

Artist Brief

Applications Open: 10 December 2024

Deadline for proposals: 9 March 2025

Bright Nights Future Commissions





Bright Nights background

Bright Nights has hosted incredible light installations and events across Gloucester, offering hope, light and connection. Taking place in winter months, Bright Nights has animated the city with spectacular pop-up light installations, making a destination trail for locals and tourists. Bright Nights has delivered a range of installations between 2020 - 2024 to bring people closer to nature, create interactive games and play, and warm communities with illuminated swimming or fire gatherings.

Bright Nights **aims** to:

1. Produce art that is spectacular and joyful.
2. Bring people into Gloucester in the cold winter months.
3. Encourage a diverse evening economy where people feel safe.
4. Reflect Gloucester's identity.
5. Be environmentally and socially responsible.
6. Engage and link up communities.
7. Connect partners and shared cultural resources across the city

Bright Nights Future Commissions

As part of a collaborative citywide programme [Together Gloucester](#) Bright Nights reviewed its feedback from attendees, who shared they want to see a lasting change in the city. Therefore, we are inviting proposals for **longer term permanent or semi-permanent light installations** designed to leave a lasting legacy and bring pride to the citizens of Gloucester. Lets make Gloucester a place renowned for public artwork that tells the story of Gloucester.

We will be interested in commission proposals that meet our **vision**:

1. Allow for opportunities for moments of play or interaction with art.
2. Inspire and encourage residents and welcome visitors.
3. Enhance safety in the city by introducing vibrant and uplifting art.
4. Celebrate and re-imagine the city's heritage in exciting ways.
5. Consider sustainable materials and alternative power.
6. Respond to this brief with imagination keeping timescale and budget in mind.
7. Partner with or commission other local artists honing Gloucester's creative talent.



Some ideas?



People riding bikes light up lanterns by [Electric Pedals](#)



Encourage use of stairs with [Fun Theory's piano staircase](#)



An opportunity to dance in [Shadowing](#) by Rosier and Chomko.



Permanent lighting for an existing sculpture e.g: [Kyneburgh Tower](#) by [Tom Price](#)



Endless Ribbon by Morag Myerscough [Creative Giants - Projects](#)



Who can apply?

If you are a Gloucestershire based artist with an idea for beautiful and sustainable light art which is accessible for everyone to enjoy. Criteria:

- ✓ Gloucestershire based artists and / or working in partnership with a Gloucester based organisation.
- ✓ Must hold public liability insurance.
- ✓ Have a track record of creating lasting artworks.

What can you apply for?

Bright Nights Future Commissions are a legacy for the city, please indicate on the Expression of Interest Form (EOI) form which category your installation is:

- ✓ Permanent public lighting
- ✓ Temporary public artwork commission with a life span of between 3 months and less than five years.
- ✓ A semi-permanent public artwork commission with a life span of up to ten years.

Gloucester City Council has allocated £30,000k a year for Bright Nights commissions in 2025 and 2026. A panel will review the applications and decide how to allocate the budget. If further match is required to be fundraised for ambitious projects, we require proof of match funding applications, or welcome your support to work with us to seek project matched funding.

Permissions

All commissions should ensure their installation is constructed in a safe way that compliments its surroundings. Including:

Commissions can be built on or around street furniture in the area (streetlights, signposts, benches etc.) as long as they remain functional. If installations require permissions from the Highways and/or Street Lighting team, we will support with sourcing the relevant permissions.

When using public spaces you must be mindful of all people using the shared space. Access must be maintained for people of all abilities need to be able to navigate the space safely day and night, and for local businesses to continue as usual.

Structural installations must not cause blockage in roads or affect traffic.

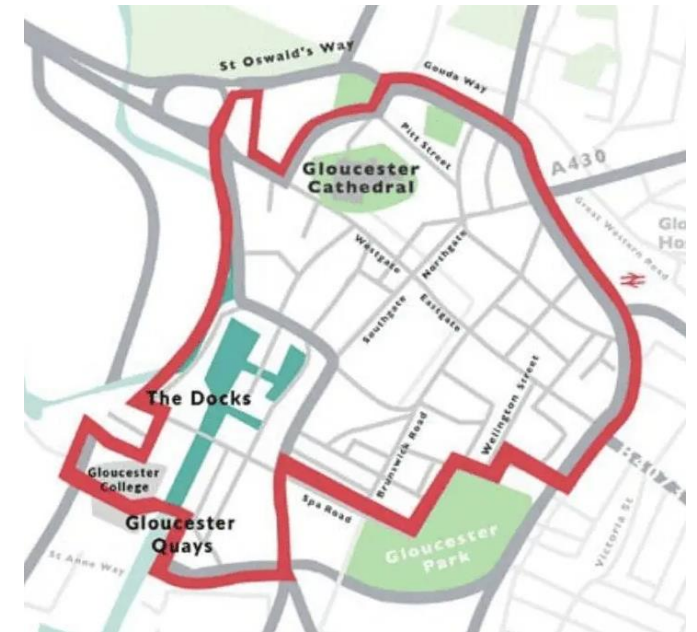
There are some restrictions in terms of attaching work to buildings and time to get approval must be built into the proposal timeline.

