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# ASHFIELD CREATES COMMUNITY COMMISSIONS

## ROUND 1: SUMMER 2025 COMMUNITY ARTS EVENTS

### About Ashfield Creates

Ashfield Creates is a new 3-year programme designed to transform how everyone who lives, works and studies in Ashfield gets to access and participate in arts and creative activities. Through this Arts Council England funded project, Ashfield Creates will work with communities and residents across Ashfield to discover creativity and creative skills, empower local artists and bring people and creativity together.

Central to the Ashfield Creates programme is our work across the communities, neighbourhoods and towns of Ashfield through our Local Creative Networks. Local Creative Networks bring together organisations, artists and communities to work together to determine the stories they want to tell and what happens in their local area. Ashfield Creates will feature festivals, placemaking, regular activities, commissioned work, local events and investment in sustained art provision in Ashfield.

## Creative Community Commissions

As part of the Ashfield Creates programme, we want to support as many local organisations and artists to lead great arts and creative experiences across the district.

Over the course of the Ashfield Creates programme, we'll be investing £55,000 into small-scale commissions of between roughly £500 - £1000 to support events, arts projects and creative opportunities led by community groups and organisations in all parts of the district. There will be roughly 10 rounds of the Creative Community Commissions up until Summer 2027. The process is designed to be as simple as possible to apply to, and all successful applicants will receive support from the Ashfield Creates team to make your event and project as successful as possible.

## Round 1: Summer 2025 Community Arts Events

As part of Round 1 of our Creative Community Commissions, we're looking for local community groups and those connected with communities in Ashfield to apply to host exciting arts and creative events for their local community as part of our Summer 2025 Programme.

Do you organise excellent creative activities? Are you part of a community that could make some brilliant art? Are you a resident making creativity happen in your street? Or do you have a great idea for some creative work but just need some funds or support to get going? This round of our Creative Community Commissions is for you!

You can apply for between £500-£1000 as part of this round of commissions and we're looking to support events and ideas of all sorts (music, dance, visual arts, theatre, crafts and more).

Some examples of arts events might include:

- A Family Arts Fun Day
- A photography course for young people
- A large-scale 'Art Attack' in a community space
- A community street party
- An outdoor film screening
- A samba band parade through your neighbourhood
- A creative nature walk project

Your idea might include anything from puppetry to hip-hop to sewing, providing it is creative in its output and brings people together.

## Who can apply?

This opportunity is open to anyone who is living or working within Ashfield. We're particularly keen for community groups or individuals connected to specific communities within Ashfield to apply. You might even be an organisation already delivering work in the area, or an independent artist or creative who wants to create something closer to home.

## What's the timelines for Round 1 of the Creative Community Commissions?

Applications are now open and need to be submitted by Monday 7th July, 10am

Your activity needs to have taken between 21st July - 14th September

Q&A sessions:

If you have not applied for a commission before or if you have burning questions which are not answered below in our FAQs, come along to one of our Q&A sessions:

> Online: Wednesday 25 June, 7:00-8:00pm
>
> In Person: Monday 30 June, 1:30-2:30pm, Kirkby Library
>
> To sign up for either of these sessions please fill in the form linked below. We will send online meeting links and reminders closer to the time as appropriate:
>
> Community Commissions Q&A sign up form

**FAQS:**

If you have a question that isn't covered in the below please feel free to reach out to us on hello@ashfieldcreates.co.uk

What can I spend the money on?

You can utilise the money as you need to to enable creativity to happen as part of your project. Maybe you need to hire a room, get painting materials or work with a workshop leader/performer.

You will also need to make sure you cover the costs of any permissions or licenses you need to run your event safely and legally (i.e. Temporary Events Notices).

10% of your budget can be spent on refreshments. You must not use this money to purchase alcohol.

What can't I spend the money on?

- Projects or work that is not taking place within an Ashfield postcode.
- Buying equipment such as laptops, speakers etc.
- Improving buildings
- On religious activities
- On gambling activities.
- Organisational overheads.
- Projects or activities that feature no arts as the main activity.
- Marketing materials such as printing flyers and posters.

Can I use the money to pay people?

Yes you can. If you plan on doing this please ensure you show us how much you expect to pay yourself and /or any artists or practitioners you bring on to work on your event within your budget outline within your application.

How accurate does the budget have to be?

This can be an estimate based on what you think it would cost to deliver the project, but please be considerate so that you are able to work within the budget you are awarded.

How will Ashfield Creates support?

During application:

If you require support with your application please get in touch. Maybe this is the first time you've written an application like this, or perhaps you have a specific access need. We will be happy to discuss this with you to see how we can help.

If you have any clarifying questions, such as advice on how much you should be bidding for to cover your event or whether an idea 'creative enough' to be considered, please drop us an email.

During the event's production:

We're keen to be actively involved in the work we're directly supporting. Our team has a wealth of experience of delivering projects and creativity across Nottinghamshire. You might need help with logistics, finding participants or how to budget. Whatever it is, the Ashfield Creates team will be able to support you. Successful applicants will be supported with three check-in points with a member of our team: at the project kick-off, just before the project starts and after it's taken place.

Can Ashfield Creates help make connections to facilitators and venues?

Yes, Successful applicants will have three dedicated check-in points with a member of our team: at the project kick-off, just before the project starts, and after it's taken place. During the project kick-off meeting, you can discuss any additional support you might need, including help with finding a venue or connecting with facilitators for your project.

Can the activity take part in different parts of Ashfield?

Yes, as long as the project takes place only within the District of Ashfield, it can take place in as many or little locations as you like.

Can the activity be part of something else?

Yes! We know these commissions aren't huge, so if your work or activity is part of something bigger and we're able to support this as part of the fund, that's great, just let us know in your application.

Can I charge for this event?

Access to this event and activity supported by Ashfield Creates must be free of charge. Any pre-booking for slots or tickets must also be free, and bookings must be run through the Ashfield Creates team.

What do I need to do if I receive the money?

You will need to send Ashfield Creates an invoice in order to receive the funds and to ensure you account for the funds in any taxes.

You will also need to fill out some simple evaluation questions and submit a finalised budget in order to receive the final 10% of the commission fund.

You will need to book in your three check-in points with a member of our team: at the project kick-off, just before the project starts and after it's taken place.

You will need Public Liability Insurance (PLI) and complete a risk assessment before the event.

When will the next round of commissions open?

We're expecting to announce Round 2 of the Creative Community Commissions later on in the Summer.

Can you apply for future rounds of the commissions if this one if successful?

Absolutely! While we aim to support a diverse range of activities and locations, we will always prioritise great creative projects, regardless of whether you've received funding from us in the past.