

ARTIST BRIEF

STOCKPORT CREATIVE CAMPUS: ARTWORK #1



Led by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Stockport Creative Campus (SCC) is a three-year town centre reinvigoration programme to transform Stockport's heritage-rich historic centre into a sustainable, world-leading digital arts neighbourhood.

FutureEverything's role in the SCC project is to deliver a digital creative placemaking programme for the community and arts and culture sector over a three-year period.

THE BRIEF

FutureEverything are inviting **Greater Manchester-based artists/artist collectives**, whose practice spans digital art and participatory co-creation, to respond to this brief for **Artwork #1** project to:

- **Co-design and deliver creative engagement workshops** for communities across Stockport borough, with a diverse range of ages and backgrounds, to co-create content to feed into the digital artwork.
- **Create a digital touring artwork** that is mobile and can 'tour' to community locations.

Locations

There are a number of community organisations and agencies in Stockport who have committed to participating in **Artwork #1** project, and workshops will take place in community locations. The digital artwork will ‘tour’ to these same community locations over a 3-5-day period and conclude being exhibited at the newly opened Stockroom, in the town centre, in late September 2024.

Budget

The budget is **£25,000**

The breakdown is as follows:

Artist Fee	10,000
Workshops Delivery Fee	3,000
Artwork Production and Presentation/Display	12,000
TOTAL	25,000

Future Everything will manage the budget for ‘Artwork Production, Presentation/Display’.

FutureEverything has a separate budget for workshop provisions, touring security, and travel for the artist. In addition there is a budget of up to £1,000 for workshop resources, which will be managed by FutureEverything.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Thematics

Stockport Creative Campus is an opportunity to transform Stockport’s heritage-rich historic centre into a sustainable, world-leading digital arts neighbourhood.

FutureEverything’s role in this is to curate and deliver an exciting programme of public-facing digital arts activities to build creative communities, develop new audiences, and reconnect the area’s past with its future.

We have delivered a consultation with the communities and arts and culture sector in the town which has created an informed pathway towards our Vision & Action Plan and reflects the bespoke needs and ambitions of the audiences in Stockport. You can access the Vision & Action Plan [here](#).

Adopting our unique approach of utilising storytelling, digital art, and participation the appointed artist(s) will work with communities across the town to reflect and respond to the past, present and future of a changing place, and to celebrate and bring to the fore the values of people, community, creativity, history and environment that give Stockport its distinct identity.

The **Artwork #1** project will seek to cultivate a dialogue that explores the following themes:

- Stockport's unique identity - past, present, and future
- The values of the people, community, creativity, history and environment in the town
- Art and placemaking's role in helping us rethink and reconsider our values and ethics, enabling us to come together, opening up new perspectives and empowering us to imagine and enact positive societal change
- The role that the SCC can play in reconnecting communities with the town centre

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and we encourage the appointed artist(s) to further develop the thematics.

Approach

Our approach is to create a digital, screen-based artwork that can be practically toured around community neighbourhoods. The content should be conceived through community engagement and artistic collaboration to create a street-level artwork where the themes of the project are shared.

Our ambition is to present a digital artwork that engages directly with the communities that co-created it and can exist in their neighbourhoods for scheduled slots. In addition to direct interface with the artwork, audiences may also be able to further engage and contribute via their own digital devices.

FutureEverything will work with the successful artist/artist team to develop and deliver the project and propose a schedule of creative collaboration sessions with the FE team throughout the duration of the project.

Activity Plan

Artwork #1 will be developed and delivered in two key phases:

Phase 1

A series of up to 10 workshops* with a diverse range of community groups in neighbourhood locations across Stockport to:

- offer opportunities for participants to acquire basic art/digital skills
- encourage participants to utilise these skills to generate content responding to themes of the project
- gather content from all participants (stories, images, quotes, ideas, opinions) to inform the creation of the final digital artwork / installation.

The workshops can be play-focused and impart skills in such a way that allows participants to begin to feel like creativity and digital skills are things that could belong to them.