Location of Bright Nights Future Commission

Bright Nights Future Commissions aims to enhance safety in the city by introducing vibrant and uplifting art.

A factor to considering the relevant sight will include Gloucester City Council consultation on public views on areas to increase public safety. Feedback can be seen on [Gloucester safety Map](#)

Gloucester Business Improvement District are a proud sponsor of Bright Nights and support artworks located in Gloucester BID's area of work (see map) [Link](#).



How to apply

Please complete the EOI form including 2-3 images of recent work or project proposal ideas. To access the EOI form, click [APPLY HERE on the website](#).

You will be asked for a written proposal or alternatively, you can attach a short video or audio recording (no longer than 5 minutes in length), answering questions on the application form. Your video can include images or you can send these separately.

Please send any additional supporting materials to: TogetherGloucester@gloucester.gov.uk by 5pm on 9 March 2025.

If you or someone you are supporting needs this application in a different format, please do get in touch so we can make this open to you.

What is included in the EOI proposal form

1. Contact details
2. Your creative practice and experience
3. Category of Bright Nights Future Commission
4. Artwork description of how it meets Bright Nights [aims](#) and [vision](#), the audience experience, who you are collaborating with and a visual picture of the proposal.
5. Site requirements for artwork: size, required environment and location.
6. Sustainable materials and power, technical elements, suitable materials, fabrication and fixing techniques that are low-maintenance and durable. Is the artwork illuminated by daylight, power, bioluminescent plants or generated by people.
7. Health and Safety and PLI. The artist/artists team will need to have Public Liability Insurance of a minimum of £10 million cover, and a competent fabricator and installation team with RAMS document if successful.
8. Your expenditure and income breakdown. Your budget tells your story – if something is important in your project, make sure it's also clear in the budget.
9. Anything you wish to add not covered in the EOI form.

What happens next?

Step 1: Representatives from Together Gloucester’s Citizen panel and Strategic partners will individually score your idea against the assessment criteria.

Step 2: Once scored, a meeting will take place between the citizen panel and members of the TG strategic partners. We want to make sure the Bright Nights Future Commissions are representative of Gloucester’s communities, stories, styles and art forms. They will make recommendations for funding.

Step 3: We will inform you of your outcome with any conditions recommended by the panel. This may include confirmation of any relevant permissions required; budget clarifications; and/or references.

We aim to offer individual feedback for all applications however where this is not possible due to a high volume of applications we will follow up all unsuccessful applications with an overview of the panel's thoughts across all applications.

Scoring

The proposals will be considered against Bright Nights [aims](#) and [vision](#) and the detail supplied in the EOI form by Together Gloucester’s citizen panel, GCC officers, Gloucester BID using the traffic light system of assessment:

Score (0-3)	0	1	2	3
Rationale	Unacceptable - not been answered or the answer raises serious doubts.	Partially answered but reservations remain about the clarity / robustness / credibility of the answer.	Acceptable – answered to a satisfactory standard.	Excellent –fully answered and exceeds satisfactory standards.

Those shortlisted will then be invited to an online panel interview on **26 or 27 March between 10am – 3:30pm. Please keep this date free when applying.** The final decision will be made following these panel interviews.

We anticipate interviewing a maximum of 5 artists/proposal teams and will inform everyone whether they have been shortlisted or not by **13 March 2025.**

Successful Applicants

As part of the condition of funding, successful applicants will sign a funding agreement where they agree to:

- Inform funders of projects dates and key milestone
- Reference/ acknowledge funders in marketing / use of Together Gloucester logos
- Maintain openness and transparency with funder on project specifics
- Ensure plans do not deviate from the application without knowledge and consent of funder
- Submit an evaluation form after the project has been delivered
- Invite funders to the final event, presentation or other opportunities, so we can see the work in action.

Whilst applicants are expected to carry out their own marketing; Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Culture Trust can assist with advice, contacts and support with marketing through their existing websites and social media channels.

The evaluation will be required for release of the final payment 20% of funding and must include the following:

- An audience and participation survey conducted online or in person (answers must be recorded).
- Detailed final budget of the project.





FAQs

Can we apply as an artist collective?

Yes you can apply as an individual, or a collection/ organisation

Can I propose to display work I have already produced?

Yes you can apply with an existing work already created

Can I apply for more than one commission as one artist against different specified locations?

Yes you can put in as many proposals as you like as long as they fit within the aims and criteria. Although to spread the commissioning opportunity as widely as possible, we want to fund multiple artists (not multiple proposals by the same artist).

Can I apply for a commission for 2025 and 2026

Yes we recognise that some artworks will take time to gain the relevant permissions, so we are providing the opportunity for people to apply for 2025 and 2026.

What support will we have during installation?

You will have support from the City Council Culture Team to get relevant permissions for installation and checking any requirements eg highways regs. You can also attend an advice session with the team – please email Togethergloucester@gloucester.gov.uk for more details.

I don't live in Gloucester, am I eligible?

We are creating an opportunity for Gloucestershire based artists and the creative community here. If you are not from Gloucestershire the EOI should be in partnership with a Gloucester based organisation.

Do have any other questions?

Send us an email to get in touch by email Togethergloucester@gloucester.gov.uk with 'Bright Nights Future commissions' in the subject line.