



East Durham Trust
Moving our community forward



EAST DURHAM CREATES – ARTISTIC COMMISSION 2018

ARTIST BRIEF

This Place We Call Home

‘This Place We Call Home’ is a three-cycle commissioning process 2018-2020 that will further establish East Durham’s reputation as a place that creates relevant, exciting and inspiring art. Our approach will put collaborative working at its heart – bringing field-leading artists in to work with groups of people facing deprivation, isolation and unemployment. The artists we work with will share our passion for experimenting, fully understand what high-quality looks and feels like, take risks, be ambitious and open to having an enabling role: building our creative capacity with the aim of increasing long-term engagement.

Quality of participation and engagement processes, artistic product and audience experience is paramount to success and the building of creative, more deeply embedded legacies.

Commission for East Durham

East Durham Creates is seeking to commission a **major arts project for communities and audiences in East Durham**. The commission will develop work that will be grown across East Durham with a shared, culminating event within the breath-taking Durham Heritage Coast locality of Crimdon Dene during late summer 2018.

This first cycle of commissioning will target Families – audiences and participants (2018).

This will be followed by Older People (2018-19) and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (2019).

Crimdon is a village in County Durham, England. It is situated on the North Sea coast, between Blackhall Rocks and Hartlepool on the A1086 road. Crimdon was formerly a popular holiday resort for miners and their families from nearby towns and villages, on account of its affordability for low-income workers. During the 1960s Butlins took an interest in buying the Crimdon Dene Holiday Park there from Easington District Council, but the sale was declined as Butlins intended to charge people to use the beach. The 1970s and 80s saw Crimdon's decline as a resort as the popularity of foreign travel increased. Crimdon Dene is a local nature reserve between the A1086, Crimdon Viaduct, and the beach. Crimdon Beck runs through the dene, which normally has a dried-up stream bed during the summer. Terns now nest on the beach and the area has become popular with birdwatchers as tourism has waned.

The Commission

[East Durham Creates](#) is one of 21 [Creative People and Places](#) projects nationally, funded by Arts Council England. It is currently managed by Beamish Museum and [East Durham Trust](#) working in partnership and supported by Durham County Council via the East Durham Area Action Partnership and Culture and Sport Services.

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Through this commission, we seek to develop:

- High quality, ambitious art projects with very strong artistic integrity
- Projects with a strong connection to our communities: responding to stories, diverse and often challenging social contexts, places, people, hopes and ambitions
- An opportunity for local people to help create, take part in and ultimately see work that they have not previously had the opportunity to see in a stunning natural and built environment that has a powerful history
- Innovative approaches to building relationships and engaging with communities – especially communities with low levels of cultural engagement. This should result in an increase in the amount of people participating in and making arts and culture in East Durham
- New opportunities for community members to get involved, participate and learn through doing quality artistic work that creates a high level of local excitement and pride, as well as attracting attention from beyond the area

We are open to ideas around art-form, though we imagine performative work will be a core element in what is developed. Furthermore, we would like to give consideration to work that could carry possible ‘staging posts’ along the road to a culminatory event and digital narratives.

The work could be led by a single artist supported by a team, a collective, an organisation or a partnership.

The work should be developed between March 2018 and September 2018 with a culminatory event in Crimdon Dene/Beach in August 2018. There will a process of evaluation and post-commission development in September 2018.

A hot desk will be available at East Durham Creates.

Budget

- There is a maximum budget of **£50,000** available to the successful proposal. This figure is **inclusive of VAT**. This will need to cover all artistic and technical costs, engagement and participation costs, travel expenses, transportation of materials, PLI and DBS and any copyright permissions required.
- A contribution towards evaluation and documentation processes will be drawn from this budget.

Commissioning Process

East Durham Creates will act as Executive Producers across the commission. Creative, strategic and operational support will be provided by the team on a week-to-week basis: this includes Ben Ayrton (Artistic Associate, Lead Commissioner), Cat Jarman (Creative Producer), Maria Abbott (Communications and Engagement Co-ordinator) and Malcolm Fallow (CEO, East Durham Trust).

