

# Artist call out: Families at Queen Street Mill

**Contract dates:** July 2022 to September 2022

**Closing date for expressions of interest:** 4 July 2022

As part of a partnership between the National Trust and Lancashire County Council, made possible through the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund the National Trust are seeking to appoint an Artist to work with Queen Street Mill Textile Museum in Hayle Syke in Burnley. They will deliver a programme of workshops and activities at the mill for local families.

## **Queen Street Mill Textile Museum**

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum is a local authority and Accredited Museum owned and operated by Lancashire County Council. It is housed in a Grade 1 listed building which is the last surviving 19th Century steam powered weaving mill in the world. Containing over 300 Lancashire Looms, Lancashire boilers and a steam engine called Peace it is a unique survivor from Lancashire's world-renowned textile industry. It is also part of the Designated Lancashire Textile Collection of Lancashire County Council Museum Service and Archives and houses additional displays focused on weaving.

## **Background to the commission**

Historically, the hamlet of Harle Syke expanded from a farming community after 1850, when the first of seven cotton weaving mills were built. These, together with the coal mine in the village, saw the rapid expansion of the community, with the majority of buildings dating back to the Victorian era. Many generations of local families worked at Queen Street Mill until its closure in 1982. This means that many local families have roots in this area and may have strong ties to Queen Street Mill. The Museum is keen to rekindle relationships with the local community to inform the development of future programmes.

## The Brief

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum is looking for an artist or artists to collaborate with families from the surrounding community to explore playfulness and develop creative interventions that have a legacy beyond the commission enhancing the experience for families at Queen Street Mill.



This opportunity is the beginning of a journey for the team at the Museum working in partnership with organisations and artists to creatively collaborate with its communities. Queen Street Mill wants to be more relevant to its communities and the families in the surrounding area are a key part of this. The team at the Mill believe firmly that “Nothing about us, without us, is for us” and so want to work with those communities to improve the experience at the Museum for families; making any visit to Queen Street Mill a more playful, relevant, and engaging experience.

The selected artist or artists will be supported by the Queen Street Mill team as part of a partnership project between Lancashire County Council which is being funded by the National Heritage Lottery fund

This brief is deliberately very open, as we are interested in starting a conversation with an artist or collective to explore the possibilities for families at Queen Street Mill. We are particularly interested in hearing from artists who have a track record of meaningful collaboration with groups of participants to realise high quality outcomes.

We do not have a group of families to work with so part of this work will be initial drop-in sessions that will make new connections with local families some of which the chosen artists will go on to collaborate with.

We are keen to hear your ideas for starting points, areas of curiosity and inspiration. But we recognise that the process ultimately will define the outcomes of the work as it develops.

## Budget

The budget for this project is **£3000** which must cover fees, expenses, and materials. Given the short timescale for participation and delivery, it is important that you are clear about what is possible in terms of delivery and consider how to create maximum impact within a tight budget and timescale.

## Timescale

The selected artist or artists will work from July to the end of September 2022. We envisage this will consist of initial drop-in sessions at the museum and or in the community which will develop into a smaller group of families collaborating with the artist in late July through to August. We are aware of the tight timeline for this and so would request you have a suite of options for the team with a view to realising one of

these options (to be decided by the families and Queen Street Mill team) in September 2022.

As this is beginning of a wider piece of work it may that further opportunities may stem from this work.

### **How to apply**

Please send us:

- A short outline of why this project interests you, your area of focus and the process you would undertake towards the realisation of the final work.
- An outline of your previous work and examples of no more than 3 projects that you feel demonstrate why your practice is relevant for this opportunity (including images or links to video / sound-based work).
- A simple budget outlining how you would aim to use the £3k available budget, including your daily rate.

### **Deadline**

Deadline for application **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 5pm.**

As part of the process an artist or artists will be invited for an informal discussion at Queen Street Mill. At this meeting the artist or artists will be required to bring proof of a recent full DBS check and proof of Public Liability Insurance.

Please send applications to: [queenstreetmillburnley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:queenstreetmillburnley@lancashire.gov.uk)

For further information and an informal discussion please contact:  
[karen.backhouse@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.backhouse@lancashire.gov.uk)/01282 459996

### **Supporting Information**

[Queen Street Mill Textile Museum - Lancashire County Council](#)

[British Textile Biennial 2021](#)

[Sharon Brown - Stitched Histories - British Textile Biennial British Textile Biennial](#)

[Performance - Launching Art in Manufacturing residency with John Spencer fabrics and Queen Street Mill museum - British Textile Biennial British Textile Biennial](#)

Families at Queen Street Mill: Commissioning brief

Art in Manufacturing Season Four – first commissioned artist revealed - British Textile Biennial  
British Textile Biennial



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