



JULY
9 - 18



DEPTFORD X FESTIVAL 2021



ART
IN THE
OPEN

COMMUNITY APPLICATION GUIDE

Adapting to the times

After cancelling 2020's festival and moving to online programming for the first time, I am delighted to announce that we are planning to be back with an in-person art festival happening throughout Deptford in July 2021. 2020 was a tough year for us all and my vision for 2021's festival is based on embracing joy, healing and each other. This is why we have moved the festival to summer, to take advantage of better weather and bring the incredible creativity in our communities out into the open in an outdoor art trail.

My invitation to local residents is to bring all the amazing projects and creations that you have been working on during the lockdowns, or maybe that you do anyway, out into the open as a creative offering to Deptford. What would make someone stop, smile, think or engage as they walk down the street or look out their window?

How can your creativity contribute to a feeling of positivity after the long, lonely months of the pandemic?

We would love to see neighbours talk to neighbours to plan a collaborative, ambitious, beautiful and joyous outdoor festival for Deptford X 2021.

I can't wait to see what you've been cooking up and decide to put forward for Deptford X 2021!

Nathalie Boobis
Director



Image: Nathalie Boobis, Artwork: C.H.O. Very Beautiful,
at Deptford X Festival 2019

About Deptford X

Deptford X began in 1998 as an artist-run festival that used the spaces and places around Deptford to exhibit art works, stage performances, events and interventions. Over the years, Deptford has changed as once empty buildings became developed but artists have responded in turn by finding new sites and collaborations to exhibit their work.

Incredibly, and despite increasingly difficult funding challenges as developers' money dried up and the credit crunch hit in 2008, the only year there wasn't a Deptford X festival was in 2020 due to the unprecedented global Covid-19 pandemic.



Image: Artist Unknown, Deptford X Festival 2016



Image: Juliana Capes, Annul, Deptford X Festival, 2016

Deptford X was incorporated in 2001 and from the beginning of its life as a formally constituted organisation, it has always been at the core of our work to champion artistic freedom and experimentation. We believe passionately in the place of art and creativity at the heart of a society, which is why Deptford X happens mainly outside of galleries and art institutions and in the everyday places and spaces of our neighbourhoods.



Image: Jan Hendrickse, Wall of Sound, Deptford X 2009



Image: Jin Han Lee, 'On the Same Page', 2017, printed onto mesh banner for Deptford X 2019, photo by Tim Bowditch.

What sort of festival is it ?

Deptford X:

- // Is led by local artistic ambition, interests and practice.
- // Brings art into informal contexts and public spaces for all to access.
- // Seeks to make a positive contribution to our locality, communities, and to art, and to lead by example.
- // Places equity, accessibility and care at the heart of the organisation.
- // Holds space and advocates for difference, creativity, experimentation and learning within art.

Fundamentally we support artists and creative practice, as well as those who do not yet identify as artists, with a focus over the next three years on:

>> People of Colour: Specifically, local Black communities. We are actively redressing the balance of participation in Deptford X and visual arts as a whole and making space for People of Colour-led creative programming.

>> Disabled people: We are working to remove barriers to participation in our work and inviting disability-led programming.

>> Young people: We are developing ways to engage local audiences and participants at a younger age and create pathways for their participation and ownership of Deptford X.

To take part all you need to do is [register your artwork](#) or [project on our website](#).



Image: James Taylor and Cleo Tabakian, Mobius Vus, Deptford X, 2018

Deptford X 2021

Festival Aim

This year's festival will take the form of an Art Trail around Deptford. Festival visitors will be able to collect a map and use it to discover outdoor work situated in and around Deptford.

It is our intention to bring art and creativity out into the open to create joy and healing in our communities in the wake of the pandemic.

This is why the festival this year will have a strong emphasis on artworks in the public realm and why we are inviting anyone and everyone to showcase their artwork as part of Deptford X.

We want the festival to be:

- > > Rooted in the fabric of our neighbourhoods and the people who live and work within them.
- > > A showcase for local creativity and innovation, using any manner of outdoor space.
- > > Inclusive - open to anyone, any age, any 'skill' level,

We particularly welcome participation across age ranges; by Black and People of Colour; and by people with disabilities.

This opportunity is also open to children, teenagers and young adults, as well as absolutely anyone who wishes to have their work displayed and included in this year's Deptford X festival.

Registration is simple, just let us know what your project is, where it can be found and send us a few photographs of your work.

You can find the registration form here:

www.deptfordx.org/communityart

Image: Jon Tyson, Source: Unsplash



Inspiration: Window art for covid-friendly viewing.

