**Deptford X Fringe Community Registration Guide**

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

**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.

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.

**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:

1. 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.
2. Disabled people: We are working to remove barriers to participation in our work and inviting disability-led programming.
3. 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
4. **Festival Aim**

This year 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 this year 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 and young adults, as well as absolutely anyone who wishes to have their work displayed and included in this year’s art trail.

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:

<https://deptfordx.org/communityart>

**Project Criteria – Some things to consider**

Although Deptford X Art Trail is open to all, submissions must meet the following criteria or they will not be accepted:

* Artists under the age of 16 must seek permission from parent/guardians and have this person complete their registration form on their behalf.
* All sites, spaces and venues must be either within 1km of Deptford’s main train station or located within SE8/SE14 postcode areas that are reasonable walking distance from Deptford train station.
* 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.
  + We define values as art, learning, care, respect, openness and equality.

**Essential Guidelines:**

Before you submit your application 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
* Most other things you have been creating but we haven’t listed above!

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.

You can think about where you might want to display your work, where it will stay dry/visible/at a safe distance, for example:

* Window
* Front Garden
* Gate
* Balcony
* Wall
* Front door
* Plant pots

If you are using your own home, maybe think about coordinating with others in your street to create artwork/projects to a 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.

**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.

**Other ways to be involved**

**Become a ‘Venue host’**

If you are interested in participating but you do not wish to create any artwork yourself, there is an option to offer your outdoor space to a festival artist. If this is the case you can contact us via: [Become a venue](https://deptfordx.org/be-a-fringe-venue/)

**Collaborate with an artist**

If you would be interested in taking part but would like to work with an artist to make something together, please get in touch for more info: [admin@deptfordx.org](mailto:admin@deptfordx.org)

**Accessibility**

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

* Try and make any text as big and bold as possible.
* If you are displaying images maybe you can record audio descriptions of your images and have that playing at certain times
* Make sure that if someone is in a wheelchair that the artwork or parts of your project will be in the sight line of someone viewing from a chair.

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

**Invigilation**

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.

**Health and Safety**

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 kit is [PAT tested.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_appliance_testing)
* 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.

**Marketing**

Deptford X will use the images you submit and the project descriptions you send us, as text to promote your project. However, if you are doing your own marketing and promotion – either via social media or through media connections, please do let us know so that we can re-share/amplify. If you would like us to re-share posts, please do tag us in your posts/images. @deptfordx on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.

We would love it if you can send us images of your project during the festival – please do send these into us via email, correctly labelled, so that we can provide more up to date promotion during the festival.

**Send images to:** [admin@deptfordx.org](mailto: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
* Year of the project
* Photographers name (only include this if the photographer is someone other than yourself who needs to be credited)

**Please note we will keep your images as part of our archive and images may be used in future to promote Deptford X / Deptford X Festival or other Deptford X events, any images used will be credited as per the information you submit to us.**

**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 visted 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!

**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

**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