

# LOWRY



# QUAYS CULTURE



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

## **OPEN CALL – UK ARTISTS FOR COMMISSION FOR LIGHT ART AT LIGHTWAVES SALFORD 2025**

**A co-commission between LOWRY and QUAYS CULTURE**

**DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
8:00am GMT**

£19,000 commission for a light artwork to show at major light festival at Salford Quays.

### **Show dates:**

Lightwaves: 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025, to present artwork for the entirety of the festival.

### **Lightwaves Salford**

Lightwaves Salford is an annual light festival presented at Salford Quays, home to MediaCity. Each December the event attracts in excess of 150,000 visitors to explore a trail of illuminated installations that animate and transform the outdoor surroundings. With an exceptional track record in bold new commissions, the festival is proud to support international artists alongside local and emerging talent and has a growing focus on enrichment activity with local communities at its heart.

The festival is part of the Quays Culture Programme, a partnership initiative with a mission to animate public spaces, bringing extraordinary art into the heart of the community for everyone to experience free of charge.

### **The Commission:**

Since opening in 2000, Lowry have hosted thousands of shows, hundreds of exhibitions, workshops and accessible activities for the community in Salford and beyond. We host a diverse intergenerational audience, with over 900,000 people attending across 2024.

**Within this commission want to explore and celebrate the history of Salford's community and Lowry's place within it.**

It's 25 years since Lowry opened its door to the public. To mark this, we are delivering Lowry Turns 25, a project that focuses on oral histories; collecting stories from people that remember the docks before Lowry was built, and throughout the building's history. Working together with Lowry, Quays Culture will be commissioning a light artwork that is inspired by the stories and memories collected. The commissioned Artist will have access to an archive of audio stories, and access to Lowry staff and community members to allow further consultation to inspire the response. The artwork should look to draw inspiration from Lowry, its history as a cultural centre and the community of Salford Quays.

Lowry Turns 25 is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we will deliver an ambitious heritage project celebrating Lowry's 25th anniversary, bringing local histories to life, and exploring L.S. Lowry's legacy as a champion of working class and industrial heritage.

Five key areas to consider when applying are:

- HERITAGE- this project is preserving the oral heritage of Salford Quays. This artwork is part of that legacy and could be a permanent installation with the opportunity to tour. We want this work to explore and celebrate the history of the Lowry and its community.
- CONNECTION - We are looking for artwork ideas that will create a point of connection between the stories and memories that inspired it, and the modern day.
- PLACE- it should be able to be presented in the built-up environment of the Quays. It could also take into consideration the visual history of Lowry and the surrounding Quay. The commission should consider the scale of the work within Salford Quays wider architecture. We are looking to commission large scale works that fit within our curation (Examples of previous work shown at Lightwaves 2024: <https://quaysculture.com/programme-highlights/> )
- LIGHT - The call out is open to artists working in all mediums but must include light as part of the work
- SOUND: The proposed work must also consider how sound and oral histories could be integrated in a connected and considered approach.

**The successful commission will also need to:**

- Consider both environmental impact and sustainability of the artwork during its production, display and afterlife.
- Be suitable to presented outdoors in winter. Work must be wind safe to 50mph and be IP65 compliant.
- We would need a full set of RAMS for install, presentation and derig

We particularly welcome applications from Greater Manchester Artists.

## The budget

£19,000 commission including,

- Materials
- Artist fee's (R+D + Build)
- Travel expenses
- Other technical support or needs

QC / Lightwaves will provide the following:

- Security
- Support and contact to advisors where needed
- Power and distro
- Event staffing
- Signage
- Accommodation for built and break period, plus show period if required

## How to apply: Expression of interest

- + Expression of interest open: Friday 11th March – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March
- + Submission deadline: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 08:00am
- + Expression panel selection: 2nd April
- + Successful Applicant contacted: April 4<sup>th</sup>
- + Shortlisted artist interviews: 17<sup>th</sup> April
- + Selected artist proposal development deadline: 29th April:
- + Final Panel selection and commissioning: 2nd May

This is an expression of interest for an initial selection round. Expression of interest will be judged by Quays Culture and a panel. 4 Artists will be selected from the expression of interest to develop ideas into a proposal format. £250 will be paid to each artist/group to develop the proposal for a final judging round. We will take one proposal forward to receive the full commission and work alongside Lowry and Quay's Culture to develop the work for presentation at Lightwaves 2025.

Please submit:

1. An overview of your practice (500 words max – written, video or audio)
2. Why you are interested in the project and commission (500 words max)
3. Two Supporting images of previous artworks (outdoor, light art or large scale structural based)
4. Links to website, portfolio or relevant social media

5. A copy of your CV if not available at any of the above in point 4

(video or audio, please share large images/audio files via WeTransfer or alternative)

**Apply via Curator Space:** <https://www.curatorspace.com/opportunities/detail/open-call--uk-artists-for-commission-for-light-art-at-lightwaves-salford/9178> no later than 08:00am 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

This information pack is available in large print, Plain text and Audio recording.

Lightwaves Salford is committed to broadening the diversity of those working in the medium of light art and encourages applications from people who are currently under-represented in the sector, including people who experience racism, identify as working class, have disabilities, are from the LGBTQ+ community, are care experienced or are discriminated against.

Getting help to apply:

We are very happy to answer any questions. Please get in touch if you would like additional support with making your application.

Contact us at:

hello@quaysculture.com

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

By submitting your proposal, you agree:

- That you are an artist with the right to work in the UK.
- Your artwork will be ready for exhibition at Lightwaves Salford 2025
- Your work is deliverable within the timescale of the programme and will be delivered on budget.
- To attend an initial induction, production meetings and site visits where reasonably required.
- You must have relevant Public Liability Insurance for your activity, to a minimum £10 million cover.
- To supply, in advance, copy and images for marketing purposes as and when required
- To provide evaluation feedback on completion of the commissioning fund, in line with the framework provided