

The Mayor of London's Liberty Festival Research & Development (R&D) Open Call for Proposals

The Mayor of London's Liberty Festival is committed to supporting new outdoor arts productions led by Deaf and disabled artists working across a variety of art forms. Following support from Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts Programme we are delighted to announce a new round of research and development awards for Deaf and disabled artists wishing to develop new ideas for outdoor arts productions.

Introduction & background

The Mayor of London's Liberty Festival is the UK's largest annual outdoor arts festival, showcasing the work of Deaf and disabled artists.

Over the years, a number of projects have been supported through Arts Council England funded research and development opportunities, leading to performances at Liberty and exposure and tours beyond the festival. Taken as a whole, this raft of work has made a very significant contribution to the establishment and sustainability of a new strand of outdoor arts led by Deaf and disabled artists.



Amongst artists who have been supported in the development of new work are Daryl Beeton and Nicola Miles-Wildin, Deaf and Hearing Ensemble, Rachel Gadsden with Architects of Air, Extant with Bureau of Silly Ideas and Chris Pavia and Stopgap Dance Company. Earlier this year Vital Xposure created “Pullen’s Giant” featuring large scale processional puppetry and Drake Music collaborated with Arts and Gardens to create an interactive musical installation in a garden, entitled “Planted Symphony”.



Over 235,000 people have attended the Liberty Festival since it first took place in 2003, with more than 300 artists and companies presenting work at Trafalgar Square, at the Southbank and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park over this period. This platform has played a key role in the support, development and progression of work by Deaf and disabled artists, and also Deaf and disabled audiences, with access a key priority at the event.

Liberty is keen to commission new and accessible outdoor arts productions, which can engage with diverse audiences with clear potential to move towards presentation at Liberty Festival 2018 and subsequent future touring across other UK and international outdoor arts festivals.

More about the R&D Awards

This is an open call for Deaf and disabled artists looking to undertake research and development for new outdoor arts projects.

We are seeking to offer two Research and Development Awards for new outdoor projects led by Deaf and disabled artists, demonstrating clear potential for moving towards presentation at the Liberty Festival in the summer of 2018.

Liberty welcomes proposals from Deaf and disabled artists (or proposals led by Deaf and disabled artists working in collaboration with non-disabled artists) focusing on the following areas:

- Projects drawn from a wide range of artforms including street theatre, dance, installation, circus, music, music theatre, digital arts and spoken word
- Work which is intended to engage with diverse audiences in an accessible way, in the context of a busy outdoor festival environment
- Work which is particularly designed to encourage active participation or engagement by on-site or pre-show audiences
- Work which is suitable for future touring beyond the Liberty Festival itself
- Small and medium scale outdoor work suitable for daytime presentation and flexible enough to work in variety of spaces.

The Greater London Authority (who organise Liberty Festival as part of the Mayor of London's annual events programme) will work with the R&D recipients to develop the resulting commissions for possible future presentation. However, this opportunity cannot be guaranteed at this stage, as it is dependent on the satisfactory outcome of the research and development and availability of future funding for the Liberty Festival.

Who is eligible for this opportunity

This opportunity is open to both individuals and organisations where the creative lead is by a person who self identifies as Deaf or disabled. It is open to practitioners working in any art form that can be presented outdoors. Only one application will be accepted from each artist or organisation.

Please note that these R&D awards are supported with Arts Council England funding. Therefore, the successful recipient of a R&D commission would be unable to apply to Grants for the Arts for match funding.

Practicalities

We have a budget of up to £7,000 to invest in R&D.

We expect to offer support to two proposals with a maximum investment of £3,500 each.

We welcome artists who have other investors in their R&D projects but this is not crucial at this stage.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on Friday 3 November 2017.

Applications will be reviewed by Liberty Festival Advisory Committee and shortlisted applicants will be contacted to present their proposal in w/b 13 November 2017.

Successful applicants are expected to deliver a developed proposal (whether in writing, film or other media) to include detailed plan for taking the proposal forward, and a budget with details of estimated costs, by end of January 2018.

How to apply for R&D support

To apply for a R&D commission please email to admin@festival.org the following, please note that the total upper limit for all the documents combined is 4MB:

- Completed application form
- R&D project budget
- CV for lead artist/s
- Supporting documentation evidencing your practice – this can be a single web link or up to three files in the formats of .jpg .pdf .mov .mp4 .mp3 .wav

If you need information about how to apply in different formats please get in touch with us at admin@festival.org

All projects in receipt of R&D funding will be asked to report back to the Liberty Festival Advisory Committee with a short written proposal and a detailed budget. Applicants should outline any access considerations within their proposal.

Anticipated Timeline

5pm on 3 November 2017 – deadline for submission of applications

w/b 13 November 2017 – shortlisted applicants will be invited to present proposals to Liberty Festival Advisory Committee

w/b 20 November 2017 – notification of successful applicants

27 November 2017 - 31 January 2018 - research and development period

Eligibility and Guidance

- Suitability of the project for outdoor presentation at the Liberty Festival
- Quality and strength of the artistic idea
- Deliverability
- Track record of artist or organisation
- Collaboration between Deaf and disabled artists and other arts organisations
- Realistic costed budget for R&D proposal and indicative budget for full commission
- Future potential to be staged elsewhere

Selection Panel

The selection panel will be made up of representatives from the Liberty Festival Advisory Group

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