

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE PROJECT

1,000 Years of History



Commissioning Opportunity: Nottingham Castle Reopening 2021

Artists, producers, companies and consortiums are invited to propose an ambitious strategic approach to the Nottingham Castle Reopening Celebrations in 2021.

1. Background

Nottingham Castle is undergoing an ambitious £30 million redevelopment, including the Ducal Palace and Grounds and the sprawling cave systems hidden within the Castle Rock.

One thousand years of history lie ready to be discovered on a site rich in archaeology and human interest. A beacon of power, protest and rebellion throughout the centuries, Nottingham Castle will be revitalised to reflect the wealth of its history, the depth of its collections and the lives of the people of Nottingham.

The development of Nottingham Castle will enable a step change, making the Castle a world-class heritage destination which will inspire Nottingham and the world. The Nottingham Castle redevelopment has three aims:

- To reveal the diverse heritage of the last 1000 years in a compelling and engaging way that does justice to its national and global significance.
- To use the events at the Castle and Nottingham to interpret the birth of social and democratic ideas – to include the Reform Act Riots, Luddites, the Chartists and the Civil War.
- For Nottingham Castle to once again be the pride of the city and to meet the expectations of its visitors and to fully meet its potential as a flagship for the City and a catalyst for its regeneration.

The redevelopment project focuses on three themes:

- Exploring 1,000 years of history: inviting visitors to discover the site, its medieval remains and its caves
- Robin Hood and Rebellion: Review Nottingham's history of revolts and rebellion and its role in the rise of democracy.
- The Power of Art and Making: Highlighting the extraordinary creativity of a City and region home to craft and industry of various kinds.

For further information about the Castle Project, please visit <https://www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/>

2. Aims of the Artistic Commission

To celebrate the opening of Nottingham Castle, we want to commission an artist, consortium or organisation to respond to the themes identified above. Proposals and ideas can be wide ranging but should ideally create an element of spectacle and involve the diverse Nottingham community, potentially with elements of co-creation. Our primary concern is that the work is of high quality and meaningful to our communities. This commission will be the headline spectacle for the Castles opening season.

The commission will aim to:

- Deliver a high quality artistic experience for communities that places Nottingham on an international stage
- Contribute to the sense of place, developing and representing identity in Nottingham, enabling residents to feel proud of the City and its heritage
- Encourage a sense of ownership over the re-opened castle, engaging communities to feel enthusiastic
- Increase the diversity of audiences engaging in Castle and other cultural and heritage activities
- Connect residents and visitors to the heritage of the City
- Promote Nottingham as a cultural destination to visit on an international scale
- Connect to and celebrate our international partners, potentially with twin cities across the world, notably Karlsruhe in Germany, Ningbo in China and Timișoara in Romania

Some consultation work has already taken place with cultural organisations and other stakeholders across Nottingham. Some key themes that came from this included:

- Maximising the link to the values of Robin Hood and themes of his story
- Working closely with schools and communities to empower all to be included
- Young people should be a key part of activity as creators, performers and audiences
- Connecting to Nottingham's existing cultural infrastructure should be exploited and utilised including Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham Playhouse, UNESCO City of Literature, Dance4 and many more

3. The Commission

We are inviting artists, producers, companies and consortiums to develop a full proposal for the Nottingham Castle Reopening Celebrations in 2021. Ideally, the project will see co-production across the community, working in collaboration with our existing arts and cultural infrastructure in Nottingham, to create a large-scale spectacular never before seen in the City.

The project is expected to commence in 2020 with the culmination of celebrations taking place between February and May 2021, either as a weekend event, a series of events or other interventions.

There are a number of City Centre spaces available including the Castle itself, with a capacity of approximately 3000, or the event could take place across the city streets including Old Market

Square and Maid Marian Way, providing a larger capacity. We expect the reach to be far beyond the audience seeing this work live.

Stage 1 invites submissions, outlining how the applicant will approach the development of a full project plan. This should include details of similar previous projects that the applicant has developed managed and delivered. There will be no fee for submitting this application.

Stage 2 Applicants will then be shortlisted and invited to present their approach, sharing past examples of relevant work. **Those shortlisted will be eligible to claim expenses to attend the presentation.**

An independent artistic panel will assess all submissions made and from the Stage 2 presentation select one proposal to take forward to Stage 3.

Stage 3 will develop a full project plan. The successful artist/consortium/company will be contracted at the stage with an appropriate fee. The full project plan should include, but not limited to:

- Proposed artistic vision and concept
- Profiles of artists and support teams that will be involved in delivery activity
- How you will work within the existing city cultural ecology, connecting with partners and contributing to the city's ambitions
- Full budget breakdown and cash flow
- Recruitment strategy for community participants and volunteers
- Audience development plan for engagement
- Recommended strategy for marketing and publicity, locally, nationally and internationally
- Details of how the work will be accessible digitally and archived for future access
- Outline of risks associated with the project
- Comprehensive timeline for activity
- Suggestions for evaluating the activity
- Legacy of the activity, for example, developing the skills of our local artists

This project plan will be used as the basis to seek external funding to realise the ambition.

