



**OPEN CALL FOR ARTWORKS/PROJECTS TO PITCH WORK FOR
NEW FESTIVAL:**

**THE RISING (BEGINS) TEST EVENT PROGRAMME TARGETTING
YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-30**

ANY ARTFORM - LIVE, PERFORMANCE, VISUAL, INSTALLATION, IMMERSIVE,
DIGITAL, MEDIA & TECH, GAMING & INTERACTIVE, MUSIC, CRAFT-BASED,
STREET ART & WALKABOUT, CHEF, MIXOLOGIST, FREE RUNNER, BMX'ER,
TATTOOIST, SPOKEN WORD ARTIST, ACROBAT, RAP/GRIME ARTIST,
SKATEBOARDER/SKATER, GRAFFITI/STREET ART, BEAT BOXER, MAKE UP
ARTISTS/SFX SPECIALIST, COSTUMIER, PIERCER

INTRODUCTION

The Arches Festivals Worcester is a multi-festival programme in the city of Worcester, developing and delivering brand new festivals, aiming to showcase national and international creative talent and support local emerging work.

Placing culture & creativity at the heart of Worcester.

We are looking to programme finished work, or maybe work in development / R&D / test works in **The Rising (begins)** test event programme in November 2021. We hope to build a bank of programmable work which will be ready next year, that we might take forward to programme as we build our full festival for the target age group, currently planned for November in 2022.

We are interested in works, projects or ideas that explore and respond to themes **that are relevant to young people, unique, innovative, off-the-wall, creative, radical and/or energetic.**



We are looking for original artwork or a significant development of an earlier piece, or a creative idea that can be presented as part of this year's test event programme. Proposals might involve online work, or ideas for how the work can be showcased digitally. It might include engagement methods, participation or wraparound activities, if appropriate.

It might also suggest wider distribution channels or suggestions for how best we could market your work. Proposals should be aimed at a public audience of people under 30 years.

If you choose to pitch a work in progress, an extract or excerpt or, something as part of a bigger project, we can offer you the opportunity for feedback from our invited audiences, if this fits with your ethos and method.

ELIGIBILITY

The open-call is open to both UK-based and international artists/creatives, of all ages and experience levels, but who unite with us in having an active interest in making artwork or producing interesting cultural experiences for, by and with local young people living, working or studying in Worcester.

This opportunity is **not** open to students currently enrolled on a course of study and you must be aged over 18 years. The opportunity is open to practitioners working in a range of media, but proposals should clearly identify how their work can be shared live/online.

WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT

We will provide:

- Fees for you/your company/collaborators plus travel where needed, please



outline your costs in your proposal. Costs include your time, materials & equipment

- A location to install/perform your work – please note – this will be an indoor space but will not be a traditional arts/theatre setting. The producing team will work in close liaison with you around suitability, matching of appropriate sites/spaces for your work and accessibility. Site examples include city centre shopfronts, car parks & nightclubs.
- Curatorial, administrative, production including technical & marketing support from the festival team
- A profiling opportunity for your work and/or the option to share work-in-progress online including a listing on our website, which might include the following:
 - details of your research/making process/behind the scenes
 - ready-made content supplied by you/your company that you supply us such as images, videos etc.

The above will be marketed via the festival's website and social media platforms, to connect with local networks, schools, and younger audiences.

WHO YOU ARE

To create the right space for the festival, we need the right people. We're really excited about making new things happen for, by and with young people in Worcester and including local young people in the process.

You'll ideally have some knowledge of the Worcester area, its geography and know that it is mostly a rural area. Where you come from is less important than what you bring to the table. You'll be an artist, performer, or filmmaker, photographer, animator, creative producer or any other type of creative practitioner.

You might have experience producing small, medium or even large-scale new (digital or live or both) types of work, or this might be your first time. We're looking for



works/performances/projects that appeal to local young people, that are innovative and relevant.

What matters is that you are excited by being a part of a large mixed-arts programme for different groups of young people, and their friends and families in the local area.

TIMELINE // KEY DATES FOR 2021

Monday 6 th September at 12noon	Open call opens
Thursday 16 th September at 11am	Find Out More/Q&A session for applicants/proposals (via Zoom)
Tuesday 28 th September at 5pm	Open call deadline
w/c 4 th October	Shortlisting
Friday 8 th October	Decisions given out by
w/c 11 th October	Contracts & negotiations go out
w/c 18 th October onwards	Planning & Preparation
Friday 12 th November from 7pm	The Rising (begins) Test Event 1
Saturday 20 th November from 6pm	The Rising (begins) Test Event 2
Sunday 28 th November from 2pm	The Rising (begins) Test Event 3

Please specify in your proposal your availability and any dates that you cannot make.