Project Criteria

Some things to consider:

The Deptford X Art Trail is open to all, we don't have any fixed rules about what you can do, but we do ask that you follow the below, we may ask you to amend your project idea if they do not meet the following:

- >> All sites, spaces and venues must be located within the festival footprint, which will broadly cover the SE8 & SE14 area, with a focus on the area 1km around Deptford main station.
- >> Artists under the age of 16 must seek permission from parent/guardians and have this person complete their registration form on their behalf.
- >> You must have permission from the property owner to display your work
- >> We reserve the right to decline any listing that we deem discriminatory, offensive or contrary to our values of art, learning, care, respect, openness and equality.
- >> Applications that can provide a clear sense of how the work allows for public interaction and/or can explain the intended impact for audiences.



Image: Heather Burrell, Deptford X Festival 2012, Photograph: Nathan Cook.



Image: Hew Locke, 'Gold Standard', Deptford X Festival 2012, Photograph: Nathan Cook.



Image: New Orleans Mardi-Gras, 2020, _Xinhua Rex, Shutterstock



Image: New Orleans Mardi-Gras, 2020, Erika Goldring, Getty Images



Image: New Orleans Mardi-Gras, 2020, Erika Goldring, Getty Images

Inspiration from other Covid-friendly outdoor festivals

Essential Guidelines

Before you submit your registration form, you need to decide and confirm details such as opening dates, times etc. Further guidelines on what to consider before applying are listed below.

Planning your project

Your art project can take many forms:

- > > Posters
- > > Lighting displays
- > > Tree decorations
- > > Paintings
- > > Drawings
- > > Sculptures
- > > Collage
- > > Sewing / Tapestry / Knitting
- > > Door wreath
- > > Bunting
- > > Floor chalk drawing / painting
- > > ANY other creative things you might have created during lockdown that you want to share!

You may want to create artwork yourself or give the young people in your household the chance to display their work, maybe you can display something you made during the summer lockdown.

Where can I display my artwork?

Your work should be displayed in a way that people can enjoy it without necessarily requiring them to cross over into the boundaries of your property, display your work, where it will stay dry/visible/at a safe distance, for example:

- > > Window
- > > Front Garden
- > > Balcony
- > > Wall
- > > Front door/steps
- > > Plant pots
- > > ANY other creative things you may have made during lockdown



Image: Noras Project, Deptford X Festival 2019



Image: Bristol Art Trail 2020, Source: bristolcreatives.co.uk

More fun to be had ...

Other ways to get involved

Members of the local community who may not want to create anything for the festival but would still like to get involved - perhaps you have some public-facing outdoor space (window, front garden, wall, etc) that can be offered to an artist for use.

If you would like to register for this you can do this via the Festival Venue registration form.

You can register your space here: www.deptfordx.org/venuecommunity

When offering your space to an artist, make sure you agree in advance:

- > > The space the artist can use (e.g hanging something in your window)
- > > How they are allowed to use your space
- > > The method that they will use to install their artwork
- > > When it will be set up and taken down
- > > The suitability of the content for your area/community

Deptford X will host Fringe Socials - these are online “mixer” events, decide to give everyone wishing to participate, a chance to ask the team questions about the festival and to meet other each other.

You can come along to this session if you are keen to meet an artist and offer them some space that you might have.



Image: Ikra Arshad, 'Fill me up', Deptford X 2019, Photograph: Tim Bowditch

Make it a street effort!

Sites and venues

It might be that you have a small space or no outward/public facing windows – if this is the case you can think about maybe partnering with your neighbours or friends who live locally and have space you can use.

We welcome group registration from a whole street/block of people/residents.

Try coordinating with others in your street to create artwork/projects to a similar theme – something that might connect all the households on your road.

If your project is going to be installed outside think about how you can make it safe and weather-proof and as visible as possible – allowing people to view at a safe distance.

Please consider the practicalities of removing artworks at the end of the project and making good any damage (e.g. filling holes and retouching paintwork in the case of wall-based works).

Would you like to collaborate with an artist?

If you would be interested in taking part but would like to work with an artist to make something together, there is a box you can check on the community trail application form, which can be found here: www.deptfordx.org/communityart

Alternatively, come along to a Fringe Social where you can meet with local artists and create something together.

Sign up to our newsletter for [news](#) on when the next Fringe Social will take place.



Image by @trace_face. Work: Deptford Sculpture Garden, by David Cotterell
Ian Gouldstone, David Surman, at Deptford X Festival 2019

Key Considerations

Accessibility

Deptford X aims to make our festival as accessible as we can. If you are interested in learning about ways you can make your work more accessible you can visit Celebrating Disability website for more info or you can contact the Deptford X team for advice.'

Here are some ways that you can help make your artwork easy and accessible for people to enjoy:

- >> Make any text as big and bold as possible
- >> Try to use colours that are easy to see/read
- >> Place artwork at a height that can be seen/enjoyed by all, children, wheelchair users etc.
- >> Include some information about your work
- >> Make an audio track describing the work for people who have visual impairments.

