

Expressions of Interest: Royal Docks Team Autumn 2021 Programme Commission

The Royal Docks Team invites expressions of interest (EOIs) from artists and arts organisations to develop a proposal and feasibility study for a large-scale creative commission to form part of the Royal Docks 2021 Autumn Programme.

We are looking for a live, performance-based event for family audiences from the Royal Docks and further afield, that is high quality, ambitious in scope and aspiration, responds to the people and place of the Royal Docks and involves active participation of local young people. The Royal Docks aims to support creative innovation and capacity building for local creative and cultural organisations. The EOI should outline your creative idea, how you can deliver on these objectives and your experience in delivering a project of this scale.

Up to three EOIs will be shortlisted to develop a proposal during a 6-week paid R&D stage in Feb / March (£5,000 per organisation). It is expected that one proposal will then be commissioned. The budget for the final commission is up to £200,000, to cover all costs associated with the project*.

EOI submission deadline: 10 February 2021

Objectives for the commission:

- Position the Royal Docks as a place of making, ideas, and experimentation.
- Actively involve, and feel relevant to, Royal Docks' young people, through the development and/or the making and/or the live delivery.
- Be inspired by, and rooted in, the people and place of the Royal Docks.
- Support the wider Royal Docks creative community through sharing/show and tell opportunities.
- Be inclusive and connect diverse communities.

Things to consider:

- The Royal Docks landscape / waterscape, both creatively and practically, including the weather (in October) and physical and technical constraints of the location/s, outdoor vs indoor.
- Builds in flexibility and adaptability to the circumstances of 2021: the project must adhere to the Government Coronavirus guidance and restrictions in place throughout the lifecycle of its creation and delivery.
- Audience: the intended audience for the live event is family audiences, both local and further afield.
- Our priorities to support capacity building locally: we will value projects that can demonstrate strong Royal Docks / Newham connections, partnerships and understanding.
- Local context: as a place that is young and diverse, we want to see how this

will be reflected in your project, the artists and organisations you might work with, and how it will feel relevant to Royal Docks communities.

- Sustainability, from a creative and practical perspective, such as: exploring a creative approach to making work that is environmentally sustainable; building a physically sustainable production; leaving a positive impact on the local community, environment and economy (e.g. local fabrication).
- Can be revived and toured.

Locations to consider:

See the list of possible outdoor locations using this [link](#).

There are also indoor venues around the Royal Docks that, with approval, could be used. This includes community centres, exhibition spaces and a music hall.

Guidance

Commission Process

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Applicants are asked to submit an outline EOI proposal, case studies / portfolio and completed forms.

Stage 2: Research & Development

Up to three shortlisted projects selected to undertake paid Research and Development to produce a detailed proposal that includes feasibility study, video / images, youth engagement plan, match funding proposal (if relevant), partnerships, risk register and budget. The shortlisted organisations will be awarded £5,000 each for this R&D stage and will be supported by the Royal Docks Team to develop the proposals.

At the end of R&D, as well as submitting a proposal digitally, shortlisted organisations will present their proposal to a panel.

Stage 3: Commission awarded

Following the panel presentation, it is expected that the successful proposal will be commissioned*.

** Please note we reserve the right to decide not to fund any of the projects and the project is subject to the necessary approvals*

Commission Timeline

EOI / R&D	Date/s
Stage 1: Expression of Interest Live	
EOI Deadline	10 February
EOI applicants notified	17 February
Stage 2: Shortlist R&D phase (paid)	17 February– 24 March
Stage 2: Shortlist proposal submission	24 March
Stage 3: Shortlist panel interviews	w/c 29 March
Stage 3: Successful commission awarded	By 5 April

Commission Production + Delivery	Date/s
Community engagement programme	Spring/Summer 21
Production	Summer – Sept 21
Live event	October 2021 (during first two weeks, dates TBC)
Evaluation	October – December 2021

Who can apply?

This opportunity is open to arts organisations/artists/partnerships with a strong track record of delivering ambitious live performance-based projects that include participation.

Projects can involve any artform, or across artforms, so long as the event is performed live, to a live audience

Projects can be developed in partnership, the lead organisation must be based in the U.K.

You must be available for the dates listed in the timelines above, including undertaking community engagement during Spring / Summer 2021 (to be agreed with the Royal Docks Team) and delivering the commission during the first two weeks in October 2021.

We are committed to delivering a diverse and inclusive programme that reflects our community. We welcome applications from arts organisations and artists of all backgrounds.

