**Deptford X Supported Application Guide 2021**

**A Note from Deptford X Director:**

I am delighted to announce that we are planning to be back with an in-person festival in July 2021. 2020 was a tough year for us all and our 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.

Our Supported strand was launched in 2019 with the intention of widening access to participation in the festival for early career POC artists by providing funding, production and curatorial support to successful applicants. We are committed to the aim of celebrating and promoting the creativity in our area and with 43% of Lewisham’s population constituting People of Colour, this opportunity is aimed specifically at early career POC artists.

Contributions are welcome from artists of curators of any kind. This year’s festival is an outdoor art trail so we are looking for proposals that can be exhibited, performed, or installed outside for the duration of the 10 day festival from 9th – 18th July.   
  
We encourage applications that creatively respond to this year’s starting point, ***Art in the Open.*** Deptford X 2021 seeks to bring art and creativity out into the open to create joy and healing in our communities in the wake of the pandemic.

This year there are more ways to be involved in Deptford X festival than ever before through our festival Fringe turned Art Trail; a brand new community art trail; the opportunity to host art works outside your homes; the continuation of our Supported programme for Lewisham-based POC artists; a new self-directed peer network of POC artists and curators; and an exciting collaboration with Deptford-based AAJA radio.

I, and the rest of the Deptford X team, 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.

**Our Vision**

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.

**This year’s festival will take the form of an outdoor 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.**

Deptford X 2021 will include four open call elements. All of our open calls are free to apply to.

**Deptford X Art Trail Open Calls**

* **Supported** 
  + An open call for projects by early career Black and People of Colour artists and curators from Lewisham that will be selected by a jury and supported by the festival financially and curatorially. These projects will be situated outdoors along the art trail.
* **Fringe**
  + An open call for projects by artists local to Deptford that will be selected by the Deptford X team. These are projects that are independent in scope but brought together by Deptford X. We encourage projects that are situated outdoors, or outdoor-facing, along the Art Trail.
  + This year, if we are successful with our Arts Council England funding, we will be making 8 x £150 bursaries available. These bursaries are to provide support for whom financial circumstances might prohibit them from taking part. We will announce bursary availability in May 2021 and Fringe artists will be invited to apply.
* **Community** 
  + An open call to anyone and everyone living in Deptford who wishes to display their creativity during the festival. This strand is open to all ages and artistic abilities. These projects will be situated along the art trail and visible from outdoors.
* **Deptford X + AAJA Radio**
  + **New for 2021,** Deptford X is partnering with *AAJA,* a community focused radio station, record label and performance space based in the railway arches in Deptford Market Yard. Artists can apply to be part of curated programme of radio projects. Successful projects will receive £300 to bring their project to life.

**Deptford X 2021 Commissioned Work**

**In addition to the festival projects from the above open calls, the Art Trail and AAJA radio programme will also consist of further commissions by artists selected by the Deptford X director, and projects initiated by our peer network for People of Colour; *Support Network*.**

**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.

There will be a strong emphasis on artworks in the public realm so that we can create a walkable art trail bring art & the festive spirit fully & joyfully into the open for all to enjoy.

**Deptford X Supported**

**Fees and Support:**

Fee: £600

Artwork Production Budget: £800

All successful applicants will receive mentoring and curatorial support throughout the process and will also be invited to join Deptford X’s Supported Peer Network for POC artists through which you will be able to access further opportunities and mentoring beyond the festival.

**Selection Process:**

A longlist of applications will be reviewed by a guest selection panel who will consider the concept, quality and cost of each project before selecting the finalists. Finalists will be invited to Deptford X **[Either in person or via Zoom, depending on what is possible /meets government guidelines]** for interview by the Deptford X team, following which the three Deptford X Supported projects will be chosen.

