Image by Lamar Francois

ASHFIELD CREATES COMMUNITY COMMISSIONS

ROUND 4:
Summer of Creativity 2026

About Ashfield Creates

Ashfield Creates is a three year programme to increase the number of creative opportunities for everyone who lives, works, and studies in Ashfield. Delivered by Nonsuch Studios, the programme supports local residents to discover their creative skills, empower local artists to thrive and bring our communities together through creativity like never before.

Creative Community Commissions

As part of the Ashfield Creates we want to support as many local organisations and artists to lead great arts and creative experiences across the district. This is where our community commissions come in!

Over the course of the Ashfield Creates programme, we'll be investing £55,000 into small-scale commissions of between £500 - £1000 to support events, arts projects and

creative opportunities led by community groups, organisations and local residents in all parts of the district. There will be 10 rounds of the Creative Community Commissions up until Summer 2027.

The application process is designed to be as simple as possible and all successful applicants will receive support from the Ashfield Creates team to make your event and project as successful as possible.

Round 4: Summer of Creativity

The District of Ashfield is a home to a vibrant and diverse creative community, spanning a wide range of art forms, cultural activity and craft practices. Through the Ashfield Creates programme, we are committed to championing and celebrating the people, places and projects that make Ashfield creatively unique.

This round of Community Commissions will form part of the upcoming Summer of Creativity; a District-wide festival bringing together existing events and activities alongside new programming from Ashfield Creates, creating a vibrant celebration of creativity across Ashfield throughout July-August-September.

As part of the Summer of Creativity, we are launching the fourth round of Community Commissions, creating opportunities for individuals, groups and organisations to develop events and projects as part of the festival programme. We are looking for applications that are ambitious, bold and imaginative, whether that means testing out new ideas, developing and elevating an existing work, or bringing creative activity to new audiences and communities.

The Summer of Creativity will take place throughout July - August - September 2026.

We are looking to support a minimum of four projects in each of the areas of Ashfield:

- North Ashfield: (Sutton-in-Ashfield, Stanton Hill, Teversal, Huthwaite)
    - *We particularly encourage projects that happen in Leamington*

- South Ashfield: (Hucknall, Westville, Broomhill)
    - *We particularly encourage projects that happen in Broomhill*

- East Ashfield: (Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Coxmoor, Annesley Woodhouse)
    - *We particularly encourage projects that happen in Coxmoor*

- West Ashfield: (Selston, Bagthorpe, Underwood, Jacksdale, Westwood)

Community Commissions designed to be accessible, supportive and straightforward to apply for. They are a way for us to support projects, events and activities that sit outside the main strands of our programme, while creating opportunities for people in

Ashfield to test ideas, try something new, or develop existing work. Whether you're applying for your first commission, at the start of your creative journey, or already have experience delivering projects, we welcome applications from people of all stages.

You can apply for up to £1000 as part of this round of commissions, and we're looking to support a wide range of creative ideas and activity, including music, dance, visual arts, theatre, crafts and much more.

Some examples of arts events might include:

- A gig with a local band
- A photography course for young people
- A day of arts and crafts in your community centre
- Relaxed painting workshops for parents and carers
- Bringing a local choir to perform in new spaces
- Beginners music workshops

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

IMPORTANT: Marketing Information & Public Promotion

To help us promote successful projects as early as possible during the Summer of Creativity, we will ask for key marketing information and materials as part of your application.

When submitting your application, please ensure you are happy for the information you provide to be used publicly in marketing and promotional materials. To help create a cohesive festival programme and clear storytelling across our communications, please note that Ashfield Creates may make edits to submitted copy or materials for promotional purposes.

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.

If you have previously applied for a Community Commission you are welcome to re-apply for this round, whether you were successful or not. However we will prioritise previously unsuccessful and new applicants.

What's the timelines for Round 4 of the Community Commissions?

Applications are now open, with submissions closing at midnight on the 14th of June 2026.

Successful applicants will be contacted w.c. 22nd June.

As part of the Summer of Creativity, activities should take place between July - September 2026, either across the festival period or within one of those months.

FAQS:

This is the frequently asked questions and guidance page for the Community Commissions!

Below you can find guidance on how the process works, what you can apply for, and what to expect through the process.

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 type of event/project/idea will you support?

We can support anything that has a creative focus, this could be:

- A series of creative workshops such as portrait painting or origami animals
- An event like a concert showcasing local musicians, or funday of family activities
- A photography course for young people
- A music evening in your cosiest event space
- A series of poetry evenings, where poets share their work

A key thing to remember is that you are responsible for the delivery of the event/project/idea you apply with- Ashfield Creates can support you to do so, but you are being commissioned to run the activity, so you will take the lead on the organising and running of the event.

What can I spend the money on?

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

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

Example costs:

- Venue hire for the activity
- Workshop leader/artist fee
- Producer fee (paying yourself for the time that it takes to organise the event)
- Refreshments

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 costs, like paying your bills/rent if you own the venue, or paying for long-term licences or screenings such as DBS checks for Public Liability Insurance
- Projects or activities that feature no arts as the main activity.

If you have any questions about the above, please reach out to us over email and we can help!

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 in your application.

