



## **COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY**

### **Creative Interventions for This Place Project**

**Lancaster Arts are commissioning two place specific creative interventions to build upon the listening phase of This Place Project to take place in August and September 2018.**

#### **Background**

This Place Project (TPP) is a commission with Arts Council England designed to uncover a 'felt identity' of Lancaster District. This will enable new thinking and stronger collaborative activity through embedding creativity and arts in place-making; in other words, creative place-making.

The project will take place in a variety of settings across the wider Lancaster District encompassing Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding rural area including Halton and Heysham, as well as the Lancaster University campus. We hope to reach people across the district, especially those who are influential within their own communities as well as those who are less often engaged by arts and civic projects.

This Place Project is based upon relational practice, dialogue and connecting people who might not otherwise be connected. We hope to generate social capital in ways that sometimes only creativity can unlock. Our focus is on what makes our District distinctive in the eyes of the people who call it home, here and now.

In Phase 1, a Creative Producer has been conducting a range of interviews in the form of structured conversations with a broad range of residents, those in key roles across the District and with people of all ages. The creative interventions are Phase 2. Phase 3 will involve five Creative Gatherings hosted in different locations, inviting all those who participated in early conversations, the creative interventions and those interested in this process. The creative interventions will feed and inform the Creative Gatherings and directly influence the ongoing shape of the project.

#### **Brief for Creative Interventions**

The next phase of This Place Project involves commissioning small creative interventions that will respond to what has been heard, enrich the creativity of the project and stimulate further conversation and exchange.

#### ***Frictions***

Phase 1 has captured different ways of being here now, articulated around the notion of *frictions*, and provides the focus of this commission.

We are using the word friction to describe contact points between people and places, not with negative or abrasive connotations, but friction to indicate contrasting perceptions, experiences and opinions of place – including the symbiosis that exists despite contrasts. There seems to be an awareness of borders and differences when people think of Lancaster District.

We've heard *frictions* related to:

- Now and then; reality and aspiration (eg. "Looking out | Looking behind us")
- Places (eg. "Lancaster and Morecambe can't live with each other | Lancaster and Morecambe can't live without each other")
- Borderlands (eg. "Passageways | In-between spaces")
- Home ("It's part of me | I'm passing through")
- Vistas ("It's very safe | It needs to broaden its horizons")
- Communities ("It's a place of different, [but] connected communities")

Please see further comments and quotes in Addendum 1.

## Proposals

There are two commissions available for artists and makers to respond to this brief. Commissions might engage communities of place, interest or people.

Proposals are sought from artists and makers, from any artform or which combine artforms that respond to the above ideas and address the notion of *friction* (as described here). All proposals must connect with the people and place of Lancaster District.

The intervention will have an integral presence at the Creative Gatherings in Phase 3 to enrich the conversation and further stimulate response.

## Budget

We have two commissions available, each with a budget of £1000.

The budget has to cover all aspects of the work, including the points below.

## Applications

Please submit your proposal of activity in no more than 3 pages. Proposals will:

- Respond to the expression of *frictions* within the context of Lancaster District's identity (as outlined in this brief)
- Demonstrate how people will engage with creative responses over approximately 2 days of activity
- Identify what the commission will produce and how the activity will be captured
- Include an outline budget showing how you will use the commission money

A shortlist will be drawn up with follow-up interviews via skype (August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>)

Successful candidates will need to be available for a reflection meeting in September 2018 (date to be agreed upon appointment).

**Please e-mail proposals to [gallery@lancasterarts.org](mailto:gallery@lancasterarts.org) with 'TPP intervention application' in the subject heading.**

**To be received by 17 August 2018 at noon.**

You can find another This Place Project presentation here:

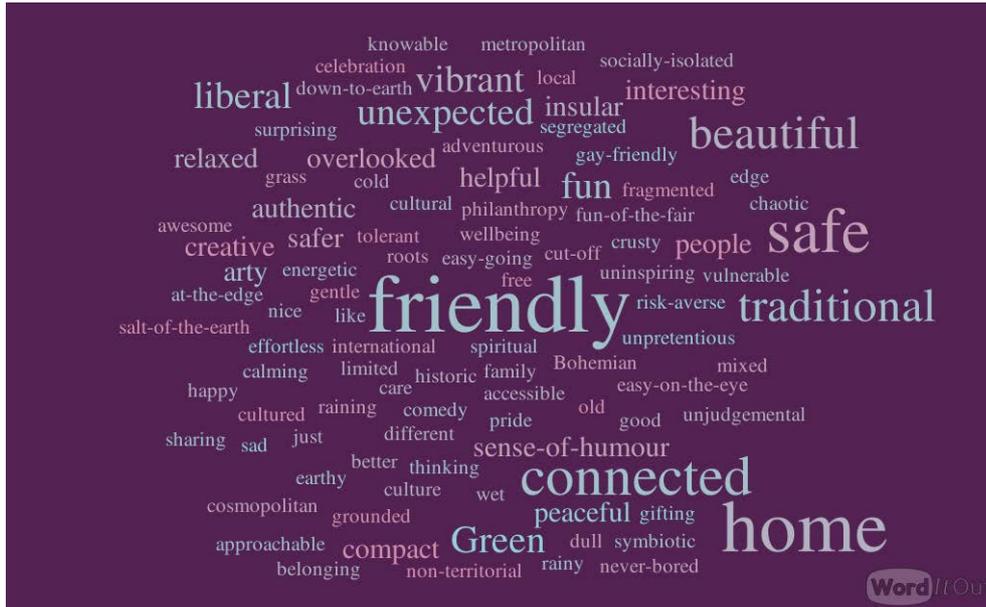
[www.lancasterarts.org/projects/the-hum](http://www.lancasterarts.org/projects/the-hum)

## **Addendum: Creative Interventions for This Place Project**

### **Quotes from Phase 1 of This Place Project (listening phase)**

- "It's a different City on foot, full of passageways and gunnels, it's a City made for walking"
- "It's relaxed, but not quiet"
- "Transport is bad"
- "Comfortable, I like Lancastrians, being able to walk everywhere, City is small enough to get everywhere, quite awe-inspiring. Within a few hundred yards you're in the countryside"
- "You can literally see your place in the world"
- "You can breathe"
- "It's a City that feels like a village"
- "Where's our future coming from?"
- "Lancaster, you look good from the motorway"
- "Easy access to the country/town"
- "I like it because I can I leave it"
- "I always allow an extra 5 minutes of my day in order to bump into people I know"
- "It's close to...." e.g. It's close to The Lake District, it's close to Manchester, it's close to the sea.
- "It's good for old people, not a lot of things to do for students"
- "There's something safe about Lancaster District, for example I feel I can let my children travel across the District, it's easy to get around. But perhaps it's too safe. Risk averse."
- "Some people have a downer on the place, but you forget what's here"
- "Nice but a little quiet" "Not many new adventures"
- "A place to be myself" "A place that draws you in"
- "It's a place that lives and lets live"
- "Connected but secluded communities. Communities can be very different but what connects them is how people have come together. So many people who want to improve their local neighbourhood."
- "It's a hotpot - nothing fancy!"
- "On days like today, it feels full of life; other times, nothing happens"
- "You have to see it to believe it - no one knows where it is on the map, but it has huge character and beauty"
- "A place to think"
- "Lancaster and Morecambe can't live with each other and can't live without each other"
- "It's got more going on than 10 years ago, but hasn't changed much"
- "You stumble across people"
- "It's a place where you know somebody, who knows somebody you know"
- "The views join up the dots of the District"
- "The light on the tide is beautiful"
- "What makes Lancaster special has been lost"
- "Lancaster feels like a village, in a frightening way"
- "Everyone in Lancaster owns a decent pair of walking boots"
- "Someone from Leyland would call Lancaster 'a bit posh'; someone from London would call it 'a bit poor'."
- "At the top of Williamson Park, you can literally see your place in the world"
- "There is a sense of the water here: canals, river, sea"
- "Walk in to town and bump in to people. However, great transport links to get out. Lakes, coast, trough – well kept secret!"
- "You get a feeling that it's right to live here"
- "It's small enough but big enough" "The scale is good, not too small not too big"
- "Lancaster doesn't really have its own identity. Is this what attracts people to come to Lancaster in the first place? You don't step off the train and feel that you are 'somewhere'."
- "I've seen things that attract people disappear and not be replaced."
- "It's a middle class white city. We don't do enough to make the place culturally diverse."
- "The District is trying to look outwards more. Be more adventurous."
- "For young people, you'd be concerned about your kids finding opportunities here."
- "If you're feeling crappy, looking out from the Prom makes you feel better"
- "Half an hour from The Lakes, 4 miles from the seaside"
- "Lancaster feels like a market town rather than city"
- "Needs more international perspective"
- "There are more gaps in the market for business/community opportunities, not as much competition."
- "It's beautiful but too safe."
- "The people - They're about what you can do, not what you can't do, or don't have"
- "I've seen the Bay of Naples and Singapore Harbour, and they are nothing compared to Morecambe Bay"
- "It's where my friends are"
- "If you're a musician, you don't die, you go to the Melting Pot"
- "Local businesses do care, don't they?"