**Criteria:**

* Supported is only open to Black and People of Colour artists.
* Artists must be resident in the Borough of Lewisham.
* The festival’s core projects will be installed from Friday 2nd July ready for the festival which runs from Friday 9th – Sunday 18th July.
* All successful Supported applicants must be willing and available to participate in public talks and tours during the festival period as required.
* Well-conceived and thought-out projects – this is both in terms of concept but also in terms of practical construction and installation process.
* Projects that are rooted in the fabric of our neighbourhoods and the people who live and work within them.
* Can provide a clear sense of how the work allows for public interaction and/or can explain the intended impact for audiences.
* We reserve the right to decline any project that we deem discriminatory, offensive or contrary to our values.
  + We define values as principles of behaviour and/or judgements of what is important.
  + Our organisational values are: art, learning, care, respect, openness and equality.
* The deadline for applications is **Midnight, Sunday 16 May.** Applications received after this date will not be included.

**We welcome applications from those with different access needs and have an access budget available for successful applicants that require it. We also welcome applications by video or audio recording.**

If you would like to apply in this way or discuss other application requirements, please contact the Deptford X team for further guidance on: admin@deptfordx.org

**As a Supported applicant/participant you will be asked to:**

* Complete a Monitoring Form, which can be found at the end of the submission form.
* Participate in any evaluation procedure required by Deptford X. Your final fee will be released once evaluation is complete.
* All successful Supported applicants must be willing and available to participate in publicity calls, public talks, events and tours during the festival period, including any preview events.

**How to Apply**

We welcome applications from those with different access needs. We also welcome applications by video or audio recording. If you need this application pack in a different format, or would like to discuss any access needs, please get in touch with Deptford X to discuss any application or access needs. We will be happy to accommodate. [admin@deptfordx.org](mailto:admin@deptfordx.org)

Otherwise, to apply for this opportunity please complete <<[**this Google Form**](https://deptfordx.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Supported-Application-Form-2021.docx)**>>.**

*Please note that we do not expect applicants to have attended formal arts education but do need to see evidence of past artistic projects and practice.*

For more information or advice please contact us on: admin@deptfordx.org

**Unsuccessful Applications**

If your Supported application is unsuccessful, you are still eligible for inclusion in this year’s Fringe programme. Please indicate on your Supported application if you would like to be included in the Fringe if unsuccessful. Please note there will be no funding provided for this – but you are welcome to apply for the Fringe Bursary.

**Successful Applications**

Artists who are successful will be sent an Artist Agreement Contract, you will be asked to read through and sign if you agree to the terms stated.

As a commissioned artists on this programme you will be asked to:

* Keep Deptford X updated as to your progress
* Be available for install and deinstall
* Attend mentoring sessions (these can be agreed in advance and are made available to you as and when you need them)
* Comply with the requirements for project spending and the keeping of receipts as per your contract
* Participate in promotional activity and/or public events to promote/share your work publicly

**For assistance with your application or alternative formats, e.g. large type, please get in touch with us at** [**admin@deptfordx.org**](mailto:admin@deptfordx.org) **or 0208 694 8842.**

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**Other thing is consider in your application**

**Sites and venues**

While we don’t require Supported applications to have secured a location

before application, it is encouraged that you have an idea of what kind of (outdoor) space you would prefer your project to take place in before you apply. We would encourage you to think and seek out places and spaces that are not usually reserved for art. Deptford X festival usually takes place over a 1km radius around Deptford station, Deptford X will work with successful applicants to find the best contexts for their projects to take place in, but we do welcome submissions where a location is confirmed.

**Accessibility**

You will be asked to consider how your project addresses accessibility. We would ask that you consider the following:

* Wheelchair accessible locations/space
* Large format text
* Audio description
* Alt text / Image Description
* BSL
* Captions
* TW notification
* Sign posting age appropriateness

**You can find some more information here:** [**https://celebratingdisability.co.uk/creating-an-accessible-event/**](https://celebratingdisability.co.uk/creating-an-accessible-event/)

**Key Dates**

17.05.21 Supported Submission Deadline

23.05.21 Fringe Bursary Deadline

09.07.21 Deptford X Festival begins

18.07.21 Deptford X Festival ends

**THANK YOU SO MUCH, WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR APPLICATION AND SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!**