

Doorstep Show Commission Call out

The Spark Arts for Children

The Spark Arts for Children is a busy children's art organisation based in Leicester. We organise a bold and imaginative children's arts festival and a year round multi-art form programme.

The Spark works to provide extraordinary experiences for children, sparking creativity and change. For more information about The Spark please click [here](#).

Vital Spark

Vital Spark is a four year programme managed by The Spark that aims to shift the landscape of performance for children and young people through an artist development and commissioning programme.

Vital Spark aims to address the lack of diversity in the children's sector. We understand that an artist's social and political identities can combine to create different conditions of discrimination and privilege and we take an intersectional view to diversity.

Therefore Vital Spark supports and presents work by artists who identify as one or more of the following, African diaspora people, South, East or South East Asian people, or ethnically diverse and/or D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent people.

Vital Spark works to ensure that young people and children are represented and given role models within theatre.

For more information about Vital Spark please click [here](#).

Doorstop Shows 2021 - Commission overview

We are on a mission to ensure that children and their families are able to enjoy amazing art and fantastic cultural experiences at The Spark Festival 2021. As part of this we will commission an artist, collection of artists or company to make and present a live performance at the doorsteps of children and their families across Leicester at The Spark Festival.

Brief

We are reimagining how we work and trying new things. We are open to all ideas of how we might realise the doorstep shows. We would like to keep our brief as open as possible to hear wide ranging proposals. We are looking to work with artists with ideas that:

- Inject joy, are fun, fantastical & bold
- Are simple in concept, but impactful, meaningful and memorable
- Burst with an intensive & intimate interaction with audiences
- Creatively reimagine how we use a space outside someone's door

Practical Information

- We welcome applications from independent artists, a collection of artists & companies
- We will consider adaptations of existing work, or brand new ideas
- We welcome proposals across all performing art forms
- Shows should be enjoyed by audiences aged 0-100 years old
- Shows should be no longer than 10 minutes

- Shows should be able to take place outside a home and be adaptable to the different spaces this will present (on a driveway, pavement, in a front garden etc)
- Ideas can be performed solo, socially distanced or as a company bubble
- Shows should embrace outdoor performance in February
- The Spark will provide an event manager to support the presentations in Leicester
- The Spark will manage the bookings of doorstep shows and marketing to our audience, with the support of the artist/artists/company.

Covid-19 Safety

The Spark Arts for Children will support you to ensure that all activity is delivered in line within national restrictions and risk assessed against The Spark's Covid-19 safety procedures, and requirements from Leicester City Council. We understand the challenges of presenting work during the pandemic and we will work with the chosen artist/s to navigate this to ensure positive outcomes.

Commissioning fee

The commission is £5,000 and this should include all planning, rehearsals, performances, production costs, accommodation, travel, provision of show image and copy.

Performances will take place at The Spark Festival between Friday 12 February to Sunday 14 February. Multiple performances will take place over the course of a day.

Any Intellectual Property rights that may arise will be those of the originating artist/s. These rights will be assigned to The Spark Arts for Children exclusively for a period of one year from the first performance, as part of this fee. The Spark Arts for Children will be credited as commissioner for any productions during this period.

Who can apply?

Vital Spark supports and presents work by artists who identify as one or more of the following, African diaspora people, South, East or South East Asian people, or ethnically diverse and/or D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent people. To apply for the commission you must identify as such. You must have the right to work in the UK.

How do I apply?

You can apply by completing the short expression of interest form or by sending in a short video or audio application answering the same questions. Please note that the method of the submission format should reflect the access needs of the applicant.

If you require The Spark to make any reasonable adjustments to the application process to make it more accessible for you please contact vitalspark@thesparkarts.co.uk to discuss this.

Please send your completed expression of interest form or direct any enquiries to vitalspark@thesparkarts.co.uk.

Deadline for submissions: **Wednesday 18 November by 12.00pm**

How will the commission be chosen?

Expressions of interests will be considered by The Spark team.

If you would like to discuss this project with The Spark team before submitting we would be more than happy to arrange a short phone call. As we are currently working remotely please email vitalspark@thesparkarts.co.uk to arrange a time to speak.

Timeline

We are working to the following projected timeline:

Deadline for expression of interest **Wednesday 18 November by 12.00pm**

Interviews for shortlisted ideas (online video call): **Monday 23 November (PM)**
or
Wednesday 25 November (PM)

Confirmation of commission: **W/C Monday 30 November**

Marketing copy and images sent to The Spark: **Monday 14 December**

Sharing the development of work with The Spark team: **Wednesday 20th January**

Doorstep Performances at Spark Festival: **Friday 12 February (PM), Saturday 13 February
& Sunday 14 February 2021**

Note: A full production schedule will be agreed with the artist/s/company which could include arriving in Leicester on Thursday 11 February.