

Lamplighter Festival 2020 – Development and Support

Handmade Parade – a brief overview



Handmade Parade (HMP) is an arts organisation based in the Calder Valley formed in 2008, specialising in producing community-focused parades and events, and making giant puppets, costumes, parade structures and lanterns. An award-winning outdoor-arts company, HMP creates large-scale, accessible public-realm arts engagement events that astonish and enthrall our audiences. We involve the community in the creation and performance of our events, offering high-quality and accessible participation opportunities. Our events reflect the people and places they are created with and for, creating a powerful sense of ownership.

Since 2008, HMP has connected with over 1.5 million people, delighting & surprising audiences, teaching new creative skills and using the arts to connect

communities. We have delivered 12 Summer Parades in Hebden Bridge, 7 Lamplighter Festivals and over 100 creative commissions around the UK. We also partner with other organisations to work nationally and internationally. All our events are co-created between professional artists and community participants. Our work with the community, place-making, and individual creativity is very much at the core of how (and why!) we work.

We work with a network of freelance makers, puppeteers, musicians, and performers to provide high quality and accessible community workshops to people of all backgrounds, and we ensure that these artists have the skills and experience to work with people that may have very particular needs, such as vulnerable children or adults with mental health issues. We also build and hire giant puppets, site decor, and lantern sculptures and puppets, to festivals and parades around the country and internationally, and we take commissions for public and corporate clients. Our work is defined, designed and led by the participants. We spend time identifying and building relationships with key people in the community to ensure that what we do is relevant, wanted, and needed.

Lamplighter Festival 2020 – Context

In February 2020 Arts Council England (ACE), published their new 10 Year Strategy. This places a strong focus on communities informing and directing their own cultural offers. While community engagement has always been at the heart of Handmade Parade's work, we will need to extend this even further and consider how we can embed additional community consultation / engagement, and evidence this at all stages of the development and delivery of our work.

An organisation may only have one application open with ACE at any time; occasionally, permission may be granted for an organisation to have more than one application open, but it is rare. The application for the Handmade Parade Summer Parade will still be 'live' at the time we need to submit an application for Lamplighter. This means that we need to consider another lead applicant, though HMP can still lead on writing the application.

In terms of how the key points above inform work towards Lamplighter Festival 2020, this is likely to include:

- Demonstrating demand for the work from multiple groups within the community, including Todmorden Town Council. 'Demand' is variously measured through cash investment, evidence from community consultations, and letters of support.

- Confirmed cash match from other sources is critical to successful bids. ACE calculates guaranteed income from other partners at the time of application and the more cash match (as a percentage of the overall project cost), the better an application scores.
- Having a consortium or large group of partners involved in overseeing successful delivery and evidencing these agreements, partners' roles and key contact persons in the application.
- Identifying a community partner with a strong governance record and ability to manage grants at this scale. Todmorden Town Council is eligible to be the lead applicant.

Community Engagement 2020

Targeted workshops - Through the Lamplighter Community Participation Programme (LCPP), we will engage with local disadvantaged groups to address inequalities and support stronger communities. We will focus on wellbeing by targeting engagement at those who are socially isolated and experience mental ill-health. By recruiting diverse groups from within the community we can foster a sense of ownership of the event across all groups and contribute to stronger and more resilient communities. We have already identified some groups to work with and are open to conversations with other partners. This project will deliver an inclusive community programme working with vulnerable groups to ensure equality of access to high quality arts provision.

Current community partners include Healthy Minds Todmorden, where we hope to work with 12 adults with mental health issues over five weeks, and vulnerable young people (11-16) who are part of Todmorden High School's nurture programme for students who require additional support with learning, social or emotional needs. We'll work with up to 20 students once a week for 8 weeks.

Open Workshops – we will run a 2-week programme of free, family-focussed, open lantern-making workshops, at an accessible venue in Todmorden Town Centre. This is for anyone and everyone.

Big Make - A programme of intensive making in the lead up to our Lamplighter Festival will bring together all our artists, volunteers and community makers in our workshop in Hebden Bridge to undertake big puppet, costume, and lantern builds.

Youth Fire Troupe – building on our previous work, we will work with a group of young people aged 13 – 18 to create a fire performance for the parade and the finale. In 2020 we hope to work with younger children, using the same skills to create an LED performance

In total, we expect to engage over 1,200 members of the community as makers, performers and volunteers.

Timeframe

The below gives an indication of the key decision and development points that we need to meet in order to ensure a well-resourced and successful festival:

March:

- Decide on lead applicant (who will submit the bid to ACE)
- Develop all community partnerships, roles, key contact persons (for inclusion in the bid)
- Develop artistic ideas for programme
- Public update and consultation meeting – Sun March 29th, 5-7pm at the Golden Lion.

April:

- Confirmation of cash match funding
- Confirmation of support in kind
- First draft of funding bid, to be written by Handmade Parade with input from lead applicant
- Review of bid with HMP and lead applicant
- Final bid submitted to ACE by **30 April 2020** (12-week turnaround).

May- June:

- Event licence application and associated paperwork to CMBC
- Continued conversations with CMBC events and parks regarding permissions
- Provisional booking of artists, venues, contractors and stallholders
- Continued artistic ideas development

July:

- Find out about outcome of bid at end of July.

August: (*assuming successful ACE bid outcome*)

- Participation workshops commence
- Development of design of festival progresses

September - October:

- Open lantern making Workshops
- Big Make
- Lantern build at HMP workshops
- Fire performance workshops
- Event – date likely to be Sunday 25th October but TBC

Budget

We expect to arrive at the budget for the 2020 event in March, once we know all the partners who are involved and have progressed the artistic plans further. As an indication, the 2018 Lamplighter Festival total budget was £90,000, of which £48,330 was awarded by ACE. While the budget for 2020 is yet to be set, we would expect to apply for a similar award from ACE this year.