

Call for Expression of Interest

Deco Publique are inviting Expressions of Interest for artist commissions, performers and workshop facilitators as part of a programme of events occurring for young people in the Lakes and the Dales.

The Opportunity

We are contracting and commissioning artists of all disciplines to be part of a programme of events taking place in three locations in the South Lakes and the Yorkshire Dales from February to April 2020. For three consecutive weeks a curated programme from Music and Making to Design and Debating will emerge in Kendal, Settle and Bentham - rural locales with distinctive identities and communities.

The artworks/workshops/performances/music gigs should engage and support young people to become creatively empowered in their own spaces.



Lydia McCaig GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS - Photography Robin Zahler

About the Project

THE FOLD will be a programme of events including drop in and bookable art workshops, live music sessions, performances, talks and other stimulating projects that will occur for three/four weeks in one location, before moving onto another two locations in the two consecutive months.

The project will take place in:

Kendal in February 2020

Settle in March 2020

Bentham in April 2020

The programme will work to enliven small towns and villages, making these localities attractive propositions for young people. THE FOLD will connect people who care about social change, creativity, activism but perhaps lack the resources to realise their aspirations.



Nu Jazz Project - Photography Robin Zahler

THE FOLD will bring people together, educate, mentor, and encourage the ambitions of a series of small collectives for a period of up to 4 weeks, leaving a legacy of emboldened and informed people, collaborating in groups to carry forward their experiences, continue to deliver projects and highlight the creative assets that exist in their community.

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The proposed approach to deliver this activity in a series of smaller localities, co-programmed by the people that live there, allows for accessibility and impact.

The project aims to engage people, aged 16 to 21 who already engage with cultural activities but feel the provision in their locale should be expanded; as well as people of the same age group who do not usually engage with cultural activities but by engaging with the project may be inspired to engage with other similar activities in the future.

We are looking for artists, creative practitioners and speakers who have an understanding of the geographical limitations, challenges and opportunities of rural locations, and how these can be turned into assets for creative entrepreneurs and makers.



Deco Publique Programme - Photography Robin Zahler

Ideally, commissioned artists will live and work, have been educated in/grown up in or moved to, similar rural demographics and locations (not limited to Lakes & Dales), and can highlight the benefits these rural and semi rural locations give to young people

The contracted artists should be able to relate, not only to the location but also to the mindset of young people deciding on their futures and therefore we are particularly looking for Expressions of Interest from young artists (ideally aged 25 and under).

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We are looking to commission/contract artists and entrepreneurs that can provide workshops/performances/talks that:

- Stimulate new initiatives and the multi-use of buildings and spaces connected to the communities
- Give more young people a reason to consider the place where they grew up to be a place where they have an ability to express themselves and have an opportunity to live a fulfilled life
- Develop creative and hands-on skills especially for young people
- Positively change perceptions, especially for younger people, of these predominantly rural regions
- Demonstrate that rural skills and traditions are very much a part of contemporary life

Great Place: Lakes and Dales

THE FOLD is part of the Great Place:Lakes and Dales project – a programme working to retain & attract new generations by putting arts, heritage & culture at the heart of local communities in the South Lakes and Craven Districts. Great Place: Lakes and Dales is one of 16 pilot projects in England funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England. It is focused on the rural corridor linking Skipton in the south and Grasmere in the north, including the market towns and rural hinterlands, extending into both the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks. The programme is working to highlight the opportunities of the region and prevent the young people leaving for the cities, which are deemed to be more affordable, have more jobs, and be more accessible.

About the locations

Kendal is a market town and civil parish in the South Lakeland District of Cumbria, England. It is known today mainly as a centre for tourism and has a population of 28,586 according to the 2011 census.

Settle is a small market town and civil parish in the Craven district of North Yorkshire, England. The town has a population of 2,421 according to the 2001 Census increasing to 2,564 at the 2011 Census.

Bentham is a civil parish in the Crave district of North Yorkshire, England, with a population of 3,027 at the 2011 Census.^[1] The parish includes the small town of High Bentham, occasionally known as Higher Bentham or just Bentham, and the older adjacent village of Low Bentham.

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About the Programme

We are looking to curate a programme of activity that may include:

- Skilled making and art workshops providing taster sessions for people who may not usually have access to this kind of activity - eg screen printing, clay and pottery work, fashion design, textiles, street art, electronic and music making
- Talks programmed by young people on the issues that matter to them - eg power of community activism for change / political debates that connect to this demographic / creativity for mental health / transport networks / meaningful gap years
- Art showcase and creative exhibitions
- Music nights, open mic events or spoken word pieces
- Live performance in dance and theatre
- We are open to supporting the realisation of a new idea or artwork as an original commission that responds to the project outlines expressed here.

The programme is not limited to these activities only, we encourage any other appropriate suggestions.

Essential Requirements

- Adaptable to various indoor locations such as unused gallery spaces to an auction mart.
- Lots of enthusiasm and energy
- Willingness to travel to the South Lakes and Yorkshire Dales
- A passion for working with young people
- Understanding of growing up in a rural location and running a creative business/art practice there
- Young artists making a business from their artform.

We have opportunities for commissions and delivery contracts ranging from £350 to £2000.

How to Apply -

We aim to avoid the necessity for artists to provide extensive information - as part of the open call we request the following:

A 500 word Expression of Interest on why you would like to take part in The Fold.

With reference to:

- What attracts you to this project
- Your artform and how you imagine you would contribute to the programmes i.e. workshop/performance/talk (please note, this does not need to be a fully formed proposal)
- Outline of your background living and working creatively in rural settings

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- Experience and interest in engaging with young people in a participatory setting
- Please provide links to your work online on a website, in articles or Instagram, with reference where possible to examples of your work that have the most relevance to this project

If you would prefer not to share online links please share a PDF document with visual examples of your work - PDF no more than 10mb.

Please send Expressions of Interest to lauren@decopublique.co.uk

Deadline for Expressions of Interest is Thursday 28th November 2019

THE FOLD is devised and curated by Deco Publique - we create mass and intimate award winning cultural festivals, original commissions and creative projects that transform seafronts, rural landscapes and town centres with uplifting, accessible and memorable experiences.

www.decopublique.co.uk

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www.lakesanddales.org