



# BRADFORD 2025

## UK City of Culture

### **Playable Artists Commission – Artists Brief**

#### **PLAY Programme Background**

**The Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture** team are developing a year-round programme of Playful interventions and magical moments of discovery for children, families and curious adults alike, co-produced with local people, artists, architects, designers and theatre makers.

Featuring an early years' sensory wonderland presented by *Herd Theatre*, cardboard landscapes by *ARCADE* and opportunities for exciting interactive play with *Woodland Tribe*. The programme will celebrate the universality of play as a tool to learn, reconnect and reimagine new possibilities.

In partnership with Play Bradford this strand of programming builds on the district's extraordinary and historical commitment to imbedding and facilitating adventure play.

<https://www.playbradford.org.uk/>

#### **MAPA Background:**

Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture are looking to work with an artist, architect or designer from the global majority background to respond to the MAPA (Margaret MacMillan Adventure Playground Association) community centre archive and develop a playable sculptural commission for the public realm.

MAPA promotes opportunities that enrich and enhance the personal and social development of young people and communities in the West Bowling area of Bradford. Using creativity as a tool to empower, engage and include, their work aims to bring about change, encourage positive activity and develop vital life skills.

MAPA has deep roots that trace back to the 1970s when it was founded by members of the African Caribbean Community. Since its inception 1971, MAPA has been dedicated to serving and providing for its community through various artistic endeavours. The organisation has always been committed to promoting inclusiveness, addressing inequality, and celebrating the rich diversity of its communities.

One of MAPA's core values is its belief in the power of the Arts to inspire and bring people together. Over the past five decades, MAPA has held a prominent place in the hearts of its community, with the African Caribbean community leading the way in sharing their culture with others. This sharing of culture has created a sense of belonging and unity among MAPA's diverse community members.

MAPA began life as a Playground for children and young people quickly growing into a culturally based Arts Hub, sharing its love for festivals (Peoples Day), music, art, and drama with the community and City wide and beyond.

Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture are looking to commission an individual/s from the global majority background to respond to the unique community-centred history of MAPA through an engagement with their on-site staff, centre visitors and archival materials.

**The Brief:**

- Sculptural requirements include: A temporary, modular (for ease of fabrication, transportation and storage) approach.
- A demonstratable response to MAPA's unique history and the diverse communities it has and continues to serve.
- The artist must demonstrate a commitment to environmental impact and sustainability at the heart of the design, sourcing sustainable materials wherever possible, working with local suppliers/fabricators and considering the thoughtful repurposing/regifting of material involved (e.g. donating sculptural elements to various local early years education providers). The artist will be supported in these ambitions by Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture Production, Development and Engagement teams.
- The project's team will support and adequately resource any access needs of the artist and/or collaborators.

**Additional info:**

- Before refining an approach, the artist will be supported by the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture team and community partners to undertake a period of Research & Development in Bradford and at MAPA learning about the organisation's history, approach and the communities it serves through conversation and spending time with the centre's archival material.
- The project's development and delivery will be closely overseen by the project's producer/s and supported by the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture's Production team.
- We envision the resulting sculptural commission to be situated in the public realm for 10-14 days in two locations in the city – most likely in West Bowling and in the city centre.
- **We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children / young people and adults at risk and expect all colleagues and volunteers to share this commitment.**

**Considerations**

- **We particularly welcome applications from creative individuals who live/ work in Bradford or who have a relationship to the district.**
- The artist/designer/architect must demonstrate some understanding of the material, production and H&S challenges of producing work for the public realm.
- The artist/designer/architect must demonstrate a commitment to environmental impact and sustainability, sourcing sustainable materials wherever possible, working with local suppliers/fabricators and considering the thoughtful repurposing of material involved. The artist will be supported in these ambitions by Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture Production, Development and Engagement teams.



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- The project's production demands and H&S management will be closely supported by the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture Production team.
- The project's team will support and adequately resource any access needs of the artist and/or collaborators.

### **Indicative timeline**

**November 2024 – Jan 2025** – opportunity for Artists Research and Development visit in Bradford

**Jan 2025 – March 2025** – Concept development and ongoing research

**March 2025 – April 2025** Fabrication enquiries/planning/design revisions where necessary.

**May 2025 – June 2025** Fabrication

**July 2025** Production site/s prep

**August 2025 – Sept 2025** Installation in the public realm, touring 2 sites x 10 days.

**Sept 2025 - Oct 2025** De-commissioning/ repurposing/ re-gifting

### **Budget**

**£7500** Artists Fee, inclusive of R&D fees inclusive of R&D time + travel, accommodation, idea refinement and delivery.

**£1000** Travel and accommodation contribution

**Up to £15000** Materials and Fabrication. An emphasis on sustainably sourced materials and a clear plan for the re-use/gifting of the modular elements to local community groups prior to production.

### **Additional:**

There is further additional budget to meet specialist production costs e.g. Site safety, security, transport, weatherproofing etc as well as meeting any artist or collaborator access needs.

### **About Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture**

Bradford 2025, the UK's next City of Culture, will host a year of activity across the Bradford District. The programme (announced in September 2024) will include performances, circus, poetry, music and more. The project will showcase large-scale events produced by the Bradford 2025 team, as well as activities from the district's established and emerging creatives. Alongside this, local communities will be at the heart of the projects, showcasing the diversity and vibrancy of the whole district and bringing experiences to people's doorsteps.

[www.bradford2025.co.uk](http://www.bradford2025.co.uk)

### **How to apply:**



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We welcome applications from creative individuals including but not limited to artists/designers/architects from the global majority background/s. Interested individuals should respond to the brief with a recent CV and a **one page** covering letter addressing the following:

- Indicate why you are interested in the particularities of this opportunity
- Loosely indicate how you might approach responding the brief
- Some detail on relevant transferable experience e.g. working to deadlines and with fabricators to produce large scale work.
- Demonstrate an early understanding of some of the challenges of producing work for the public realm

This role may require you to **work alongside or come into contact with** children and adults at risk. Accordingly, if applicable, it will be a condition of your employment that Bradford 2025 receives satisfactory pre-employment checks. This will include a DBS certificate as well as obtaining employment, and character references.

Please send these two documents via email with the subject line: Playable Artists Commission to [programme@bradford2025.co.uk](mailto:programme@bradford2025.co.uk)

Deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 5pm.