

SPARK - Artist Programme 2024

Light Up the North (LUTN) is a growing network of light festivals across the north of England.

The SPARK programme nurtures and develops artists interested in working with light. In supporting new and emerging artists through a bespoke package of opportunities provided by LUTN members, SPARK is positively focused on increasing inclusivity and diversity in the sector.

SPARK is a great opportunity for early career artists wanting to develop their practice in light based and digital work for light festivals. Across 2 weekends in November, the project will offer up to ten artists the opportunity to be supported through a specially designed programme of informal workshops, networking events and talks scheduled to compliment two LUTN partner festivals – Light Up Lancaster (7-9 Nov) and Light Night Wigan (21-23 Nov).

Ten artists, selected through an open call, will each be awarded bursaries of £300 to participate in the SPARK programme, with additional funds of up to £800 each, allocated to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs to attend Light Night Wigan & Light Up Lancaster, where the programme of activity will take place.

The whole programme is designed to be welcoming, accessible, relaxed and friendly. SPARK artists will also be invited to share their current area/s of research and development and workshops will be tailored to key elements of making successful light art. Previous SPARK programmes have shown that participants really benefit from peer to peer sharing as well as collective support from the core group of LUTN creative producers. Where feasible, artists who are presenting work at Light Night Wigan/ Light Up Lancaster will deliver workshops for the SPARK participants.

SPARK artists will also be invited to attend rewarding, informal networking events and meetings arranged by the host festival, eg artists brunch, launch events, festival tours, and talks by key figures reflecting the diverse range of artists and makers who make up the art and light art sectors.

LUTN is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. This open call actively encourages submissions from artists from demographics currently under-represented in the light festival sector. We welcome applications from anyone regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality and socio-economic background. Adjustments will be made to meet any access requirements you have.

A Producer will coordinate the project.

Large print versions of the SPARK 2024 Open Call are available from the LUTN website. Applications may be made in non-written formats, such as a short video or audio recording. (maximum 6 minutes).

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a very short CV, examples of your work and covering letter (or video or audio equivalent), outlining your interest and relevant artistic, light art, digital art skills and experience. We actively encourage applications from artists whose enthusiasm for taking part may exceed their current experience in light art.

Please ensure your covering letter is no longer than 2 sides.

All applications will be treated in confidence.

Key Dates

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday 24 May 2024

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via zoom during w/c June 3

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than Monday June 10

Please consider completing our Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form which is entirely anonymous and not connected to your application. This will help us to understand whether we are reaching a diverse range of applicants.

To be eligible to apply to the SPARK programme you must be a UK-based artist who is perceived as an emerging or new talent (regardless of age). Submit your application via:

spark@lightupthenorth.com

The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 24 May 2024

LUTN 2024/25 Festivals

Leeds: 24-25 October for Light Night Leeds

Blackpool: 18-26 October for Lightpool

Lancaster: 7-9 November for Light Up Lancaster

Wakefield: 15-17 November for Light Up Wakefield

Barnsley: tbc November for Barnsley Bright Nights

Wigan: 21-23 November for Light Night Wigan

Salford: 5-8 December for Lightwaves

Oldham: 21-22 Feb 2025 for Illuminate