You can find some more information here, on how to make your work more accessible: :

<https://celebratingdisability.co.uk/creating-an-accessible-event/>

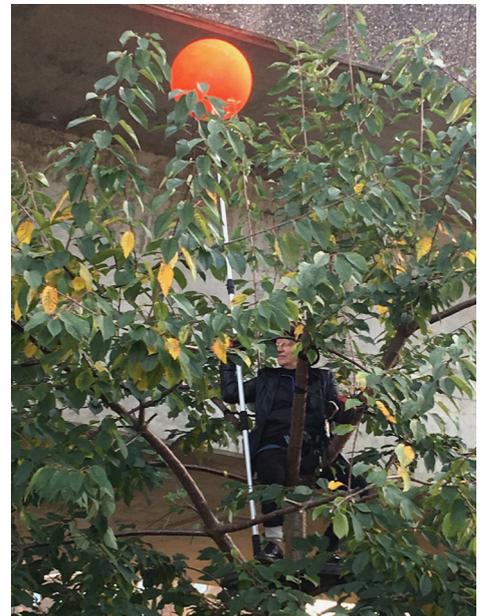


Image: Sean Worrell, Deptford X 2018, Image by Jacob Middleburgh - @k_lazarus, www.kubalazarus.com

Invigilation

To ensure a "Covid secure" event, you are encouraged to create artworks that do not require invigilation – for this you need to ensure that your work is safely installed and secured for the period of the festival.

'However, it may be the case that you want to stand by your artwork to keep an eye on it or to welcome people and explain the work – it is up to you if you wish to do this but if you do not, then think about what you can do to make your project safe from damage etc when you are not there to keep an eye on it. It might be that you want to bring things in, over night and set them back up for the morning.

If your work does require invigilation, you are asked to ensure that you are able to do this whilst maintaining social distancing rules, wearing a mask and abiding by any local/government recommendations.

Please read ...

Health and Safety

Your Health & Safety and that of our visitors are of the utmost importance, especially during these times. Your plans must therefore include adherence to any Covid-19 regulations.

If your work can be easily accessed by members of the public think about the ways you can make your art work as safe as possible.

You may want to consider the following things:

- >> Make sure your electrical equipment is PAT tested.
- >> Check that your equipment is safe to be used/installed outside, e.g lights or anything electrical.
- >> Make sure anything light is weighted down appropriately
- >> Ensure that nothing is within reach – especially if you have items that might be sharp/dangerous if touched.

Your projects are independently organised and delivered, therefore Deptford X cannot take any responsibility for the health and safety of anyone involved, so please make sure you take care when setting up your project.

Marketing and Promotion

Please do tag us in your posts/images that you take during the festival:
@deptfordx on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#).

We would love it if you can send us images of your project during the festival – please email them to us, labelled, so that we can share them and credit you properly!

Send images to: admin@deptfordx.org

Email subject heading: Please include your name, project name in all email correspondence so we can identify your project quickly.

Please ensure when you label your images that you include:

- >> Title of the works/project // Artists name // Photographers name - if you are not the creator of the image.

Please note we will keep your images as part of our archive and images may be used in future to promote Deptford X, all images will be credited.

Nearly there ..

Feedback and Monitoring

At the end of the festival we please ask that you:

- >> Help us with feedback – this will be our first year running a community art trail and it will be great to find out how you found it via a short survey that we will send out at the end.
- >> Collect any comments you hear from people who visit your artwork – it will be great for us to have even a few testimonials of how people who visited you found the experience.
- >> We will be attempting to collect visitor numbers too – we won't ask you to make a strict count but if you get a sense of how many people passed by, do let us know via the feedback form!



Image: Artist Unknown, Deptford X Festival 2015, Photograph: Sinead Kempley

Image: Irma by Sara Marques and Alice Bonazzi at Deptford X 2019, Photograph by @Kassichanabanana



Image: Wakeford Studios, Create:Connection, Aberdeenshire



Take note(s)

- Community registration form can be found here:
www.deptfordx.org/communityart
- Venue registration form can be found here:
www.deptfordx.org/venuecommunity
- If you have any questions or queries you can contact us on:
Sarah, Festival Manager: admin@deptfordx.org
www.deptfordx.org/communityart

Key dates

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 17.05.21 | Fringe Submission Deadline |
| 24.05.21 | Community Registration Deadline |
| 09.07.21 | Deptford X festival begins |
| 18.07.21 | Deptford X festival ends |



Guidelines



Artword by Arnaud Desjardins, 2015

***We look forward to your
application and welcoming
you to the festival !***