

Artist Opportunity

About

Global Grooves is commissioning an artist or collective to create a piece of site-specific artwork to be exhibited in response to our micro hydro project. This is a paid opportunity with a total fee of up to £6,000 available.

As a Carnival and Outdoor Arts organisation, we work locally and globally, perform kinetically and statically, and always create collaboratively. Our work is colourful and vibrant, often site specific, and reflects the communities that we engage with. We'd like proposals to reflect this approach through the artwork created.

The commission's aim is to engage visitors to our home The Vale, physically or digitally (or in a way yet to be imagined!). The hydro turbine installation itself won't be self-explanatory or obvious to the public. We'd like the artwork to help to give the project presence through a creative intervention that engages our audiences and communities.

The prompts we'd like you to respond to in your ideas are:

- ⦿ How can we engage as many visitors as possible in our hydro project through the arts?
- ⦿ How can the artwork link to the aims of our hydro project and help to share learning more widely?
- ⦿ How can the artwork have longevity of engagement? (Attention should be paid to the lifecycle in choice of materials and medium).
- ⦿ How would you ensure high artistic quality?
- ⦿ How might your piece reflect the work of Global Grooves and/or the venue's textile mill history?
- ⦿ What would the artwork's predicted lifespan be, and how does your choice of materials reflect the environmental ethos of the wider project?

The funding for this project has been awarded from the Community Knowledge Fund.

About the Hydro Project

As part of the ongoing development of our home, The Vale, we are exploring creative ways to reduce our carbon footprint. This is a holistic approach that engages communities in environmental themes and explores the use of technology and art to complement our environment, and create practical outputs to support our operations.

Towards the rear of our developing Annex building is a stream and culvert that is soon to be used to power a small hydro turbine via water run off from the Pennine hills. We expect this turbine to be able to generate enough power throughout the year to support our total energy consumption for our live music programme.

In the first phase of this project we gained media interest from Granada TV and local news. Tameside Arts Centre is first in country to power their gigs with water | ITV News Granada.

“Tameside Arts Centre is first in country to power their gigs with water”



Our Project's aims are:

- ⚙️ To share knowledge of the positive initiatives, networks, people, resources, energy which are on our doorstep.
- ⚙️ To develop practical knowledge around both micro-generation, and how energy is actually generated and used, to give people greater control of their relationship with energy and consumption.
- ⚙️ To gain far reaching impact beyond those already engaged in sustainability eg, national and international.
- ⚙️ To influence change by removing barriers to community renewable projects.
- ⚙️ To create a hydro generator that will complement our holistic approach to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, including working in tandem with a new solar array about to be installed on our venue roof.

The participants from this project have shared their progress and learning in a blog available here www.valehydro.net . We'd recommend reading through blog posts for more information.



About Global Grooves

We draw on worldwide cultural art forms to deliver jaw-dropping, inspirational Carnival experiences through music, dance, and visual arts. As the only Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) in Tameside, we are proud to say we run the North's only Carnival Centre of Excellence. Artist-led and ambitious, we work throughout the UK and – as our name suggests – internationally, bringing together world-class artists with young people, communities, and organisations to create the most extraordinary opportunities, moments, and memories.

Providing training, mentoring and consultancy coupled with volunteering, participation and performance, we have witnessed that the immersive nature of Carnival can take people on phenomenal journeys, allowing them to discover everything they need for their own personal growth.
www.globalgrooves.org



About our home The Vale

Based in Mossley, in the foothills of the Peak District, The Vale is a former textile mill converted to a state-of-the-art venue for all kinds of artistic, creative and Carnival happenings. In the community, The Vale is perhaps best known as a live performance venue where a whole host of different music, theatre, dance, and cinema events take place. You can take a look at our current season [here](#).

Our space is also used by our resident Carnival arts organisations, Global Grooves and Cabasa, to develop new Carnival productions. Visual artists can also find top notch mixed-use and specialist studios alongside exhibition space at The Vale. Electronics, carpentry, and all kinds of textile work, including sewing and dyeing, are accommodated, while purpose-built storage keeps artwork and equipment including our [resident puppets](#) safe.



Project requirements:

Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to creatives and arts/cultural organisations, including artists, makers, producers, and curators working across the creative industries. We are open to collaborative proposals where creatives work together. Creatives at all stages of their career are welcome to apply. We'd be particularly interested to hear Greater Manchester artists with a connection to Tameside.

Materials:

This project should have as minimal impact on the environment as possible, e.g. reusing items in stock already, choosing materials and mediums that have a lasting lifespan, and using items sourced locally etc. If digital, how will it mitigate against the carbon impact of web hosting?

Focus: The work should focus on engaging visitors with what the micro-hydro is doing and how the participants' community led process achieved this, and its energy production. There should also be a focus on quality of artistry that engages a wide variety of interests and people.

Process: This can be taken on by one person or as a group or collective.

Size and scale is up to you, though bear in mind the positioning, and changing nature of our site means some things may need to be flexible and well planned. We're looking for quality rather than quantity or size.

Artist fee: £6,000(+ VAT if applicable)

This fee is inclusive of materials, community engagement and planning time.

Use of The Vale's Studio 2 for 3-4 weeks is provided for the project and Studio 1 (subject to availability).

We won't be able to cover travel or accommodation costs, so if you plan to travel please include this in your budget.

Completion deadline:

Commission to be completed by 6th September 2024.

How to apply:

Send expressions of interest to hello@globalgrooves.org by Monday 10th June.

Before applying, please ensure you carefully read the details in this document before applying.

Applications should include:

- an artist biography
- a description of how you would fulfil the brief.
- a breakdown of your budget plan
- If applicable any sketch design/drawings/images you would like to share.
- Details of your choice of materials and how they link to the brief
- Community engagement ideas (If applicable).

Applications can be written, a maximum 4 page with images or a short video of no more than 5 minutes.

We encourage you to get in touch with any questions in advance of applying.

Timeline:

Applications open 14th May.

Deadline 12pm 10th June.

A small team will review the applications and aim to get back to you by Friday 15th June.

All applicants can expect to hear back by 21st June.

Commission to be completed between late June and 6th September.

The following ideas from the Community Power group are to help prompt you in your proposal.

This is guidance and ideas from the group workshop on the artist commission and not a prescriptive requirement for the art piece. We want to know how you'd interpret the brief and we're open to your creative ideas. Please use the below as additional information to feed into your proposal.

Kinetic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Eye catching ☐ Kinetic energy ☐ Interactive ☐ Connections and movement 	Natural elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Include elements from nature ☐ Respond to environment ☐ Celebrate nature
Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Self powered/kinetic ☐ solar or wind powered 	Art form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Any medium, open to all forms, digital, sculpture, illustration, comic, any and all!
Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Generate Interest ☐ Feed understanding and Knowledge ☐ Illustrative of the project ☐ Respond to the environment ☐ Ecological and environmental hope ☐ Learning and information sharing 	Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Water ☐ Found materials ☐ No contamination of the landscape
Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Around the site of The Vale ☐ Near the location of the hydro turbine in the stream ☐ In and around trees ☐ Not blocking Annex or entrances etc 	Cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Carnival ☐ Celebration of different cultures and our global connections ☐ Digital connections ☐ Optimism of cultures coming together
Community Involvement (in the creation at some point in the process) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Young people; beavers, scouts, schools, DofE ☐ General Public ☐ Crafty Saturdays/Our Space attendees ☐ Community level access to art and craft ☐ Maths/Science/ STEAM 	Lifespan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Semi permanent ☐ Repairable ☐ Long lasting in the environment ☐ Storm proof, or removable in weather warnings.

