

Surtal Arts

DERBY SEASON OF LIGHT

2024



Creative brief

May 2024

Derby Season of Light (DSOL) is a celebration of our city's dazzling diversity and creativity!

We aim to bring together communities, shine a light on emerging talent, and partner with a whole host of exciting organisations/venues to deliver a series of events for everyone to enjoy.

It's an annual event that's created and delivered by our organization, Surtal Arts, and it has a massive impact in the city – in 2023, around 5000 people experienced our events from as far away as India and USA, and 33 artists produced 7 major new artworks.

Whether it's created by professional or upcoming artists, in an exhibition or on-stage, in-person or online, we're proud to showcase high-quality, meaningful creative work that celebrates the diversity of Derby.

Here's a look at previous DSOLs have looked like...



Drummers at the Lantern Parade



Rangoli art



Huge crowds at the Lantern Parade



Lantern making



Stories of Diwali



Shadow puppet making and storytelling

Shine-a-light on your work

For us, one of the best parts of DSOL is opening up the opportunity for emerging artists to create new innovative work across all art forms. Some of the people we've nurtured over the years have gone on to have great careers in the creative industries – from dancers to designers to musicians – and some have become internationally recognized artists.

This initiative is called '**Shine-a-Light**', and this year we want to shine that light on you. So, here's your chance to get involved – to create something exciting and new, to potentially to inspire thousands and profile yourself.

Who we're looking for:

Surtal Arts would like to engage aspiring artists and art students across Derby (age 18+) to meet a creative brief for Derby Season of Light 2024.

We need individuals who are:

- **Committed** - who will see these projects through to completion
- **Open-minded** - who appreciate new cultures and respectful of different communities
- **Organised** - who can manage their own workload and able to meet deadlines
- **Collaborative** – who work well with others and receptive to feedback

Creative Brief

Project : LANTERN SCULPTURE TRAIL

8 x aspiring artists will be commissioned £450 to create a Lantern Sculpture for our trail around the city for the 2024 season.

Lantern theme: *A World of Flowers* - Flowers provide meaning to different cultures around the globe and they're essential to the environment. We want to inspire Derby to love flowers and plants by creating a garden trailing throughout the city. We would like you to focus on a culture/community from our city and recreate their meaningful flower in lantern form.

- The sculptures will be made either using willow or any other eco-friendly or recycled material. The more sustainable the better.
- You will be assigned a landmark in Derby, and based on your research into that landmark's architecture and purpose, your final creation will be a large-scale 3D lantern sculpture that's appropriate for the space and relevant to your chosen culture.
- Your sculptures should be 2 to 3meter high. LED lights will be used inside the lanterns. Finished sculpture will be installed at the designated landmark by (date to be confirmed)
- A map of the trail will be created and will be available to general public on a printed brochure, on Surtal website and social media.
- If you don't have experience of using willow, we can arrange training.
- You will be profiled on our website, social media and other PR materials.

Process & Timeline

You MUST be able to commit to whole project, July to October 2024 and be available for the Derby Lantern Parade

July – September 2024

- You'll will research the landmark and culture/community and materials to be used for construction of the lantern sculpture.
- You'll create a prototype or illustration of the sculpture present it to the DSOL Festival Team at Surtal Arts.

September – October

- You will bring your sculptures to life using the chosen materials. Sculptures will be complete with professional imagery created for the festival brochure
- Create plinths to accompany lantern sculpture
- Install lantern sculptures
- If interested in 'arts in education' and 'community participatory arts', there may be opportunities for you to get involved assisting or shadowing our established artists on the ground delivering workshops.

How to Apply

To apply for a chance to take part in this opportunity please send:

1. Your idea for the lantern sculpture - this can be a sketch or powerpoint, telling us what cultural flower(s) you'll create and sustainable materials you'll use*.
2. Examples of your work or your portfolio.

Office@surtalarts.co.uk

Deadline 10am on 1 July 2024

Fee - Upon completion of sculpture and lantern parade. £450 per artist

Criteria for selection:

The Derby Season of Light Team will process and select the successful applicants.

When looking at your application we'll be focussing on how well it fits the brief - in particular the sustainable materials used, connection to culture and community, size/structure and luminousness of lantern.

We will let you know the outcome of your application via email reply in July.

* We'll assign the Derby landmarks to successful applicants and work with you to adapt your design for the space.



Appendix / additional info

What is Derby Season of Light (DSOL)?

Derby is a vibrant home to 182 cultural communities. This project, DSOL, aims to celebrate our city's diversity through various arts activities and events with the universal theme of 'Light' – it will attract participants, audiences and artists from many different cultural backgrounds, culminating in a season of inspirational and enriching activity.

DSOL will take place between September and December when Diwali, Christmas Light Switch-on and Bonfire Night and other cultural events are all in close proximity and where 'Light' is the common theme that binds them together. It also celebrates partnership, community cohesion, and artistic collaboration between the city's arts, cultural, non-arts organisations and businesses.

Now, more than ever, people are looking to the arts to reflect and represent the times we live in. Over the years DSOL has truly brought people together to express topics that are on our minds – like climate action, inclusion and wellbeing.

Through DSOL, Surtal Arts aims to deliver unique cross-cultural experiences for the people of Derby and Derbyshire especially young people.

By working with various partners, including educational establishments, arts organisations and communities, the project aims to promote respect, understanding and tolerance under the "DSOL" umbrella. DSOL enables partners to diversify their cultural programming to reflect and appeal to local Derby and Derbyshire audience. DSOL partners will also benefit from joint marketing and cross-promotion, thus making DSOL sustainable and good return on investment as we all strive towards developing new audiences.

The main event at DSOL is the Derby Lantern Parade which is delivered in partnership with Derby Live/Derby City Council. Lantern Parade is a precursor event to Christmas Light Switch On, which is organised by Derby Live.



SURTAL ARTS

About Surtal Arts

Founded in 1994, Surtal Arts is a Derby based combined arts organisation specialising in South Asian Arts & culture. It creates wonderful cross-cultural experiences that enrich the lives of young people, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It produces high-quality arts experiences (workshops, site-specific performances & outdoor festivals) that are about diversity & inclusion. It's South Asian specialism drives cross-cultural collaboration between organisations, artists, audiences, engaging hard-to-reach communities, encouraging social cohesion, addressing health inequalities & enabling BAME groups to have a 'place' in mainstream arts.

Contact Gopa Nath, Surtal Arts, Tel: 07986640448 or info@surtalarts.co.uk or visit www.surtalarts.co.uk