

Oxford  
Road  
Corridor



# CORRIDOR OF LIGHT



A celebration of language  
through light, music and ideas

**ARTIST CALL OUT 2021**

VERSION 1.0 / JUN 2021

# Overview

Stretching out south from St Peter's Square in the city centre, the Oxford Road Corridor is Manchester's innovation district and is a destination with a unique concentration of knowledge, business and cultural assets.

It is the home of many of Manchester's iconic music venues, auditoriums and exhibition spaces as well as a vibrant night-life and an abundance of cafes, restaurants and bars. Nestled between the beautiful architecture and significant landmarks are several historic parks and contemporary green spaces to discover.

This autumn, Oxford Road Corridor presents the inaugural Corridor of Light from 21-23 October 6pm-10pm with a preview on the evening of Wednesday 20 October.

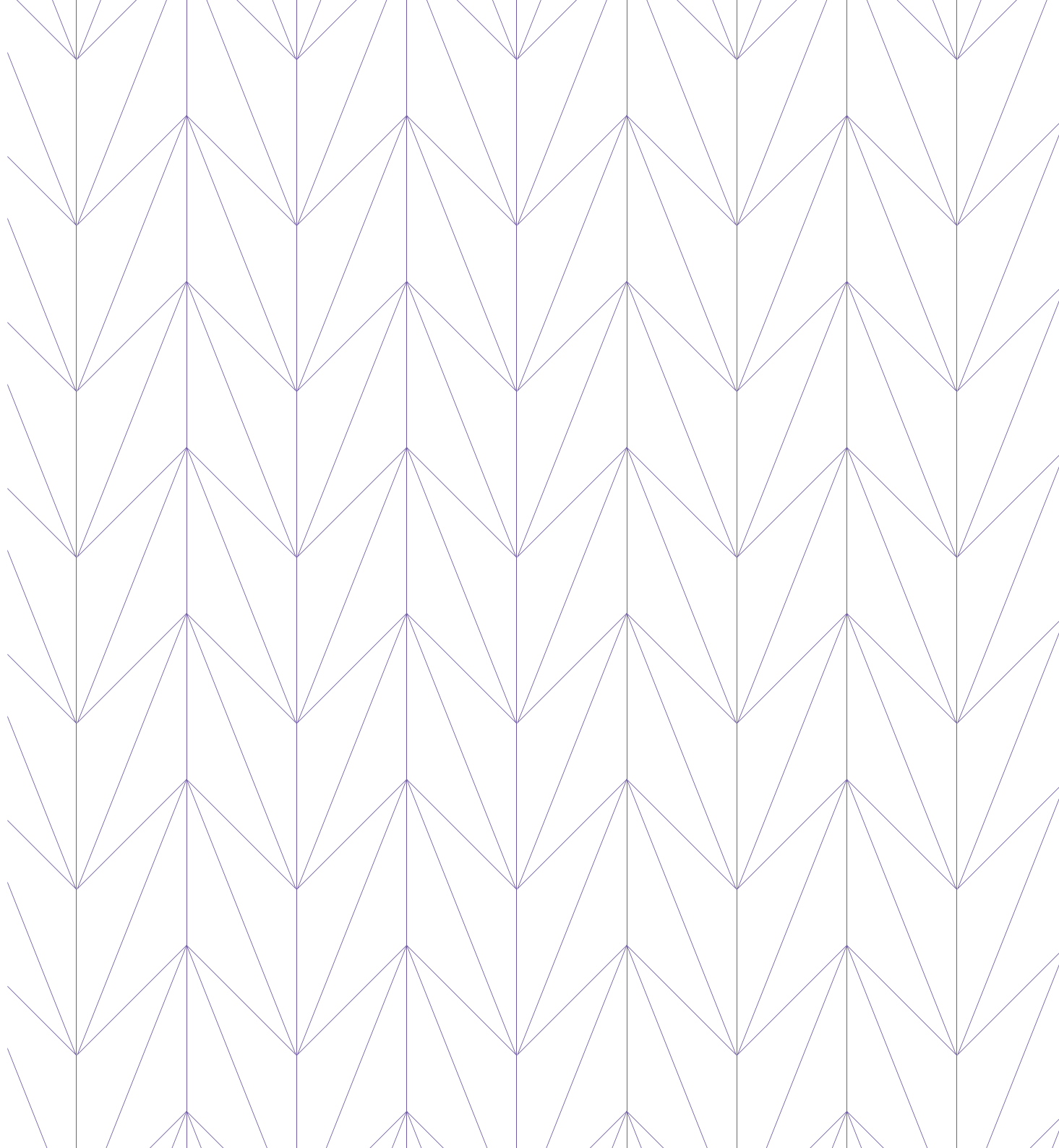
A celebration, through light, music and ideas, of the positive difference the people who dwell, study and work in and around the Oxford Road Corridor are making to our lives today and to our futures, and tipping our hats to the area's many changemakers of the past.

Corridor of Light 2021 will celebrate language in its many forms. Manchester is home to a wealth and diversity of communities, with 200+ languages signed and spoken. Language is an inseparable part of our culture. Not limited to geography, we create languages to interpret science, cultural heritage, music and engineering, history and even computer programming. From welcomes to songs, from stories to conversations, from letters to code.

Whilst the current pandemic crisis has made evident how fragile our society is, we will champion the transformative and powerful role arts and culture can play to support communities and inspire people to envision better futures during challenging times. In contrast to the recent covid-influenced closed and separated life in the area, Corridor of Light will draw communities together, including students, workers, residents and visitors, around Oxford Road for moments of celebration, revelation and discovery.

We are delighted that two anniversaries are taking place during Corridor of Light: The 76th anniversary of the Manchester Pan-African Congress (on All Saints Park) and the 150th anniversary of The Holy Name Church.