How to apply

Please send your Expression of Interest to: Royaldocksevents@london.gov.uk

Please mark your submission, **Expression of Interest** followed by your **organisation name OR first and last name**.

Please write a short covering email and attach as PDF:

- A three A4 page (maximum) proposal outlining your creative idea, how you will develop it, how it delivers on the objectives and how it addresses our 'things to consider'.
- Completed 'Applicant Form' document containing contact details, references, Data Protection Form and the (optional) Equalities Monitoring form – please download these forms [here](#).
- Include two case studies / portfolio with examples of similar work (and your partners if you're working in partnership) – this can be attached as a PDF, via WeTransfer or an online link.

If you need any assistance with the application process, or have any access requirements, please contact Lucy Loveday: Royaldocksevents@london.gov.uk

EOI submission deadline: 10 February 2021

Questions

You can find our list of FAQs below (pages 6 & 7).

If you have any further questions, or have access any access requirements please contact Lucy Loveday: Royaldocksevents@london.gov.uk to arrange a time to chat.

Questions received via email or phone will be noted so that we can update our FAQs for other applicants who may have similar questions. We will let you know when they have been updated.

More about the Royal Docks Team

Working closely with arts and community groups, we're unlocking the creative spirit of the Royal Docks. We want to bring vitality and vibrancy to our public spaces, boosting footfall and the visitor economy. The Royal Docks Team is a multi-disciplinary team that brings together officers from across the Greater London Authority, the London Borough of Newham and the London Economic Action Partnership.

Home to London's only Enterprise Zone, the Royal Docks is one of the most significant regeneration projects in the UK. The team was established in 2017 to help deliver the cohesive transformation of the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone, where seven million sq. ft of commercial space will see business rates reinvested for the benefit of the local community.

Working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders from local community groups to developers and local businesses, the team will deliver an ambitious £314 million investment programme over the next five years and beyond.

For further information, and to sign up to our mailing list, please visit:
www.royaldocks.london

Royal Docks Team Autumn 2021 Commission FAQs

Is there any support available to help with submitting the Expression of Interest?

Yes. If you have any access requirements, please get in touch with Lucy Loveday:
Email: Royaldocksevents@london.gov.uk.

What should I include in my Expression of Interest application?

- Three A4 page Expression of Interest
- The completed 'Applicant Forms' document containing contact details, references, Data Protection Form and the (optional) Equalities Monitoring form – please download these forms [here](#).
- Two case studies / portfolio (as a link or PDF attachment)

What information should Expression of Interest contain and in what format?

We want to hear your creative idea, how you will develop it, how it delivers on the objectives for the commission and addresses our 'things to consider'.

Please provide brief details if you are working in partnership with another organisation.

You may wish to use an illustration or an image in this outline.

We do not expect a worked-up proposal at this stage. Please attach as a PDF.

How long should the Expression of Interest document be?

Please keep your EOI to a maximum of three A4 pages.

What information should the two case studies / portfolio contain? What format should these supporting documents be in?

This is a chance to give us further insight into your project and to use relevant previous work to help demonstrate your artistic ambition and your ability to deliver.

The content should be previous work that supports your proposal, demonstrating innovative ideas and your experience (and your partners experience if working in partnership) to produce a project of scale and ambition.

You can include images, video links and any visuals, sound or writing that will help support your proposal. We do ask that you limit your supporting case studies document to a maximum of 6 A4 pages.

The two case studies / portfolio of your work can be submitted as either:

- a link to online case studies / portfolio
- via WeTransfer
- attached as a PDF

FAQs contd.

When and how will the decisions be made?

For the Expression of Interest stage, the Royal Docks Team members from the Culture & Activation Team will review the proposals. You will be notified of the outcome on 17 February 2021.

What is the deadline for the Expression of Interest?

You need to submit your Expression of Interest by **10 February 2021**. Unfortunately, we cannot review any EOIs received after this date.

Who should the references be?

Your references should be from organisations you have worked with previously and preferably within the last five years. We don't need the reference in full, just the name and contact details, relationship to you, together with permission that the Royal Docks Team may contact them.

Can organisations be working in partnership?

Yes, we welcome applications from partnerships. Please note, the lead organisation must be based in the U.K. Please include a brief overview of the partnership in your EOI document.

Can I speak to someone about my EOI?

Yes! We welcome questions and are happy to speak with applicants, please email Lucy Loveday: Royaldocksevents@london.gov.uk to arrange a chat.

Questions received via email or phone will be noted so that we can update our FAQs for other applicants who may have similar questions. We will let you know when they have been updated.