If you are working with artists/facilitators, you must ensure they are being paid appropriately, and for any preparation they may need to do to deliver the event.

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.

Please ensure costs are fair and reasonable, research and collect quotes for materials and people's time if you are unsure how much to put in your budget.

If your budget is above what you are applying for it must be clear where the extra funds are coming from and whether they are confirmed. Without this we will be unable to consider your application.

Please note, to help us fulfill our reporting responsibilities to our funders, after your commission has been completed we will ask for a final budget showing your expenditure and income. This is very relaxed, and is more for us to check the impact of the community commission and to track how the budget was spent.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Ashfield Creates at hello@ashfieldcreates.co.uk

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 applying for to cover your event or whether an idea is '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 in delivering projects and creativity across Nottinghamshire. You might need help with logistics, finding a venue, marketing support, or how to budget.

Whatever it is, the Ashfield Creates team are here to support you.

Successful applicants will be supported with check-in points with a member of our team:

1) A mandatory meeting at the project kick-off to support you getting the ball rolling
2) An optional second meeting just before the event starts to check all plans are in place and you are confident running the event
3) Another mandatory meeting after the event has taken place to review the activity

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 as few 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, and ensure it is clear which part of the activity the commission application is for.

Can I charge for this event?

Ashfield Creates will prioritise accessible activities which are free to attend.
However if you would like to charge for your event please ensure this is detailed in your application.

All ticketing and bookings will be run through the Ashfield Creates ticketing platform, however if you do charge for your event any profit will be passed on to you after the event (minus ticketing platform booking fees).

Please reach out to us to talk through ticketing if you have any concerns/questions.

I've applied before, can I apply again?

Yes! We will prioritise groups and organisations that we haven't supported before, but that doesn't stop you from applying again with something new.

I've applied, but I've been unsuccessful, now what?

If you haven't been successful in applying for a round of community commission, we endeavour to open up a conversation about how we can develop the idea into an actionable project.

We may be able to support the project through other aspects of the Ashfield Creates programme, or alternatively we may be able to support you to develop the idea to apply again in a future round.

Good Luck!

Application Form questions:

*Questions with a * are mandatory and must be completed*

1) Name*
2) Email*
3) Contact Number*
4) Contact Organisation
   If relevant.

5) Address*
We aim to ensure that a range of areas across Ashfield are supported through our Community Commissions so it is important we understand where different applications are coming from.

6) Proposed Event Title of your idea
If you have one.

7) A summary of what you want to do*
Who, what, where, when, and why. (2000 characters maximum).

8) How many people do you realistically expect to engage / will take part in your activity?*
Please use your best estimate if you are not sure. If you have a maximum number of people that you can host, please include that here.

9) When will your activity happen?*
Please write your ideal date(s), even if it isn't confirmed yet. As part of the Summer of Creativity, activities must take place between July - September 2026, either across the festival period or within one of those months.

10) Where will it happen?*

Please give address of the venue(s) you are planning on using, or if you are unsure, say to-be-confirmed

11) What's your experience of delivering creative activities and/or working with communities?*
1300 characters maximum.

12) You can include links to previous projects or examples/websites if you have any.

13) Please outline any permissions or licenses you envision you may need to organise for your event. Please also include what you already have.
i.e. Temporary Events Notices

14) Do you intend to charge for tickets to your activity/event?*
If so, please explain why and how much you expect to charge. For more detail on ticketing, please see the FAQ

15) Please tell us the total amount you are requesting.*
Please choose a figure between £500 and £1000.

16) Budget: We want to get an idea of what you would spend the commission money on. Please upload a copy of your draft budget.*
This can be estimated for now, but it will give us a sense of where our

commission is going to be spent. Consider including: (for more advice, see the FAQ's)
- Artist / Professional costs
- Materials
- Venue Hire
- Marketing
- Accessibility
- Contingency
- Anything else!
- Total amount

17) Do you require any additional funds to make your work accessible?*
Eg. Having a BSL interpreter, specific print for braille or working with a translator. Please detail how much and what for.

18) If the total in your submitted budget is above the amount you are requesting from Ashfield Creates, please detail below where these other funds are coming from and whether they are confirmed:

19) Please provide an Artist (or organisation/community group) Bio

These should be between 100- 200 words and be written in the third person

20) Please provide an Event Bio

This should be between 200-250 words max, and tell the public what the event is, written in third person

Tips for writing: What are the artist/we doing? What will the participant gain? For example: *We'll learn how to make a paper aeroplane in this origami session. Enjoy learning a new skill and take home your final creation. Be a part of like minded people, community and enjoy a relaxed session crafting.*

21) Please upload 1-3 images for us to use to advertise your event. This could include a poster.

Please ensure you provide high quality images for the website, these should be 1000x1000 pixels minimum. They should not be blurry, should be relevant to the event or activity you are completing with Ashfield Creates.

22) Please provide any social media links or website links that you would like us to tag or share.

23) The Ashfield Creates team is dedicated to supporting you as you develop, deliver and evaluate your event. Is there anything specifically you might want support with during this process?*

For more information on how we can support, please see the FAQ's

24) Are you happy to fill in our diversity questionnaire?*