



The Common Room of the Great North - Creative Brief for Opening Festival 2021

The Common Room of the Great North are seeking applications for two creative commissions from individual artists / arts organisations from across the North East to be displayed as part of The Common Room's Opening Festival celebration in February 2021.

1. Background to The Common Room

In 2017, The Common Room was established to lead the redevelopment and manage the assets of The Mining Institute located in Newcastle Upon Tyne. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which awarded us a grant of £4.1 million, the project is well underway.

By instilling pride, ownership and understanding, we will continue to support the North East's economy. Using our unique heritage, we will inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers.

Our programme engages with the business community and provides education and enrichment for young people. It's our aim to promote skills development for the region's workforce and to engage the public with their wider industrial heritage.

2. The Work

The Opening Festival will be a high-profile event to celebrate Neville Hall (formerly known as the Mining Institute) reopening to the public. It will showcase our region's past, present and future industrial engineering prowess to new and existing audiences.

The Common Room are looking to commission two major pieces to be the focus of the festival. The call out for commissions include:

- Artistic Engineering Commission
- Performance based Commission

These commissions should be inspired by the building and the project's heritage and mission.

The Common Room's mission is to **use our unique heritage to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers.**

3. Objectives

The creative brief will respond to the Common Room interpretation themes* of;

- Big Idea: Powered Place
- Big Idea: Founded on Altruism and Economics, Research and Learning
- Big Idea: Powered by People
- Big Idea: A Repository of Unrivalled Skills and Knowledge
- Big Idea: Global Impact of Pioneering Innovation
- Big Idea: Continuity of Purpose

*Please see appendix 1 for in-depth detail of each thematic approach.

The Common Room embeds the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into our programme and has a strong interest in goal number 13, Climate Action. Both commissioned pieces will respond to these goals and how innovative minds, creative thinking and pioneering spirit can continue to engineer the solutions to some of the challenges facing our region today.

For more information about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals please visit: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Visitors engaging with your installation / activity will:

- Have a greater understanding & enthusiasm for the heritage of the Common Room, the role of the region in fuelling Industrial Revolution and the relevance of this today.
- Be able to actively explore the installation through a chosen medium i.e. practical hands on activities or digital engagement.
- Be enthused to think about engineering in creative and new ways.

4. Intellectual property rights of the Artwork

The supplier is entitled to retain all Intellectual Property Rights in the Artwork.

5. Budget and expenses

The budget for the work is £5,000 (ex-VAT) including all contractor costs, resources i.e. materials, cases/plinth etc and travel expenses.

The supplier is responsible for paying all costs including (without limitation) de-commissioning of site-specific work where it applies, fees, necessary permissions, materials, equipment hires and/or purchase, public liability insurance, transportation, installation and subsistence.

6. Work to commence

Wednesday 1st April 2020

7. Key Dates

- Research and development April 2020 – December 2020
- Final concepts to be in place for the building opening in November 2020.
- Midpoint review to be Monday 17th August 2020
- Final sign off by The Common Room Programme and Engagement Manager on Friday 18th December 2020
- Install / rehearsal to take place on site if possible (can be set times), ready for opening festival week in February 2021.
- **Contractor must be available to showcase work between Thursday 18th February 2021 and Sunday 21st February 2021.**

8. Completion date

Monday 22nd February 2021

9. Consultation with the client and reporting

The contract is with The Common Room of the Great North. Day to day management of the contract will be by the Programme and Engagement Manager, Emily Tench. The contractor will work closely with the Programme and Engagement team to ensure objectives are met.

10. Invoicing and payment

One third of the fee will be paid within 7 days of an invoice being submitted following the signing of a letter of agreement for the work.

One third of the fee will be paid within 14 days of an invoice being submitted following mid-point review in August 2020.

Final payment of one third of the fee will be paid within 14 days of an invoice being submitted following delivery of the completion of the commissioned work.

11. Appointment process

Deadline for submissions 23rd March 2020 at 12 noon. Please submit your C.V. Covering Letter and proposal application to susan.ford@thecommonroom.org.uk