

ARTIST CALL-OUT: The Exchange Blackburn & Super Slow Way (September 2018)

The Brief:

We are looking for an artist or artists to collaborate with a group of local young people to produce an art work that harnesses the power of their digital energy to light up Blackburn Cotton Exchange this winter, bringing it to life for a whole new generation of audiences as an important new cultural venue for the town.

The work must be light based, as it will feature as an important focal point commission within the annual Blackburn Festival of Light but may include other elements. The final piece should be able to be shown for a run of 3 months from December 2018 – February 2019 without the need for invigilation, so must be viewable from the exterior of the building. During the light festival (15th December) however, audiences will be encouraged to enter the building, so this should be kept in mind when producing the final work. (Please see attached images of the Cotton Exchange building, to help visualise the possibilities for pieces that can be readable from the interior and exterior).

Selected artists will be supported by the Super Slow Way team throughout the development of the work. The Exchange team will support the artist whilst on site and during the installation of the work, but the artist must be able to manage the technical installation within the budget, as neither Super Slow Way or The Exchange have specialist technical production staff.

This brief is deliberately very open, as we are interested in starting a conversation with an artist or collective to explore the possibilities presented by the partnership, the building and the participants. 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 are keen to hear your ideas for starting points, areas of particular curiosity and inspiration. But we recognise that the process ultimately will define the outcomes of the work as it develops, so these are not expected to be set in stone from the outset.

Background:

Re:Source church was set up to purchase, restore and manage The Cotton Exchange in September 2015 to transform it into a vibrant, diverse destination for the town. The vacant Grade II listed building is rich in history but also holds much promise for the future. To this end we have been working with a host of partners including Super Slow Way, the National Festival of Making and Blackburn with Darwen Council, to act as a host for performance and art installations, most notably with two major new installations from the *Art in Manufacturing* series, by artists Liam Hopkins (Lazerian) and Liz West. (See weblinks below.)

As a development on this approach and in partnership with Super Slow Way, our area's Creative People & Places programme, we now wish to commission a new artwork specifically responding to this amazing heritage space, that serves to develop new relationships with the young people of the town as well as creating new audiences for the venue as we build it into an important contemporary cultural venue.

Budget:

The budget for this project is in the region of £8,000, 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.

Delivery timescale:

The selected artist/s will work during October and November 2018 to collaborate with a group of young people to create a work to be installed and completed for the Blackburn Festival of Light on 15th December. It must then be able to be shown in some form every night until end February 2019, as an important feature of Blackburn town centre's winter programme.

Given the short turnaround time for this project, Super Slow Way will support the selected artist/s with the engagement of a group of young people to participate in the project.

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 £8k available budget, including your daily rate.
- Please combine all of this together as a single PDF document.

Deadlines:

Deadline for applications is **Fri 21st September – 5pm**

Shortlisted artist interviews to be held on Fri 28 September.

Please email applications to hello@superslowway.org.uk.

If you have any questions or want to talk over your application prior to submission, please email jenny@superslowway.org.uk with any questions or to arrange a time to chat.

N.B. The successful artist must be available to deliver the project within the timescales outlined above.

Further supporting information:

<http://superslowway.org.uk/about/>

<http://exchangeblackburn.org.uk/>

<https://festivalofmaking.co.uk/projects/art-in-manufacturing-season-1/chromatogram/>

<http://festivalofmaking.co.uk/projects/art-in-manufacturing/liz-west-and-graham-brown/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackburnFestivalofLight/>

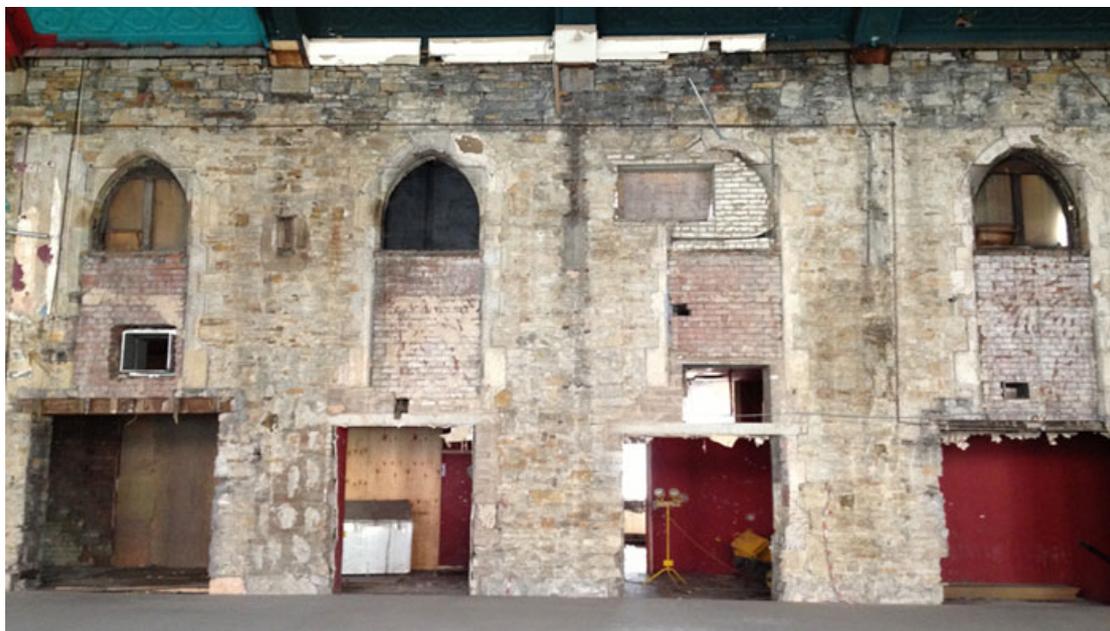
Images of the Cotton Exchange:

Interior:



SUPERSLOWWAY

THE EXCHANGE
BLACKBURN



SUPERSLOWWAY

Exterior:

