

LOWRY'S SCRATCH NIGHTS X CLIMATE HOPE THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025

CALL-OUT FOR ARTISTS TO SHARE NEW WORK! DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025, 5PM

We are pleased to announce our next call-out for artists to test brand new ideas responding to the theme of **climate hope** - focusing on optimism, agency, and meaningful action in the face of the climate crisis. In a time marked by climate grief, political fatigue, and social despair, hope is not a luxury; it's an essential and transformative force for change.

This edition of Scratch Nights will be curated in collaboration with **The Guardians of Living Matter** (Lowry Developed With artists Sophy King & John-Paul Brown).

What do we mean by climate hope?

In this moment of ecological uncertainty, we urgently need to shift the narrative from one of inevitable decline to one of resilience, imagination, and care. Climate hope doesn't ignore the urgency of the crisis; it recognises it, while focusing on what can be done. It's found in community-led responses, acts of care and repair, rewilding and regeneration, empowerment and resilience.

It includes new ways of designing, living, organising, and imagining the future - from knowledge-sharing to climate justice movements, from speculative thinking to everyday acts that prioritise connection, sustainability, and change.

There is no fixed definition, only space for fundamental, creative, and practical responses that help shift narratives and open up new possibilities.

SCRATCH NIGHTS AT LOWRY

Our Scratch Nights offer an evening dedicated to the development of brand-new work. A chance for artists to put early ideas in front of a live, supportive audience to see what sticks; it's about now rather than never, it's about the spit without the polish. Testing early ideas that may one day turn into fully formed pieces.

These informal nights bring new work to audiences and create a supportive platform for artists to experiment, take risks, test ideas on stage, and share new work with peers and wider public.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

This is an open call-out for artists based in Greater Manchester and the North West of England to apply. We are now inviting artists, collectives, and companies working across live art (physical, visual, digital, or cross-artform) to submit proposals that explore climate hope from any angle - poetic, social, speculative, personal, or communal.

Proposals should include a live element and be suitable for sharing in the Aldridge Studio Theatre at Lowry on Thursday 23 October 2025.

Please note: this opportunity is best suited to artists who have a live or performance-based element to their practice. We are not currently accepting proposals solely focused on scriptwriting or music.

We will select four proposals to be part of the event, with each artist or company invited to share up to 20 minutes of work. Proposals should present a new idea or a work-in-progress that has not yet been performed publicly.

SELECTED ARTISTS WILL RECEIVE:

- A fee of £1000 to develop and present your idea
- Rehearsal space at Lowry where possible
- Producer support from Lowry Staff and online mentoring session in advance of the event with Sophy King and John-Paul Brown
- A set of production images and video archive footage taken by a professional photographer and videographer
- Anonymous feedback from audiences in response to the questions you want answered about your work
- If required, extra financial support will be made available as a contribution towards access costs, caring responsibilities and any costs associated with wellbeing and safe working in relation to the activity you wish to undertake. We can discuss what you need if you are selected.

SCRATCH NIGHTS GUIDELINES:

- The work must be a new idea or piece in development (not having been shown anywhere else), with basic technical requirements.
- The work must be suitable for the Aldridge Studio space. Please visit [our website](#) for more details on the technical specifications of the Studio.
- This opportunity is for artists at any stage of their career.

KEY DATES

- Deadline for applications: **Thursday 31 July 2025, 5pm**
- All artists will be notified by: **Thursday 7 August 2025**
- Scratch Nights date: **Thursday 23 Oct 2025, Lowry Aldridge Studio**

Lowry is committed to encouraging diversity and intersectionality in the arts and we actively encourage proposals from artists from under-represented communities, including people who experience racism, identify as working class, have disabilities,

are from the LGBTQ+ community, care experienced or are discriminated against.

We encourage you to apply for this opportunity no matter what your age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with Grace Ng at artistdevelopment@thelowry.com. We can answer queries about the application process and Scratch Nights programme but cannot read draft applications in advance.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply and submit your **Application online** click [here](#).

Below please find the **Application Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring in Large Print**. This can be used to draft answers to the questions before applying online, or for audio or video applications.

LOWRY'S SCRATCH NIGHTS X CLIMATE HOPE APPLICATION FORM

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

Please confirm that you are 18 years old or over?

Please note that this opportunity is only for artists aged 18 years or over – yes or no

Email –

Full Name of Lead Artist –

Pronouns of Lead Artist –

Full Names & Pronouns of Group Members –

If applying as a group, please provide full names of all company members. If applying as an individual, please state here “N/A” –

Contact telephone number of Lead Artist –

Address including postcode of Lead Artist –

What area of Greater Manchester are you based in?

Bolton –

Bury –

Oldham –

Rochdale –

Stockport –

Tameside –

Trafford –

Wigan –

Manchester –

Salford –

Outside Greater Manchester and North West of England –

If outside Greater Manchester and North West of England, please say where –

Please let us know if you/your collaborators or company members have any access requirements and what support you/they might need to take part? –

If your application is selected, please confirm that you are available to take part in Scratch Nights on Thursday 23 October 2025 at Lowry in Salford. Technical Rehearsals on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October 2025. – yes or no

SECTION B: PROPOSAL

How would you like to submit your application?

I would like to submit this section by filling in this form –

I would like to send a video or voice application (Please note: If you are sending in a video or voice application, please copy the link to your Dropbox, Google Drive or other file sharing folder (where you have uploaded the video/voice note), into the text box of each of the following questions. Do not forget to include a password if there is one.) –

- 1. Please tell us about you and your work (up to 250 words)**
- 2. Please include a link to your website, social media page or/and photos or short video links of your previous work (up to 3 links maximum)**
- 3. Please provide an outline of the *new idea you would like to develop for Scratch Nights (up to 250 words) *a new idea is one which has not yet been shown publicly in the UK and/or has not received significant development support.**
- 4. What would you specifically like to gain from this opportunity? - e.g. test certain material, find the answer to a creative question, work out next steps for your project.**
- 5. How many artists will be involved in the development and presentation of this work?**
- 6. Please outline any technical requirements you might need (as much as you know/think at this point).**

We do not facilitate LX Pre-Rigging due to the demands of the programme. The Studio has a fixed rig in situ. This is a 6.5M x 10M

Tomcat truss suspended on 6 x 500kg Lodestar hoists over the performance area. We will only be using the fixed lighting rig, speakers & masking, with no allowance for additional suspended items. There is no counterweight, hemp, winch or powered flying for use during shows.

No smoking is allowed on stage.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PYROTECHNICS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED IN THE STUDIO.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORM

Please also complete an equal opportunities form, which we will keep separate from your application

This form is anonymous and none of the information collected on this form will be used in any decision-making process for The Lowry's Artist Network Opportunities. All data collected will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.

The questions in this section are required because The Lowry takes its responsibility to widening its reach and offering artist development opportunities towards inclusion, diversity and representation seriously; its Artist Development programme also receives money from a number of public funding bodies (for example, the Arts Council), and we are asked to report back information on the demographics within the network. Please choose the "prefer not to say" option for each question if you do not consent to sharing the information.

1. How would you describe your gender? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Male (including trans male) –

Female (including trans female) –

Non-binary (including androgyne) –

None of the above (option to self define below)

Prefer not to say –

Self-definition –

2. What is your sexual orientation? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Bisexual –
Gay Man –
Gay Woman/Lesbian –
Heterosexual/Straight –
Prefer not to say –
Other (please specify) –

3. What is your ethnicity? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Asian British -
Asian Bangladeshi -
Asian Indian -
Asian Pakistani -
Any other Asian background (please specify) -
Black British -
Black African -
Black Caribbean -
Any other black background (please specify) -
East Asian British -
East Asian Chinese -
East Asian Japanese -
East Asian Korean -
South East Asian -
Any other East Asian or South East Asian background (please specify) -
White & Asian -
White & East Asian -
White & Black British -
White & Black African -
White & Black Caribbean -

Mixed Heritage (please specify) -
White British
White English -
White Scottish -
White Welsh -
Northern Irish -
Irish -
Prefer not to say -
Other (please specify) -

4. What is your age? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Under 18 –
18-24 –
25-34 –
35-44 –
45-54 –
55-64 –
65+ –
Prefer not to say –

5. Do you identify as D/deaf or disabled person, neurodivergent or/and mental health experience, or have a long-term health condition? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

There is no detriment to your registration if you have a health condition. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 states that a ‘person has a disability for the purpose of this Act if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities’.

Yes, limited a lot –
Yes, limited a little –

Yes, limited but can vary significantly day-to-day -

No –

Prefer not to say –

5. Have you experienced barriers as a result of being working class?

Yes –

No –

Prefer not to say –

Not known –

6. If you feel you have experienced other barriers not covered by the above, on which you feel we might be able to ask for data, please tell us here. This will help us refine this process and improve both reporting and our actions.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to complete the registration and equal opportunities monitoring form.

Please note: this application form will close on **Thursday 31 July 2025, 5pm**. All artists will be notified by **Thursday 7 August 2025**.