4. Steering Group

Throughout this development, the successful candidate will be supported by the Steering Group who will each offer expertise and guidance:

Steering Group Member	Role
Nigel Hawkins – Head of Culture and Libraries, Nottingham City Council	Chair of the celebration steering group and working with the Nottingham Castle Transformation Board
Chelsey Everatt – Cultural Development Officer, Nottingham City Council	Writing funding application to Arts Council England Connecting with cultural organisations in Nottingham Manage contract with the successful candidate

Kinga Kapias - Marketing NG	Marketing and publicity within city-wide strategy and Visit England.
Keri Usherwood – Marketing and Communications Manager, Nottingham City Council	Marketing and publicity within the Castle redevelopment
Lucy Stanford - Nottingham BID	Manage relationship with local City Centre businesses, lead for the Nottingham Business Improvement District
Patrick Loy – Head of Events, Nottingham City Council	Manage use of City Centre spaces Team available to Manage Event and provide Production support
Sara Blair-Manning – Chief Executive Nottingham Castle Trust	Designated operator to manage Nottingham Castle post completion of the £31 million transformation capital programme
Cathy Mahmood – Culture Education Challenge	To link to school and youth arts networks across the City and community art festivals
Jared Wilson – Editor of Left Lion Publications and Events	Independent promotor and publisher
Nigel Cooke – Director of One Nottingham	Coordinate and bring together numerous organisations in the City and run Young Creative Awards.
Faye Sadler – Nottingham Castle Transformation Team	Coordinating and delivering the Nottingham Castle Activity Plan

5. Timeline

Deadline for submitting initial proposal (Stage 1)	Monday 16 th December 2019
Shortlisted applicants notified and invited for interview (Stage 2)	Friday 20 th December 2019
Shortlisted Presentations (Stage 2)	w/c 13 th January 2020
Completion of Project Plan – from selected submission (Stage 3)	January – March 2020
Funding Applications to enable delivery	February – April 2020
Funding decisions expected and project contracts issued	May 2020
Project expected to commence	June 2020
Celebration event	February - May 2021
Evaluation complete	June 2021

6. Eligibility

There is limited criteria, although the following will be taken into account:

- National or Internationally based artists, producers and companies are encouraged to apply - consideration will be given to how the proposal will provide a legacy to Nottingham and its existing arts infrastructure
- Applicants may be individuals or organisations. Both must ensure they can show capacity to deliver and draw upon contacts to achieve the ambitions of the project
- You must have valid public liability insurance and if successful, a full risk assessment for the activity will be developed with the team at Nottingham City Council

7. Budget

There is a budget of £7-9.5k to develop the concept and proposal to fundraising stage.

The successful candidate will develop the full budget with the Project Steering Group, expected to be a minimum of £400,000. Proposals of international significance will have a budget far beyond this.

Funding is not yet secure but contributions are expected from Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Business Improvement District and other local partners. Applications will be submitted for external funding from Arts Council England and other identified sources. Positive conversations have taken place with all potential funders, who want to be involved in supporting this project.

8. Submission

Please submit the following information for Stage 1:

1. Details of your approach to developing the Stage 3 proposal (maximum 8 sides of A4 – this can include images or links to other multi-media files).
2. Budget for developing the full Stage 3 proposal e.g. based on a day rate (the full project budget is not required at this stage but may be indicated in Stage 2).
3. Your CV and details of relevant past projects (this could include links to videos etc.).

Please email your proposal to Chelsey.Everatt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk marked 'Castle Reopening 2021 Commission' by 5pm on Monday 16th December.

Please contact Chelsey Everatt, Cultural Development Officer with any questions, via email, or telephone 0115 876 5205.

Applicants will be contacted with the outcome by Friday 20th December 2019.

9. Assessment of Submissions

An independent artistic panel will assess all Stage 1 applications and make a recommendation to the Steering Group.

The following scoring matrix will be used to assess the submissions at Stage 1:

Element	Maximum Score
Previous experience of delivering large-scale ambitious activity that has attracted national and/or international recognition	12
Evidence of artistic contacts that produce high quality work	5
Suitability of approach to developing the full proposal, working with the local arts infrastructure and community	10
Previous experience of working with partners to achieve external funding from both public and private sources	8
Understanding of the aims and ambitious of this project, Nottingham Castle and Nottingham as a City	5
Realistic budget for developing the full proposal	5
Ability to work within the proposed timescales	5
Understanding and previous experience of co-production with communities, young people and partners	5
TOTAL	50

10. Rules and Regulations

- The deadline is 5pm on Monday 16th December 2019. Any submissions that arrive late will not be considered.
- If you wish to submit via hard copy, please contact us in good time to make alternative arrangements.
- The assessment of the submissions will be made by the Artistic Panel with recommendations made to the Project Steering Group for the final decision.
- At our discretion, after receiving proposals, we are permitted to not commission any work, or commission multiple proposals if work is of a high quality and can be achieved within budget.
- The decision of the Steering Group is final and no correspondence will be entered into, in regards to decisions made. You must agree to this in order to be eligible.
- Once a decision is made, a detailed contract with targets, outcomes and milestones will be agreed between the Steering Group and the successful candidate.
- The Steering Group and successful candidates will meet regularly to discuss progress.

