

## Nottingham Light Night Artist-led commissions 2022



Nottingham Light Night 2022 will be the thirteenth edition of this highly successful event, which brings high quality accessible work to Nottingham city centre after dark and attracts thousands of visitors across a range of demographic backgrounds.

A number of innovative, interactive and engaging installations, performances and activities will take place across the city.

Funding for a number of artist-led commissions is available worth between £1,000-£3,000 per project.

Light Night 2022 will again invite proposals around the theme 'Rebel City'. However, creatives are welcome to submit other ideas that add vibrancy, ambition and a unique offer, to the event.

### Historical context of Rebel City

Nottingham is the Rebel City. It has been for centuries. There is something ingrained deep in our civic psyche that makes us defiant in the face of oppression and brave fighting it. It's impossible to precisely put a finger on where this attitude began, but having Robin Hood, fighter of class injustice, as your most famous local character certainly helps. We have a tradition of opposing the establishment, inspired by Robin, but also the signing of Magna Carta (1215) which was fought for, in part, in Nottingham and prevented Robin's famous enemy King John, and subsequent monarchs, from doing whatever they pleased.

During the English Civil War (1642-51) we declared support for the Parliamentarian fight against Charles I and his outdated idea that kings had a divine right to rule. In the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries we fought in the streets and the workplace for everything from fairer food prices and political reform to better working conditions and job security. Feargus O'Connor and Helen Kirkpatrick Watts made Nottingham a key battleground in the national and international movements of Chartism and Women's Suffrage respectively, while the Luddite movement, a fight for job security against unscrupulous bosses, had its very beginnings here – we broke old frameworks and made our common voice heard.

At the centre of these stories and traditions and often as a symbol of oppression, overlooking Nottingham from atop its rock, was the Castle itself. It was the stronghold for Prince John's supporters against Richard I and the site where Charles I unsuccessfully raised his Civil War banner. In 1831 after a challenge to the status quo, the Reform Bill, was rejected in Westminster, we marched through the city and burned the Castle to the ground.

Our art has always reflected our rebelliousness. DH Lawrence, the banned author of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *The Rainbow*, unapologetically flouted the law to produce some of the

country's most celebrated literature. Lord Byron and Alan Sillitoe both profoundly captured the universal sense of youthful disillusionment with authority that is still so visible in our rich youth sub-cultures. More recently, that persevering quality has been clear to see in the films of Shane Meadows, the breakdancing of Rock City Crew, the poetry of Panya Banjoko and the music of Out Da Ville and Sleaford Mods.

Nottingham is still a Rebel City. We have activism coursing through our veins. We've battled racism in the streets since 1958 and before and, inspired by Eric Irons, we've continued to fight racial discrimination, including the founding of the UK's first chapter of Black Lives Matter. And just look at those who fought to make misogyny an official hate crime, advocated for refugees, walked out of school for climate change or made Nottingham one of the country's most LGBTQ+-friendly cities. The hard work of our charities, grassroots organisations and community workers, as well as the high number of independent businesses are all testament to that enduring Nottingham spirit – we won't just accept the position you give us. If it's wrong, we'll tell you and if you don't change it, we will!

### **Light Night 2022**

The 2022 event will again take place across two nights on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February**. The event is expected to attract 50,000 people, with a social media reach of over 600,000.

The event is co-ordinated by Nottingham Events with support from Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID) with potential for public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England following a recent award submission.

### **Artist-led commissions**

We are inviting artists and creatives either working independently, or as a part of a collective, - possibly involving either Nottingham based local communities and/or local businesses - to present a commission as a part of the event.

The commissions should be presented across both evenings (17:00 – 22:00 nightly), with any build or rehearsal requirements able to be accommodated 24-hours prior, meaning that access to proposed event locations will be no earlier than 17:00hrs Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

All proposals must be adaptable to be suitable for any Covid restrictions in place at the time. For example, please consider the use of outdoor sites\*.

*\*Previously Light Night has commissioned indoor work as a part of our programming. Indoor programming is welcomed for 2022, but this should be accompanied by a Covid-safe risk assessment along with details as to how access to the proposed installation will be managed should the Public Health situation change by February.*

Public spaces across the city may be utilised including Trinity Square, Sneinton Market Square, Robin Hood statue, St Peter's Square, Smithy Row, Brian Clough statue, Goosegate / Heathcoat Street, Low Pavement, Listergate and Station Street.

Alternatively you may propose other locations, but these will be subject to landowner permissions, and may incur other costs.

Projects may build on or present existing work, your proposal doesn't have to be a new commission. We are particularly interested in supporting projects that have a legacy beyond

this event, perhaps visiting other venues/locations, with Nottingham Light Night being recognised as a co-commissioner.

You must have valid public liability insurance certificate to the value of £5m for the activity being staged.

You must be able to submit a risk assessment, method statement and any Covid-safe documentation for the activity being staged.

The available budget for commissions is £1,000 - £3,000 (exclusive of VAT) per project. Proposals may seek additional match funding from other sources to realise this project, however you will be responsible for raising any additional funding required.

Work should be fully accessible for those with mobility issues.

### **Your submission & next steps**

If you are interested in submitting a proposal please:

1. Outline your proposal (maximum 2 sides of A4) including but not limited to the following:
  - a. What you intend to do
  - b. Who are the target audience and how will you engage them
  - c. Who is involved including biographies of key personnel and artists / creatives involved
  - d. Please include images / artist impressions if these are available to help animate your proposal
2. Provide a budget breakdown to include all costs for artist fees, materials and production required to realise your project.

Please do not budget for mains / generator power and distribution which can be provided in-house, and as such should be excluded from any budget submitted.

Crowd control barriers, event stewarding and overnight security will be provided as a part of an event-wide requirement and should be excluded from any budget submitted.

Selection and commissioning will be based on the quality of your idea and the ability to deliver within the timescales and budget.

Please email your proposal to [richard.buxton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:richard.buxton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) marked 'Light Night Artist Commission 2022' by **09:00 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**.

Applicants will be contacted with the outcome at the latest by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

### **Rules and Regulations**

There are limited criteria for our artist led commissions to enable as many artists, creatives and organisations to submit as possible. However, please note the following:

The deadline is **09.00 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**. Any submissions that arrive late will not be considered.

If you wish to submit via hard copy, please contact us in good time to make alternative delivery arrangements.

The assessment of the submissions will be made by the team managing Light Night.  
We reserve the right to invite applicants to an interview before a final decision is made.

At our discretion, after receiving proposals, we are permitted to not commission any work, or commission multiple proposals if work is of a high quality and can be achieved within budget.

The decision of the Light Night team is final and no correspondence will be entered into, in regards to decisions made. You must agree to this in order to be eligible.

Once a decision is made, a contract with agreed targets, outcomes and commission milestones will be agreed with the successful applicant.

For further information or to discuss your proposal please contact:

Richard Buxton  
Event Manager – Civic and Community  
[richard.buxton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:richard.buxton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 876 5585.