

Commission Brief Outdoor Performance

Mid-Large Scale Processional / Walkabout

Saturday 26 August 2023



Birmingham Hippodrome seeks a Birmingham artist, creative or company to conceive and realise an outdoor performance spectacle to take place within **Birmingham Weekender**. This performance should be able to be performed at least twice within the same day, provisionally to start and end the day's programme on Saturday 26 August 2023, at around 12pm and 5pm.

We see the commission being a processional performance of mid-large scale, with significant visual impact, which can travel across multiple sites within the festival, from Rotunda Square with the iconic Bullring Bull through to Southside on Hippodrome Square.

We are open at how you interpret the brief however we see the performance being a spectacle that captures the imaginations of audiences coming to the festival as well as visitors to the city.

Birmingham Weekender is a major, free outdoor festival which sees the city's streets, squares and shopping centres burst into colourful life, exciting and inspiring residents and visitors with surprising and spectacular performances and participatory 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 £15,000 to include all realisation costs.

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 within a performance to create collective, memorable, "goosebumps" moments with people of all ages. The commission is for a processional performance; however, this could be interpreted how you wish, and could be from any artistic genre that could be innovative and ambitious.

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. Artists will be selected on the basis of an outline proposal and then will have time to develop the final work.

The Festival Site

We imagine the processional performance travelling from Rotunda Square via Central Street, passing Chaopraya Square and St Martins Square reaching Edgbaston Street, continuing to Hippodrome Square.



Examples of support we could provide:

Subject to the commission expenditure and further refinement, Birmingham Hippodrome (or partners) could support with advice and expertise in how to realise the performance through multiple sites from a team who have worked in these spaces previously.

There may be production equipment available to support this performance commission with costs shared to maximise equipment usage, staffing and equipment hire periods.

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 performance announcements, interviews and further PR support will be available for the commission as part of the festival.

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 – Production meeting, to finalise production elements (to be negotiated with selected artist)

26 August 2023 – Birmingham Weekender - Performance day

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 performance (visuals/moodboards etc)
- How you (or your team) would approach the project
- A budget up to a maximum of £15,000 that clearly shows a breakdown of expenditure (artist fees, materials, rehearsal costs)
- A timeline of how you will achieve your vision
- Links to previous performance 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 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