

# Open Call MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL Commission

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) will be delivering the second edition of the Midsummer Festival on 22 June 2025 in celebration of all things summer solstice, with a fun-packed free family-friendly programme of music, maypoles, magic and more! Building on the success of the inaugural Festival, Midsummer Boulevard East will once be transformed into a pop-up festival site, where everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate midsummer as a time of renewal, healing and good health.



With the return of *The Pavilion of the Hopeful Sun* by **Wild Rumpus** taking centre stage, the free, all-day programme will be once again packed with performances, workshops, installations, music, a street food market hosted by **Sophie Etc.** and much more. Currently confirmed programme highlights include a newly commissioned interactive installation by **Leap then Look**; a new fairytale folkloric performance by storyteller, playwright and kindness campaigner **Bernadette Russel** and a celebration of local folk music curated by **Drywood**.

## Brief

The Midsummer Festival team are looking to appoint creative practitioners and/or cultural organisations to develop and deliver a new commission that will temporarily activate Midsummer Boulevard East, for the duration of the Midsummer Festival 2025.

We are interested in proposals that explore the festival's theme of Summer Solstice and in particular ideas that explore folkloric traditions historically practiced during this time.

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's
- Participatory art/installation
- Exhibitions
- Performance

Any proposal 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 22 June 2025 and will be open to the public between the hours of 10am and 6pm. We are looking to award three commissions and you are welcome to submit more than one idea.

A Festival Producer will work with the successful applicants to develop and deliver your proposal in the lead up to the Festival. However, please note, you will need to be available to set up and manage the delivery of your commission, throughout the Festival on Sunday 22 June 2025, between the hours of 10am and 6pm.

## Budget

£6,000 to include all commission expenses including fees.

## Deadline for proposals

Midday on Monday 17 February 2025.

## How to apply

Please send the following information to [culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk) no later Monday 17 February at 12 noon.

*Commission proposal:* outlining your idea, detailing what you would like to do/achieve, 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 commissions, projects or works.

*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), please ensure that your application does not exceed a file size of 3MB.

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

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