Invitation to Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Magic of the Tawd – Creative Commissions A & B

Deadline for submissions: 16 September 2026
Please note: These opportunities are subject to achieving grant funding.

Positive Placemakers CIC invites Expressions of Interest from experienced creative practitioners, artists, makers, and community facilitators to deliver two major strands of the Magic of the Tawd creative placemaking programme.

These commissions form part of a three-year cultural programme, that will take place in year 1, designed to animate Tawd Valley Park through storytelling, sound, digital innovation, ecological heritage, and deep community co-creation.

Practitioners may submit EOIs for **one commission**, **both commissions**, or **combined delivery**.

<u>Commission A</u>

Northern Folklore Inspired Launch & Engagement Activity Programme (2027)

Indicative Commission Value: £4,000–£6,000

This commission will lead the development of the **Tawd Valley Boggart**, a new folklore character inspired by:

- English Northern Folklore
- The Tawd Valley Heritage Trail
- Local ecological and biological heritage

The commission will deliver high-quality creative engagement activities during:

- **February Half Term 2027**
- **Easter Holidays 2027**
- **Summer School Holidays 2027**

The strand culminates in the creation of a **large Boggart Lantern** for the Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival (October 2027) and introduces volunteers to basic lantern-making skills.

Delivery Expectations

- Creative engagement sessions with children, young people, families, and volunteers
- Co-creation exploring Boggart identity, traits, folklore, ecology
- Development of a large Boggart lantern
- Volunteer introduction to lantern-making
- Documentation of community-generated stories, artwork, and design assets
- Risk assessment and safe working practices
- Public Liability Insurance (minimum £2m)

Commission B

Lantern Making, Wellbeing & Volunteer Development Programme (2027–2028) and co – ordination of the lantern parade

Indicative Commission Value: £13,000

This major commission will deliver a one year lantern-making and volunteer development programme, building sustainable community capacity and supporting the annual Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival. This commission may be extended over two years if funding is achieved.

Delivery Expectations (2027–2028)

Lantern Making Programme

- 12 lantern-making sessions per year (3 × 2-hour sessions with 4 groups)
- Inclusive, accessible creative processes
- Ecological and folklore-inspired lantern designs
- Structured volunteer training in:
    - Lantern construction
    - Safe tool use
    - Materials preparation
    - Group support and facilitation

Open Family Workshops

Delivered during:

- May Half Term
- Summer School Holidays
- Saturdays (July–October)

Activities include:

- Large collaborative lantern construction
- Intergenerational creativity
- Volunteer involvement in preparation and delivery

Demonstrations & Lantern Packs

Delivered at:

- Making of Magic of the Tawd (May)
- Saturdays in September & early October

Includes:

- Live demonstrations
- Take-home lantern kits
- Ecological and folklore inspiration sheets
- Volunteer roles in demonstration support and pack assembly

Lantern Festival Support

- Final lantern preparation
- Installation guidance
- Community engagement
- Volunteer coordination
- Parade organisation in partnership with the Cultural Producer
- Building sustainable volunteer-led lantern-making capacity

Volunteer Development Requirements

EOIs must demonstrate how the practitioner will:

- Train volunteers in lantern-making techniques
- Build confidence in creative facilitation
- Develop local skills in ecological and folklore-inspired arts
- Create accessible training materials
- Support volunteers to take on increasing responsibility
- Strengthen community ownership of the festival

Mandatory Requirements

- Public Liability Insurance (minimum £2m)
- Risk Assessment for all activities
- Commitment to safe, inclusive practice
- Ability to work with children, young people, families, and volunteers
- Clear demonstration of added value to the programme

EOI Requirements (Maximum 2 Pages)

Applicants must include:

- Name, contact details, website/portfolio
- Short biography
- Relevant experience in:
    - Community engagement
    - Nature-connected wellbeing
    - Lantern-making
    - Folklore-inspired creative practice
    - Volunteer development
- Examples of previous work
- Approach to co-creation and inclusive practice
- Initial ideas for:
    - Boggart engagement activities
    - Lantern-making and wellbeing programme
    - Volunteer development and sustainability
- Proposed fee and materials budget
- Confirmation of Public Liability Insurance
- Risk assessment approach
- Availability for:
    - February Half Term 2027
    - School holidays
    - May Half Term
    - Summer School Holidays
    - Saturdays (July–October)
    - Lantern Festival (October 2027)

Submission

EOIs should be submitted to: **Helen Juste** Positive Placemakers CIC
helen.juste@positiveplacemakers.org.uk

Next Steps

Shortlisted applicants will be informed and invited to an interview with the project team. Final selection will be based on:

- Experience
- Creative approach
- Inclusive practice
- Volunteer development strategy
- Alignment with Magic of the Tawd values
- Feasibility of delivery
- Quality of proposed ideas
- Added value to the programme

- Risk management and safe practice

SCORING MATRIX

Aligned with ACE, LCC's Crowdfund Lancashire (through Spacehive) & Lottery Community Fund

Criterion	Description	Weighting
1. Quality of Creative Proposal	Strength, originality, and relevance of proposed activity; clarity of concept; alignment with folklore, ecology, heritage themes.	**25%**
2. Community Engagement & Inclusion	Ability to engage children, young people, families, volunteers; inclusive practice; accessibility; intergenerational reach.	**20%**
3. Volunteer Development Strategy	Clear plan for training, skill-building, confidence development, sustainability, and community ownership.	**15%**
4. Feasibility & Deliverability	Realistic timeline; capacity to deliver; experience with similar programmes; risk assessment; safe working practices.	**15%**
5. Value for Money	Proposed fee breakdown; materials budget; efficiency; alignment with indicative commission value.	**10%**
6. Added Value	Contribution beyond core delivery: environmental practice, heritage interpretation, community legacy.	**10%**
7. Insurance & Compliance	Public Liability Insurance; safeguarding awareness; risk assessment quality; health & safety compliance. DBS check	**5%**

Total: 100%