The commissioning process will roll out in a number of stages:

| | COMMISSIONING STAGE | DATE |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Commission Advertised/Disseminated | w/c 22 nd Jan 2018 |
| 2 | Interested parties converse with EDC Artistic Associate – this is a crucial part of the process through which will provide context and guidance prior to proposals being accepted | 22 nd Jan – 2 nd Feb 2018 |
| 3 | Draft Proposals accepted – feedback given to some/all proposals in respect of strengthening ideas/process if necessary | Not before 16 th Feb 2018 |
| 4 | Adapted proposals accepted/Final proposal deadline | Deadline 2 nd March 2018 |
| 5 | Shortlisting | 9 th March 2018 |
| 6 | Guided visits to Crimdon Dene and EDC/EDT meetings for shortlisted proposals | w/c 12 th March 2018 |
| 7 | Interviews/Presentations | w/c 19 th March 2018 |

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| 8 | Commissioning | w/c 26 th March 2018 |
| 9 | Commissioning Delivered (5 Months) | April 2018 – Aug 2018 |
| 10 | Post-Commission Process | Sept 2018 |

Only shortlisted proposals will be invited to interview. East Durham Creates will cover any reasonable costs associated with travelling to interviews or programme visits.

All artists contracted will be expected to have an Enhanced DBS and Public Liability Insurance up to £5million cover.

Application Process

Please contact Ben Ayrtton, Artistic Associate, prior to making an application. Ben works p/t freelance, so please make initial contact via email with details of how and when it might be best for him to contact you.

Ben is at ben@eastdurhamcreates.co.uk. This early discussion is a critical part of the process through which guidance, support and programme context can be offered. For general enquiries, East Durham Creates is at 0191 518 5073.

Following discussion - to apply please email the following in a single PDF document to Ben, with reference to – **East Durham Creates, This Place We Call Home Commission** in your email header.

1. Please describe your idea and approach to this commission. This should include details on the following (maximum 1200 words):
 - Your core artistic idea
 - How this idea demonstrates ambition – artistically, for audiences, for participants
 - How this idea has relevance to the history, context and geography of the area
2. Please give a biography of your work and for any key organisations and/or artists involved in your proposal – you can include links to websites, film, images and reviews (maximum 400 words)
3. Please describe your approach to building creative partnerships and developing meaningful engagement with local communities in East Durham to realise this proposal (maximum 400 words)
4. Please attach a proposed, draft timeline (include contact days/workshops with the communities, writing, rehearsals, performance dates – we understand this will be subject to practical negotiation and change). Please also address your ideas on delivery contingency should your operational context change or be challenged
5. Please attach a detailed budget.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to supply two references.

Key dates

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Applications Open* | 22 nd January 2018 |
| Final Applications Deadline | 2 nd March 2018 |
| Shortlisted Applicants - East Durham Creates Visit | w/c 12 th March 2018 |
| Interviews and Presentations | w/c 19 th March 2018 |

*Please note that DRAFT PROPOSALS can be submitted for discussion and feedback - not before 16th Feb 2018. This is not an obligation and draft proposals will not be scored in any way – this is purely a developmental process, if required, to help support proposals to be in the strongest possible place prior to final submission.

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Selection

Through the application process we will assess the following:

1. Artistic Quality, Audiences, Participation, Track-Record – Max Score 20

- a) Quality and ambition of the core artistic idea (Max Score 5)
- b) Quality and ambition of the artistic approach – for audiences and participants (Max Score 5)
- c) Relevance to context and locality (Max Score 5)
- d) Previous experience and track-record of delivering artistic processes and products of the highest quality (Max Score 5)

2. Engagement – Max Score 5

- e) Quality of approach to and process of building partnerships and developing engagement with local communities

3. Feasibility and Deliverability – Max Score 5

- f) Feasibility, deliverability and risk mitigation

4. Value for Money – Max Score 5

- g) Value for money – This Place We Call Home assumes 100% funding. Applications *may*, however, be strengthened when they can demonstrate match funding both in-kind and cash

Scoring: 0 = doesn't address at all, 1 = possible incidental benefit, 2 = likely incidental benefit, 3 = Some evidence of benefit, 4 = Good evidence of benefit, 5 = Strong evidence of benefit. Total Maximum Score = 35

The applications will be assessed by East Durham Creates/East Durham Trust team members and members of the This Place We Call Home Advisory Group – the Advisory Group is made up of local arts champions, critical friends and funding representatives.

Further Information

To discuss any aspect of this commission and its process, please email ben@eastdurhamcreates.co.uk, or call East Durham Creates office at 0191 518 5073.

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