**This Place Project: Impressions and feelings associated with the District:**



**This Place Project: Sights and places associated with the District:**



**This Place Project: Smells and sounds associated with the District:**



### **This Place Project: Sights and places associated with the District**

views, views, views, views, views, weather, green, coast, hillsides, Ashton Memorial, Ashton Memorial, Ashton Memorial, Ashton Memorial, Ashton Memorial, fields, fields, beach, river, canal, water, Forton Services, Williamson Park, Williamson Park, Williamson Park, Williamson Park, Williamson Park, library, coffee-shops, independent-shops, bakery, Dukes, sunsets, sunsets, sunsets, hilly, wet, steep, Arnside Knott, Happy Mount Park, Happy Mount Park, Happy Mount Park, Heysham Barrows, Heysham Barrows, boats, rabbits, daffodils, ducks, woods, passageways, restaurants, Georgian architecture, hills, countryside, river, views, views, views, castle, Priory, Ashton memorial, Ashton memorial, weather, coastline, Quarry, King's Arms, canal, vistas, views, silhouettes, skylines, The Bay, snowy peaks, The Midland, lush, green, dairy, Ashton memorial, Promenade, Eric, sunset, Midland, castle, Ashton Memorial, Bowland Tower, Winter Gardens, Priory, Quayside, Wagon and Horses, Halton, Williamson Park, Dukes, playgrounds, Salt Ayre, Leighton Moss, Carnforth, fells, Fairfield, allotments, Trough of Bowland, Jubilee Tower, Willy Bob's, Morecambe prom, Festival market, Happy Mount Park, Marsh, Ryelands, Infolab, pubs, hairdressers, Melting Pot, West End Impact Barn, Heysham Barrows, Heysham village, library, Stanleys, Anna's charity shop, Galloways, charity shops, Regent Park Hotel, The Carlton, The Old Pier bookshop, Cotton-on, Happy Mount Park, Morecambe prom, The Sanctuary, More Music, The Bull, The Palatine, The Platform, The Midland, Brown Cow, sea, scenery, The Storey, Dukes, Edward Street, Williamson Park, Quarry, Whale tail, University Sports Centre, Ryelands Park, Festivals, fairs, Castle, wind turbine, hills, grass, countryside

### **This Place Project: Impressions and feelings associated with the District**

helpful, connected, unexpected, safe, safe, safe, vibrant, traditional, overlooked, at the edge, nice, just like home, limited, cosmopolitan, cultured, interesting, people, relaxed, relaxed, easy-going, chaotic, peaceful, friendly, friendly, friendly, friendly, effortless, socially-isolated, cut-off, fun, historic, safer, good, happy, free, creative, segregated, better, picturesque, wet, calming, interesting, spiritual, grounded, calm, gay-friendly, unexpected, arty, earthy, symbiotic, knowable, surprising, home, home, home, peaceful, thinking, green, Green, international, crusty, traditional, home, community, beautiful, insular, Adventurous, sharing, caring, home, raining, safe, vibrant, home, community, beautiful, easy-on-the-eye, never-bored, vibrant, liberal, liberal, connected, connected, helpful, connected, unexpected, arty, creative, gifting, philanthropy, compact, metropolitan, different, safe, accessible, cultural, grass roots, fun-of-the-fair, comedy, cold, rainy, Bohemian, tolerant, liberal, vulnerable, fragmented, insular, traditional, at-the-edge, overlooked, safe, safer, friendly, community, culture, comfortable, awesome, compact, authentic, mixed, traditional, salt-of-the-earth, beautiful, friendly, approachable, non-territorial, dull, uninspiring, old, risk-averse, connected, friendly, community, community, pride, celebration, people, authentic, unjudgemental, care, down-to-earth, energetic, gentle, local, Green, unpretentious, sense-of-humour, fun, belonging, beautiful, wellbeing, family, sad, friendly, sense-of-humour, fun

### **What smells you associate with being here?**

sea, rain, coffee, ozone, fresh air, Nightingale Farm, abattoir, cut grass, silage, manure, sea, pubs, coffee, woods, foliage, damp, earthiness, coffee, sea, , glue factory, silage, corn-milling, hops, sea, cut grass, silage, Nightingale Farm, animals, rabbit droppings coffee, fresh air, rain drying on paving, fresh air, Atkinsons coffee

### **What sounds you associate with being here?**

ambulances, traffic, motorway, traffic, noise pollution, helicopters (Chinooks), traffic, army trucks, birds, swans, construction, trains, trees, wind, heavy-rain, birdsong, building noise, ambulances, seagulls, sheep, ducks, traffic, curlews, lapwings, children, playing, music, buskers, pubs, people, traffic, people, kids, hubbub, trains, peaceful, quiet, birds, banter, buskers, rain