

**Commission Brief
Visual Art Design Installation**

Rotunda Square

Friday 25 - Monday 28 August 2023



Birmingham Hippodrome seeks a Birmingham artist, maker or creative to develop and deliver a design concept for the **Rotunda Square** site at the heart of **Birmingham Weekender** festival 2023.

The design concept must include a striking installation that will be visible from distance and incorporate the design for a performance stage that is curated by young people including Hippodrome Young Advocates.

The installation could incorporate suspended elements alongside ground-based structures, interactivity and other technologies or mediums.

Birmingham Weekender is a major, free outdoor festival taking place from 25 – 28 Aug 2023, which sees the city's streets, squares and shopping centres burst into colourful life, exciting and inspiring people with surprising and spectacular performances and experiences from local, national and international artists.

Submissions are open now and close at 10am on Mon 19 June 2023.

Total available budget is a maximum of £20,000 to include design, build and realisation.

This commission is supported by Birmingham City Council and Arts Council England.

The Brief

We are looking for concepts that embrace the joy, colour and playfulness of the festival, able to immerse audiences to create collective, memorable, “goosebumps” moments with people of all ages. The commission is for a large scale outdoor site-specific visual art / design installation; however, this could be interpreted how you wish, and could be from any artistic genre that could be innovative and ambitious.

Although the design for the performance stage should be considered within the concept, we would encourage other aspects to be explored such as suspended elements, visitor viewing areas, interactivity, audio visual elements and installation pieces, the site should be accessible to all audiences.

The budget for the proposal must outline estimated costs for design fees, materials, fabrication, build and installation. Basic staging, technical infrastructure and artist fees for the curated stage programme sit outside this budget.

Hippodrome Young Advocates are central to the curation of the Rotunda Site and as such will be key to the appointment of the commissioned artist. We asked the Young Advocates to imagine the stage they'd like to see, and these were the most common themes they chose; immersive with sensory details, vibrant colours, bright, eye catching, catwalk and retro. It is assumed that conversations will take place between the artist and Hippodrome Young Advocates, facilitated by our team, at key points within the process.

Artists will be selected on the basis of an outline proposal and then will work with our creative and production team to develop the final budget, schedule and work.

The Site

Rotunda Square
Bullring & Grand Central

Home to the iconic Bullring Bull

Birmingham B5 4BU
What3Words: ///faces.agree.stages



Examples of support we could provide:

Subject to the commission expenditure and further refinement Birmingham Hippodrome (or partners) could support with elements of the installation commission.

- Advice and expertise in how to realise the design installation on Rotunda Square from a team who have worked in this space previously
- Partner companies to support with fabrication of a design within the budget available
- Support with installation methods for suspension of elements of a design
- Fire and safety compliance – including provision of fire fighting equipment within the site

Birmingham Hippodrome will take responsibility for the Event Management and safe running of Birmingham Weekender, therefore will require appropriate health and safety documentation relating to the commission. Birmingham Hippodrome adheres to 'The Purple Guide' guidance for outdoor events.

Birmingham Hippodrome will oversee all marketing and communications associated with Birmingham Weekender in conjunction with partners including Bullring & Grand Central. Opportunities for artwork announcements, interviews and further PR support will be available for the commission as part of the festival. We may require you to consider the festival branding within designed elements, and it may be necessary to incorporate logo promotion for partners and sponsors into the design of the site.

Key Dates:

1 June 2023 – 6.30pm to 8pm - Online Q&A session to find out more

19 June 2023 – 10am - Deadline for Submissions

29 June 2023 – Selection Day (invited for interview)

28 July 2023 – Provisional design deadline (to be negotiated with selected artist)

24 August - Install complete

25 August – 28 August – Birmingham Weekender Festival

29 August - De-rig

How to Apply:

Your proposal could be in written (max 4 sides), video or audio (max 10 minutes) format but must include;

- An initial vision and concept for your design (visuals/moodboards etc)
- How you (or your team) would approach the project
- A budget up to a maximum of £20,000 that clearly shows a breakdown of expenditure (design fees, materials, fabrication, build and installation)
- A timeline of how you will achieve your vision
- Links to previous design work or supporting information

Please send your proposal to: festivals@birminghamhippodrome.com

Shortlisting will be completed within 1 week of the deadline by Birmingham Hippodrome. We may come back to applicants with additional questions to refine our understanding. A selection panel comprising of members of Birmingham Hippodrome staff and Hippodrome Young Advocates will review commission applications.

Recognising under-representation of Black, Asian, and global majority people, and those with disabilities in our work, we particularly welcome commission applications from those backgrounds, identities, and experiences.

Your personal data will be held securely by Birmingham Hippodrome in accordance with the GDPR. The information you provide will be shared with the commission selection panel for the purposes of managing and communicating with you about this commission and its outcomes, and for reporting internally, to funders, and statutory bodies as part of standard reporting processes.

To ask questions about the commission or discuss any access support needs, this can be arranged over video call or by email. Please get in touch with us via: festivals@birminghamhippodrome.com