

## ARTIST BRIEF

### STOCKPORT CREATIVE CAMPUS: ARTWORK #2



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, participatory co-creation, and uses a place-based approach to:

- **Create a digital artwork that is site-responsive and aligns with the thematics.**
- **Includes participatory approaches**, at a minimum, to design and deliver creative engagement workshops with communities in Stockport.
- **Ensure the resulting artistic process/methodology could be replicated in other Greater Manchester boroughs.**

With the term 'digital' we mean, making art with technology.

## Thematics

Responding to FutureEverything's emerging focus on art, technology and ecology, (for example bringing [Nature onto our Board](#) and our [Compost Computer](#) prototype), and drawing on your own practice.

You are invited to respond to the following questions:

- As climate patterns shift and natural ecologies are increasingly synthetic, how does this affect our capacity to sense, heal, and rebuild relationships with the more-than-human world?
- And what part does technology play in helping, or hindering, our ability to notice and respond to those connections?

We're particularly interested in ideas that challenge the usual ways we think about and use ecology and technology – for example, challenging logics of categorisation, control or making everything fully 'knowable'. Instead, you might explore approaches that are grounded in lived, sensory, and relational experiences; for example, being connected to a specific place, engaging the body and multiple senses, or finding ways to bridge the physical and digital worlds.

The artwork will need to creatively engage with a site in/above/below Stockport. When we say site-specific, we're thinking about places that carry layers of meaning, history, and environmental significance, or are indicative of new ways of cultivating nature. Examples of this could be:

- **Etherow Country Park**, where traces of industrial heritage remain embedded in the landscape.
- **The former Millgate Power Station site**, a space shaped by energy production and its legacy.
- **The River Mersey** begins in Stockport, now comprising human created particles and debris, along with the weeds and fish as it winds its way to the Irish Sea.
- **A fungi growing studio or rooftop allotment.**

These are just some possible starting points - we welcome your own interpretations and connections to a site. We'll be working with a range of community organisations and local groups throughout the project, and workshops will take place in community spaces across Stockport. The final artwork can take any form, but it must be something that can be experienced in Stockport town centre in early 2026.

## Participatory Element

We would encourage a participatory approach to the project. This could take a range of forms; at a minimum we anticipate that the artist will devise and deliver 5 workshops with a diverse range of community groups in Stockport during the development and realisation of the artwork.

Ideally, the workshops will provide opportunities for members of these community groups to contribute their own ideas and stories to the artwork, and/or develop new skills and understanding - of ecologies and technologies. Each workshop will be facilitated by the artist with the assistance of a FutureEverything team member and members of support staff from the hosting organisation.

## **Budget**

The budget is **£30,000**

The breakdown is as follows:

Artist Fee	£12,000
Workshops Delivery Fee	£3,000
Artwork Production and Presentation/Display	£15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£30,000</b>

FutureEverything has a separate budget for workshop provisions and travel for the artist.

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.

The artwork should be delivered without any additional licensing or external copyright requirements.

## **ABOUT THIS PROJECT**

### **Context**

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.

This will be the second of two artworks, the first being [Emotional Biodiversity](#) by Di Mainstone.

### Timeline

- Application Deadline - Monday 19th May at 17:00
- Interviews - w/c 26th May 2025
- Project commences - June 2025
- Premiere artwork - Early February 2026
- Evaluation - March 2026

### Audiences

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

## 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 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 (in PDF format)
- CV (in PDF format)
- Completed [Equal Opportunities Form](#)

Please send expressions of interest to **Luke Oliveira-Davies, FutureEverything Producer** at [luke@futureeverything.org](mailto:luke@futureeverything.org) with the subject line STOCKPORT ARTWORK #2.

We particularly welcome applications from those who are underrepresented in the sector including people from the Global Majority, those who identify as disabled, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Additional information on the project is available upon 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 June 2025.

## Additional context

To complement our work on SCC, FutureEverything has been commissioned by Greater Manchester Arts (GM Arts), Stockport Council and funded by GMCA Spirit, 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.

## About FutureEverything

FutureEverything exists at the convergence of art, technology and ecology. As an award-winning cultural think tank with a year-round programme of cultural activity, we've helped shape digital culture locally, nationally and internationally for over 30 years.

Through a curated programme of public artwork, cross-sector collaborations, digital debates and prototyping, FutureEverything pushes creative boundaries and stimulates new ways of thinking, across a diverse range of sectors, disciplines and audiences. Taking an action-research and artist-led 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.

Organisations that we have worked with include British Council, Ars Electronica, Factory International, Onassis Stegi, Science Gallery London, Science & Industry Museum, HS2, Cisco, National Trust, RHS, Mozilla, Business Growth Hub, University of Manchester, and Manchester City Council.

In 2024, FutureEverything announced its journey to appoint Nature to its Board of Directors, giving Nature voting rights on all organisation decisions. FutureEverything is the first cultural institution in the UK to put Nature on the Board, joining a small handful of organisations globally who have made this bold move.