The workshops will be hosted by community support organisations around Stockport and will cater for a wide variety of participants, most of whom could be described as vulnerable for different reasons. Each workshop will be facilitated by the artist with the assistance of a FutureEverything team member and 1+ members of support staff from the hosting organisation.

FutureEverything will provide team members for the workshops with significant experience in teaching, safeguarding and artist support.

*one format of workshop can be devised and repeated for different groups.

Phase 2

Content gathered from the workshops will be collated and curated for use as the foundations for a new digital artwork that can be presented to all participating audiences in such a way that they can see their ideas and visions reflected in the work.

The artwork will be presented in a variety of settings across Stockport, e.g from visiting neighbourhoods and community centres to key locations in the town centre. Ideally, the artwork should be easily movable and can be presented in a variety of settings and be impactful enough to reach a wide audience from afar. This project is designed to bring digital art to communities who would not visit a gallery or the town centre normally.

The artwork should:

- be accessible to all, including non-English speaking audiences
- be screen-based and presentable upon a digital platform
- be delivered without any additional licencing or external copyright requirements

Timeline

- Application Deadline - Monday 20 November 2023 at 17:00
- Interviews - w/c 27 November 2023
- Phase 1 commences - January 2024
- Workshops delivery - March 2024
- Phase 2 commences - April 2024
- Premiere artwork - August 2024
- Evaluation - September 2024

Audiences

- **Participants/co-creators:** diverse, cross-generational community groups
- **Key collaborators:** FutureEverything, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, local community organisations and agencies, CDF delivery partners
- **Visitors/audience:** Local residents (families, young people, local artists/creatives)

HOW TO APPLY

We are inviting interested artists/artist collectives to submit an expression of interest which should cover:

- An initial response to this brief including a description of your current artistic practice, your approach to both phases of the project, potential creative tools/platforms/formats that you would use, and the reasons for your interest in this project (not longer than a double-sided A4)
- Examples of current work or portfolio relevant to the brief including links to screen-based work and participatory projects (in PDF format)
- CV (in PDF format)
- Completed [Equal Opportunities Form](#)

Please send expressions of interest to **Jonathan McGrath, FutureEverything Producer** at jonathan@futureeverything.org with the subject line STOCKPORT ARTWORK #1.

Additional information on the project is available upon request.

For a short informal conversation on the project email [Jonathan](#) who will arrange a phone/video call within 24 hrs of the request

We will invite a small number of artists/artist collectives to discuss their expressions of interest further and we are expecting to appoint an artist in early December 2023.

Additional context

To complement our work on SCC, FutureEverything has been commissioned by SMBC to produce the GM Arts Commission, funded by the GMCA Culture Fund (Spirit Funding), over 3 years (2023-2026). This will include 2 R&Ds and 2 public digital artworks over the 3-year period. FutureEverything will combine the GM Arts commission with the SCC digital creative placemaking activity to enhance the resources available and increase the scope and reach of the projects.

In addition, for Stockport Town of Culture 2023/24, FutureEverything will deliver the community participatory sessions and family-friendly workshops in February/March 2024 as part of the Town of Culture offer.

About FutureEverything

Established in Manchester, [FutureEverything](#) exists at the convergence of art, technology and society. As an award-winning arts organisation with a year-round programme of cultural activity, we've helped shape digital culture locally, nationally and internationally for over 25 years.

Through a curated programme of public artwork, cross-sector collaborations and digital debates, FutureEverything pushes creative boundaries and stimulates new ways of thinking, across a diverse range of sectors, disciplines and audiences. Taking an action-research, artist-led and human-centred approach, we're passionate about bringing people together to discover, share and experience new ideas for the future, creating opportunities to question and reflect on the world around us.

Our work is international from US, Qatar, Singapore to Europe, Russia and Taiwan, and we have worked with prestigious and exciting partners including British Council, Ars Electronica Linz, Onassis Foundation, Sonar, CTM and many more.