

Request for Proposals - ACCESS & INCLUSION PARTNER

Introduction

The government chose Bradford to be just the fourth UK City of Culture in May 2022. It's a huge honour. It's a massive responsibility. And it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We're building an organisation from scratch to plan and present 12 unforgettable months of creativity, culture and the arts across Bradford District. From New Year's Day to New Year's Eve, 2025 is set to explode with more than 1,000 shows, exhibitions and events – by and for everyone, with much of it completely free to see.

We're asking hundreds of local, national and international artists, dancers and musicians to join us in 2025 and make something new – just for us, just for you. But we're also throwing the spotlight on the people of our city, which is the youngest, the most diverse and the most exciting in the nation.

Bradford 2025 will be a celebration of Bradford, its cultures and its people – right here, right now. From artists to businesses, schools to community groups, we're inviting people across Bradford to help us create a year of culture that could only happen here.

Bradford Culture Company (BCC) operating as Bradford 2025 (the Company) is seeking to appoint a suitably experienced and qualified partner (the Provider) to deliver Access & Inclusion support, consultancy, and reporting for our creative programmes and across the organisation.

BCC would like to invite interested providers to tender to fulfil this role and function.

The proposed contract will run from May 2024 to December 2025.

Access Framework for Bradford 2025

We frame disability through the social model, acknowledging that it is systems, assumptions and environments that create the disabling barriers.

People should feel welcome and comfortable engaging with events.

Access is made possible when physical and sensory, cultural, intellectual, financial, emotional, geographic and attitudinal barriers are removed or reduced.

Providers must meet BCCs procurement objectives:

- To ensure that procurement activities reflect BCC's approach to transparency, sustainability, value for money and equality, diversity and inclusion.
- To ensure BCC's commitment to the communities of Bradford is reflected in the procurement process.
- To ensure BCC's duty to its funders to deliver best value for money.
- To ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulation

Specification

- To build on BCC's existing accessibility framework, to embed a culture of access & inclusivity across all activities and in every department, through educating and informing.
- Offer advice and guidance in ensuring events are accessible and inclusive, as well as helping to manage the process internally more efficiently.
- Involvement with event accessibility planning, attending site visits where required and recommending appropriate access measures and specialists, taking into consideration project budgets.
- Develop an Access & Inclusion toolkit to share with other organisations to create a lasting legacy.
- To identify training opportunities, appropriate for the skills gaps in the organisation.
- Establish and facilitate an Access Advisory Panel.
- Contribute to the evaluation of Bradford 2025 and ensure detailed reporting and knowledge transfer.
- Contribute to the Marketing and Communications strategy for BD25.
- Integrate accessibility in all activities, events and performances (e.g. going beyond just sign language interpreters at the side of the stage)

Criteria for Selection

- Experience and understanding of working on a range of events within the culture and arts sector.
- Track record of providing Access & Inclusion consultancy.
- Local to Bradford/West Yorkshire/Yorkshire
- Best value for money.
- Alignment with BCC's procurement objectives.
- Capacity to deliver within timeframe. Approx 2 days per week.

Anticipated Budget and Timescale

We are expecting proposals for this work to be up to £60,000 over the length of the contract. Timescale is from end of May 2024 with the work completed by 31 December 2025 and all information, report and evaluation completed by 31 March 2026.

How to apply

Please submit a proposal outlining your experience and your approach and how you'd intend to work with the team at BCC to meet their priorities and objectives.

Deadline for proposals is Monday 13th May. Shortlisting/interviews will take place w/c 20th May.

Please email proposals to procurement@bradford2025.co.uk