



## OPEN CALL: *St' George's Fayre, Parade Commission*

### ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

**MarketPlace** is excited to commission an artist, (or artists), artistic collective or arts organisation to create a series of parade puppets, banners or other creative elements for a St. George's Fayre parade on Sunday 27th April in the Cambridgeshire town of March. These elements will be created with and by community members and groups during 5 days of workshops as well as 1-3 larger scale elements that can be made by the artists independently and carried or performed by the community members in the parade. You may want to consider the St. George and the Dragon story as part of your proposal or instead respond in another way, either by celebrating spring, nature or colour.

**St. George's Fayre**, is an annual festival that takes place around St. George's Day and is a celebration of community and creativity. In 2025 MarketPlace will be taking responsibility for a programme of hands-on creative activities, entertainment and activities for everyone to get involved with. We are also responsible for the community parade that takes place through the town centre for which we are offering this commission.

**MarketPlace** is a Creative People and Places project funded by Arts Council England. We are about making more people take the lead in shaping, creating and taking part in arts and culture experiences in the places where they live. **MarketPlace** embraces the unusual and unique rural landscapes of the Fenland region of Cambridgeshire and the Forest Heath area of West Suffolk. We work with communities giving them an equal role at the heart of decision making about the type of arts events they want to see in the places where they live.

### WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU NEED?

This opportunity is open to individuals, collectives and organisations, from anywhere in the UK. You will need to travel to the Cambridgeshire town of March for programme delivery. We invite applications from UK based artists and practitioners who may be working in carnival / festival / puppetry / performance / visual arts.

Essential skills required:

- Some experience in co-creation/ workshop facilitation/ community-led practices, ideally in a parade/carnival/festival context
- Adaptability to adjust event/programme plans to suit the community's interests
- Accessibility: Confidence in working with diverse ages and backgrounds

## **WHERE & WHEN**

The work will be co-created with our communities in March, throughout late March and into April. The final parade will take place on Sunday 27th April (during the day).

Provisional Project Dates:

- Community workshops for groups, schools and other organisations w/c March 31st through to 26th April (up to 5 days of workshops, scheduled with the artist)
- Rehearsal and community briefing: Saturday 26th April
- Parade: Sunday 27th April (morning)

## **YOUR PROPOSAL**

We are looking for a series of puppets, banners or other creative elements that can be made with and by community members and groups alongside the artists in a series of pre-arranged workshops as well as self-guided activities. These should be able to be constructed safely with an emphasis where possible on sustainability. They can be of various scales/sizes. We are looking for high quality, colourful striking elements that will make an impact in the community parade.

Additionally we are looking for 1-3 (depending on scale) larger puppets or elements that could be controlled, operated or performed by community members during the parade. We are looking for impactful creations that are of high quality and inspire the community to take part in future activities, as well as creating pride of place.

Specifically:

- We are looking for up to 5 days of workshops delivered in person to a range of groups (maximum 2 workshops per day across the 5 days)
- The workshops will need to be designed and delivered for groups of any age and ability
- The workshops will need to have the flexibility to be delivered in a range of locations, environments (e.g. community spaces, village halls, museums).
- The workshops need to consider that the work will be made for presentation as part of a parade through the town centre at outdoor sites and venues
- We welcome ambitious proposals

- Your planning and delivery will be supported by the MarketPlace team and you will work closely with the **MarketPlace** Creative Producer for Fenland and the Programme Director.

## FINANCE

The artist (or collective) will receive an artist fee of £4000 (inc vat) and a maximum production budget of £2,500 (inc vat) to develop and produce this project. The production budget includes all materials and technical, installation and operational costs and the artist fee is inclusive of travel/accommodation. Please provide a breakdown of the production budget and how many days of your time the artist fee represents which will support the scheduling of workshops. If your proposal is flexible but may require more funding please include additional costs and a rationale for these in your proposal.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this opportunity, please submit your application by the date and time according to the below instructions. The deadline to receive applications is by 9th March 2025.

To submit:

1. Complete the application form including your creative proposal
2. Be sure to include one document (up to three pages) showing examples of your work.
3. Email [community@cppmarketplace.co.uk](mailto:community@cppmarketplace.co.uk) with the subject line: "St George's Fayre application, [your name]." if you have any questions about the application process.

If you prefer to upload video responses to your application, videos should be no longer than 5 minutes each.

We are here to help! If you need assistance with your application, have any questions about the project, or have any issues when sending required files, we're here to support you! Please contact us at: [community@cppmarketplace.co.uk](mailto:community@cppmarketplace.co.uk)

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### How we assess your application

- We aim to ensure the selected commissions will be high-quality work and provide the best experience for the artists and our community. A panel of the MarketPlace team alongside community representatives will assess the applications.
- Your applications will be viewed and selected by people who may be unfamiliar with the terminology and references of the arts and culture sector.