contribute to their creative identity and will give artists, organisations and creative practitioners opportunities and support to help them realise their creative ambitions. The Co-commissions create opportunities for creative innovation and new cultural production - we want to capture imagination and provide opportunities for greater collaboration and knowledge sharing. For more information visit www.creativeestuary.com.

CREATIVE ESTUARY has a vision to forge a new future founded on creative energy and innovation, along the length of the Thames Estuary. The project is supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and led by the University of Kent on behalf of a consortium of public sector and cultural organisations. They include the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), Kent and Essex County Councils, the Greater London Authority, 11 local authority areas represented by Greater North Kent and Opportunity South Essex, South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN), University of Essex, Locate in Kent and cultural organisations Metal and Cement Fields. In early 2019 the University of Kent was awarded £4.3m from the DCMS Cultural Development Fund on behalf of the partners. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport funds the Cultural Development Fund which is administered by Arts Council England.

Supported using public funding by



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