

# Open Call MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL Commission

## **Project summary**

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) will be delivering the inaugural Midsummer Festival on 23 June 2024 in celebration of all things summer solstice, with a fun-packed free programme of music, maypoles, magic and more!

Midsummer Boulevard East will be transformed into a welcoming festival site, where everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate midsummer as a time of renewal, healing and good health.

The free programme will be packed with performances, workshops, installations, music, a street food market hosted by Sophie Etc. and much more.



Programme highlights include a newly commissioned work by immersive storytellers Wild Rumpus; Hip Hop maypole mavericks Folk Dance Remixed will be in residence; Thingumajig Theatre will present the otherworldly Ghost Caribou and an evening of contemporary folk will be brought to MK by the experimental music collective Outlands.

## **Brief**

The Midsummer Festival team are looking to appoint MK based creative practitioners and/or cultural organisations to develop and deliver a piece of work or a project, that will temporarily activate a porte-cochère along Midsummer Boulevard East for the duration of the Midsummer Festival 2024.

We are interested in proposals that explore the festival's theme of Summer Solstice.

The porte-cochère's are a unique and iconic part of central Milton Keynes' public realm design – three of which are within the festival footprint.

We welcome proposals from all creative forms including but not limited to:

Participatory Festival Activity/  
Workshop  
Music  
Interactive installations  
Dance  
Visual art  
Combined art  
Craft, making/make and take

Decoration/transformation  
of porte-cochère  
Participatory art/installation  
Exhibition  
Performance

#### How to apply

Please send the following information to [culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk) no later than Friday 5 April at 12 noon.

*Commission proposal* – detailing what you would like to do/achieve during your porte-cochère take over, your target audience, how your proposal plans to engage with the Midsummer Festival audience (family, young people)

*Examples of previous work* – up to three examples of previous work

*Budget* – to show total project costs and details of how this funding will be used for your delivery

Applications should be sent to:  
[culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

If your file size exceeds 3MB, please send your application via WeTransfer or Dropbox to the above email address.

Selection will be made by a panel based on proposals received.

Any questions please contact:  
Emily Cheshire  
[culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk)



The porte-cochère takeover should be suitable to engage the general public, spark interest in passers-by and add to their overall Festival experience. Depending on the proposal, the piece could be completed in advance of the Festival and exhibited, or the idea could be a participatory project or activity delivered during the day.

#### Points to consider

The outcome must have a presence at the Festival on Sunday 23 June 2024, open to the public between the hours of 10:00 and 18:00.

We are looking to move forward with three proposals and an artist can enter more than one idea.

A Festival Producer will work with you to develop your project in the lead up to the Festival but please note, artists will need to be available to set up and manage their porte-cochère throughout the Festival on Sunday 23 June between the hours of 10:00 and 18:00.

The porte-cochère are not load bearing.

Budget: £6,000 to include all project expenses and artist fees.

Deadline for proposals: Midday on Friday 5 April 2024.

