

# RiverLight 2024

**hub**

## Artist Brief - Festival Commissions

### Introduction:

RiverLight is a celebration of Sleaford - its history, stories and unique spaces, with the river at its heart. The festival launched in March 2022 as part of post-pandemic celebrations, and continued with great success in October 2023. The third RiverLight event is scheduled for June 2024 coinciding with the summer solstice.

**RiverLight Festival Fringe:** 15 - 21 June 2024

**RiverLight Festival Finale:** Sat 22 June 2024 (event times tbc 10am - 8pm)

**Location:** Sleaford town centre (wider Sleaford and surrounding villages will also be considered for Fringe activity and community engagement).

RiverLight is supported by North Kesteven District Council and the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). It has been funded under the Communities & Place investment priority, specifically to strengthen social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, enhance physical, cultural and social ties and increase access to amenities such as community infrastructure, local green spaces and community-led projects.

We are now seeking proposals from artists for a number of specific opportunities for RiverLight 2024. Artists can apply for one or more strands of work.

**DEADLINE: Wednesday 31 January 2024**

### Riverlight ethos:

RiverLight will showcase the best of Sleaford, and shine a light on all the creativity that flourishes here. We want an exciting and uplifting event programme that celebrates this area and brings our communities together. Our co-produced festival programme, artworks, commissions and installations will:

- Be inspiring and joyful
- Be sustainable and ethical
- Be inclusive and accessible
- Connect people together
- Develop local pride of place
- Celebrate the culture and heritage of Sleaford and the River Sle.

## **What we are looking for:**

Artists should consider how they can collaborate with local communities, schools, venues and voluntary groups. Workshops with creative activities should be delivered in the lead up to the festival allowing sufficient time for the creation of the artworks and (where relevant) the installation of the artworks in agreement with the RiverLight Team. Activities can take place at the Hub and in/around town in and at other festival venues and locations (eg Sleaford Library, Sleaford Youth Club, faith centres, cafes, residential street pop-ups, Eastgate Green, The Nettles).

The current opportunities are as follows:

### **Strand 1:**

Creation of co-ordinated, high impact visual artwork installations around town and in festival locations. These will:

- create a vibrant festival atmosphere, within an agreed colour scheme
- include 2D and 3D artworks such as flags, banners, flowers and bunting
- be bright, fun and full of impact
- be inspired by river flora / fauna themes and / or local cultural and heritage themes
- be environmentally friendly
- be up for the festival fringe and finale
- be weatherproof if outdoors, and securely fixed
- engage the public in the making of artworks including local youth groups, faith centres, businesses, schools, venues, care homes etc
- engage specific creative groups in the making of artworks including Sleaford Embroiderers, Sleaford Art Group, Hub Craft Club, Hub Home Ed & Saturday Club participants, Hub gallery visitors etc.

Artists can decide if they want to create installations for either / both of the following:

- in town centre locations, encouraging people to visit festival venues, shops and cafes etc (Sleaford Library, Bristol Arcade, Riverside Centre, Southgate, Carre Street are high priority areas)
- in residential streets along the river along festival routes - creating window/street facing garden festival decor (New Street / East Banks / West Banks are high priority areas)

### **Strand 2:**

Creation of wind and wing inspired festival parade costumes (eg capes, wings, head-dresses). These will:

- be bright, fun and full of impact, within agreed colour scheme
- relate to river flora / fauna themes
- engage the public including local groups, businesses, schools, venues, care homes etc
- be environmentally friendly
- consider weather conditions for the parade
- be inclusive and consider different members of the community

### **Strand 3:**

Heritage inspired artwork installations / activities. These should:

- create installations and / or activities for the river path and other relevant heritage sites, referencing sites of Sleaford's historic mills and ancient history (details can be shared once artists are confirmed, we have local historians ready to go!)
- celebrate and raise awareness of hidden / unknown heritage of the town
- consider ways to be multi-disciplinary and possibly include digital elements
- engage the public including local groups, businesses, schools, venues, care homes etc in creation of artworks / activities

- offer activities for the NK Walking Festival and promote the When in Sleaford Trail.
- be environmentally friendly
- be up for the festival fringe and finale, and potentially throughout June, July and August if viable.
- be weatherproof and consider vandalism issues.

### **Selection process:**

Please complete a proposal form here:

<https://hub-sleaford.org.uk/news/riverlight-festival-2024-call-out-for-artists> and email a maximum of 10 examples of your previous work to [lucy@hub-sleaford.org.uk](mailto:lucy@hub-sleaford.org.uk). We Transfer or other shared online files can also be accepted. Please include an image list (artwork title, date, location, event etc) so we understand what we are looking at.

**Please ensure you put your name and RiverLight Artist Proposal in the email subject line, and include your name and an image reference on all of your images files.**

Artists can apply for one or more strands of work, please specify which is your top priority. Please also let us know if / how your idea is scalable.

We expect that all costs relating to the delivery of the engagement programme and artwork creations are detailed in your proposal. Please specify if any other funding is being offered by partners.

Where more proposals are received than funding can support, we will support the highest quality proposals that:

- strongly connect to the values and themes of RiverLight
- engage audiences in an inclusive way
- encourages collaboration with local communities, groups and venues
- develop new ways of working for our festival
- offer good value for money.

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If you need any further support or have any questions, please email [lucy@hub-sleaford.org.uk](mailto:lucy@hub-sleaford.org.uk) or [marion@hub-sleaford.org.uk](mailto:marion@hub-sleaford.org.uk). Proposals can be submitted at any time, but those received after the deadline will not be considered.

