

Escalate Arts – Schools Programme Commission

About us

Escalate Arts is a place-based programme which will change how people design, engage with, work in & enjoy culture/arts in Spelthorne. It is a two-year project funded by Arts Council England (£399k) and match funding from partners (£125k). Young people are the key audience for the project.

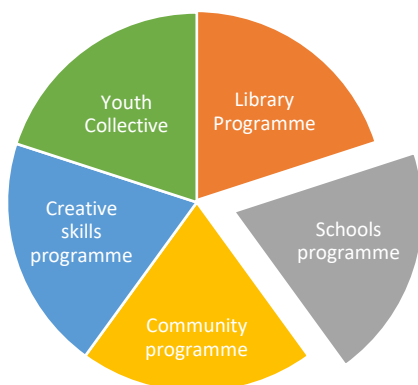
Using Surreys new flagship library in Staines-upon-Thames, the project aims to provide residents with:

- **More opportunities** to take part in arts and cultural activities, especially disadvantaged young people
- **A greater understanding of what opportunities there are** to take part in arts and cultural activities across Surrey, especially around skills development
- **Increased confidence** in their own creative skills
- **(Young people) to feel empowered**, and able to contribute towards arts and cultural development in their area

Partners

Surrey County Council: Surrey Arts (Culture Box: Surrey's Local Cultural Education Partnership), Surrey Libraries, Surrey Youth Services, Economy and Growth, Spelthorne Borough Council: Ashford Youth Club, Artswork, local schools and cultural organisations

There are five programme strands:



Youth Collective: A group of up to 20 young people aged 11 – 16. The Youth Collective are supported to develop their own skills and programme cultural events in Staines Library

Staines Library Programme: A 24-month programme of events and activities is delivered. Signposting for cultural engagement initiatives is developed

Community Programme: A programme of events and activities is delivered in wider areas of Spelthorne experiencing disadvantage, focusing on working with community partners and/or with local artists

Schools Programme: A programme of events and teacher training is delivered in Spelthorne Schools, and a Teachers network is developed

Creative Skills: Working with partner organisations, we develop new 'creative pathways' across Surrey, to support young people gaining further skills. This includes (but is not limited to) accreditation, such as digital badging, work experience, apprenticeships etc.

Call for Projects

The Escalate Arts project Schools Programme is looking to commission impactful projects and activities that deliver strong outcomes for schools in Surrey. Successful projects will demonstrate a clear alignment with the project's aims:

- **Increased awareness of local arts and culture opportunities**
- **Creative Skills Development**
- **Increased confidence**
- **Young people feel empowered**

We are inviting proposals from artists and creative organisations who are located in Surrey or have a particular interest in working in the county. We are particularly keen to engage practitioners from diverse backgrounds and under-served communities.

Delivery should aim to take place in the Autumn term of 2025.

Criteria:

- Activity will take place in our partner schools in Spelthorne (4 secondary and 2 primary), with a key focus on young people aged 10-16. Activity should be targeted to either secondary school audiences, and/or primary school audiences. You do not need to offer deliver to all partner schools, as we are looking to fund several commissions.
- We are interested in supporting a range of art forms, however co-design sessions with schools have demonstrated an interest in digital art and media.
- Proposals should be creatively ambitious and deliver a lasting impact.
- Projects may deliver recurrent activity (for example weekly activities in the school for a period of 6 weeks i.e. 6 sessions with students) **and/or** could offer some one-off events such as a public sharing of learning in the new Staines Library Hub, or in school special events.
- Proposals should include an element of Continued Professional Development (CPD) for teachers and support staff.
- Evaluation should be delivered after the project has finished. Our evaluator will work with you to ensure that evaluation methods are consistent across the Escalate Arts project
- We envision budgets of around £4500 for recurrent activity programmes delivered in each participating school. One-off events should be costed at an appropriate level.
- **We are very open to conversations about proposed projects including associated budgets. Please do get in touch via culturalservices@surreycc.gov.uk to arrange a conversation.**

Commission Timeline

This commission is for projects to deliver in Autumn 2025.

The round will open on: **Wednesday 30th April**

Submission deadline: **Friday 13th June**

Applications reviewed by the **end of June**, after which you may be contacted for further information.

Successful applicants notified by **Friday 4th July**. If you do not hear back from us after this week, unfortunately, your application has not been successful.

Applying

Please complete the application form to tell us about your project idea and how it will deliver impact against one or more of the programme's priorities.

Please note that we will not read embedded links but you are welcome to supply an appendix of supporting materials to a maximum of 2 pages.

If you are expecting to work with other partners on your project, please have preliminary conversations before submitting your application and outline status of the partnership on your application e.g. partnership confirmed/partnership expected.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a conversation, please email culturalservices@surreycc.gov.uk.

Please submit your project proposal to culturalservices@surreycc.gov.uk by **Friday 13th June 2025**.

Application Form

Project title	
Project lead (this could be an individual, organisation or consortium/group) Point of Contact Name	
Contact details (address, email, and telephone number preferred)	
Project description (please describe what you will do in 200 WORDS MAX)	

What art form is your project? (You may select more than one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dance ○ Digital Art ○ Film ○ Gaming ○ Music ○ Theatre ○ Visual Art ○ Other – Please Specify:
What is the total cost of the project? Please provide a budget breakdown as an appendix and clearly state what the Staines Project would be funding and what other partners are funding.	
How much money are you requesting?	
Do you have any other funding/partnership contributions to support this work? (Please state what has been confirmed and what is pending and from what source. If you have pending funding, please provide a plan for if this funding is not provided.)	
What other support will you require?	
How many people do you expect you will engage with in your audience?	

What partners will you work with? Have you already developed these partnerships, or will this be part of the project?	
Which of our Strategic Objectives does your project contribute to? Please tick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Increased awareness of local arts and culture opportunities <input type="radio"/> Creative Skills Development <input type="radio"/> Increased confidence <input type="radio"/> Young people feel empowered
Can you describe how this project will contribute to one or more of the Strategic Objectives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of local arts and culture opportunities • Creative Skills Development • Increased confidence • Young people feel empowered 	
Please detail the CPD you will provide for teachers.	
What do you think will be the legacy of this project? Please outline what will be the lasting impact of this project.	
Do all staff who will be working closely with children and members of the public hold a valid DBS check issued within the last 3 years? (You may be asked to supply a copy is successful)	
Please confirm you have read and will comply with our Privacy Notice .	
Please confirm you have read and will comply with our Safeguarding Policy .	