HOW TO APPLY

Send us a 3–5-minute video or audio proposal (in BSL or spoken English) — or something in the format that works best for you (word or text document) by the deadline on **Tuesday 28th September**. In addition, you may choose to send your CV, links to your social media profiles including YouTube/Instagram, a showreel, example of recent/current or past work(s) and/or testimonials.



In your proposal, tell us:

1. Who you are

Prompts: What do you “do”? What have you done before now? What are you interested in? What motivates you?

2. What would you bring to this test event programme?

Prompts: What’s the concept or main idea? What medium(s) or format will this artwork take? How will it work? What does it include? We're looking for people who are already passionate about this type of work and are interested in showcasing and contributing to the festival in a unique way, as well as work that genuinely interests young people

3. Why is this opportunity something that you fancy doing?

Prompts: What about the festival/test event intentions speaks to you?

4. Anything else we need to know?

Prompts: free answer to tell us anything else not covered above.
Once you’ve answered the above prompts, you’re your application/proposal as follows:

- Send your audio/video proposal via WeTransfer to festivals@severnarts.org.uk with the subject line ‘Arches Festivals The Rising (begins) - Proposal’
- Send your written proposal in a Google/Word doc to festivals@severnarts.org.uk with the subject line ‘Arches Festivals The Rising (begins) - Proposal’

It is expected that members of the festivals team (all aged under 30) will be making shortlisting and selection decisions, based on guidance set out in this document and checked by the Festivals Director.

Deadline: 17:00PM on Tuesday 28th September 2021

About the Arches Worcester Festivals

We want to use this programme to discover, explore & test what works, and deeply engage young people in the design of the festival in the future. The main event, **The Rising**, planned for November 2022 will be a 48-hour immersive festival covering all elements of culture; from live performance to discussion & debate, to food and drink, music in all its forms & live gigs, street, visual and body art, multimedia and technology plus much more.

Brand new festivals, showcasing national and international creative talent and supporting local emerging work. Placing culture & creativity at the heart of Worcester. The first of the festivals, [\[Light Night Worcester\]](#), took place across the city centre on the evening of Thursday 16 January 2020. There are more festivals to come, each with the same high-quality work and opportunities but completely different from each other.

The festivals programme is part of [\[The Arches Worcester\]](#) project. [\[Severn Arts\]](#) is a principal partner in this project and is the lead organisation for the Festivals. Severn Arts is a leading arts charity providing education, participation and engagement programmes across Worcestershire. The organisation is ambitious for Worcester and Worcestershire: passionate about building and developing arts projects and opportunities to help raise the city and county's profile as a vibrant, rich cultural destination.

The Arches Worcester project is supported by the Department of Culture Media and Sports' Cultural Development Fund, administered by Arts Council England.

The Arches Worcester Festivals are curated by David Edmunds, Festival Director and the Festival team, taking a commissioning and programming approach to create a tailor-made programme for each festival. Where possible work is selected and programmed after being viewed live or online.

Other important info

This is a freelance opportunity. Days and hours are flexible according to your own



schedule within the proposed fee. The project might be more time-intensive during November when the festival and your artwork goes live/the events take place.

The intention, covid-pending, is for these events to take place in-person but you will not need to be based locally. There might be times when meetings with the festival team will need to happen, virtually, via Zoom or MS Teams, so you will need access to that through a device or computer where needed.

You will need to ensure that you are regularly in contact with the festival team, and be contactable by phone & email.

Severn Arts aims to become an organisation in which people of different backgrounds and cultures strive towards the same goals as equals. We treat all job applications equally, regardless of age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, working class or any other equality characteristic.

We are committed to developing a more diverse workforce, widen our perspective and better serve the needs of our community. We particularly encourage applications from disabled people, LGBTQI+ and global majority people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

We particularly welcome applicants from those backgrounds, identities and lived experiences as these groups are currently under-represented in the cultural sector.

Deadline: 17:00 PM on Tuesday 28th September 2021

We look forward to hearing from you, if you have any questions or want to have a chat about it then please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you:

Email: festivals@severnarts.org.uk

Web: <https://thearchesworcesterfestivals.co.uk>



Instagram: @archesfests

Phone/WhatsApp: 07776530559

Alternatively, please attend our Zoom **Find out More & Q&A session on Thursday 16th September at 11am** (email or text us to register your attendance in advance and we will send you the joining link).