Thank you for exploring the call-out for artists for Corridor of Light.



# Open Call

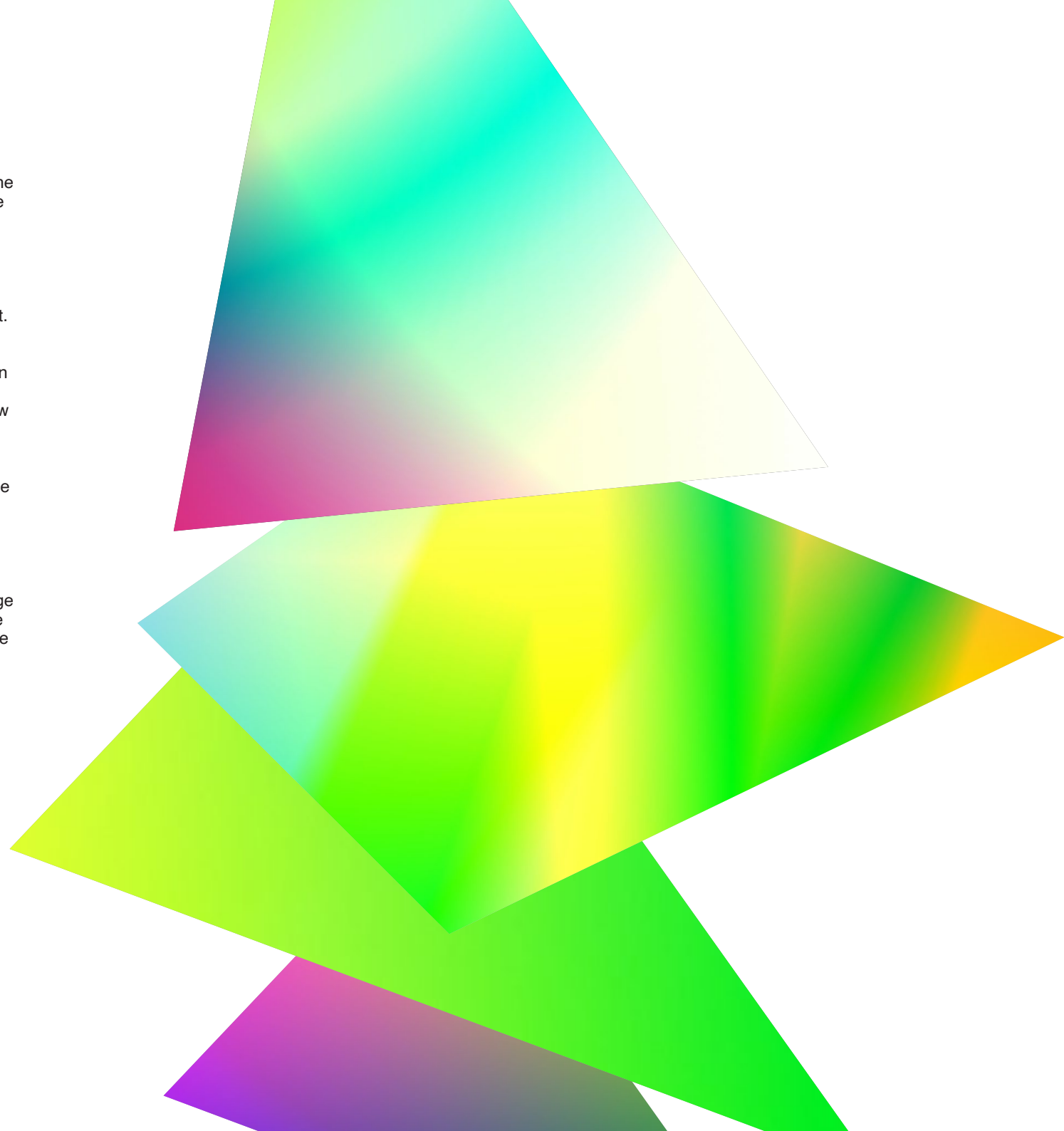
This open call is one of the ways in which we are identifying a programme to animate Corridor of Light. We are seeking people and organisations with creative vision to respond to the ideas of this first edition and to undertake new and innovative commissions.

We want to hear from performers, visual artists, architects, musicians, scientists, inventors, writers, creatives, thinkers, designers and digital makers and anyone who can deliver an outstanding creative idea to support this first Corridor of Light.

We are seeking creative ideas that are high quality and captivating. They should be engaging and accessible, but can also be challenging and thought-provoking. Works can be new commissions or the presentation of existing works in new contexts providing they fit the brief and outcomes.

We are interested in work that can be experienced from the public realm for this edition, in order to ensure that the chance for the work to go ahead is not limited by any restrictions on gathering indoors. We are prioritising work that has impact after dark, is of scale in the context, and is durational across the hours of the event.

Projects can also be created digitally so the public can engage with them virtually as well as physically providing they can be easily experienced through a mobile-enabled website. We are interested in work that is experienced in a single location as well as work that is more trail-based.



**To help with inspiration for this first, language-focused edition, we have secured permissions for you to incorporate and celebrate the following existing three works...**



# Made in Manchester

Inspired by the new multi-lingual poem incorporating 64 different languages in 2019, titled *Made in Manchester*. You can watch the full poem [here](#), and download the full multi-lingual version [here](#).

**"We are made in Manchester, we are spun from hope.  
We are a city united forever, braided into a single rope.  
Mancunians and textile mills, maybe your first impressions.  
Not only building skyscrapers, but buildings, railroads and homes.  
A town of football. A city of rain.  
But we know each other to the bone.  
Everyone is welcome, everyone is a friend."**



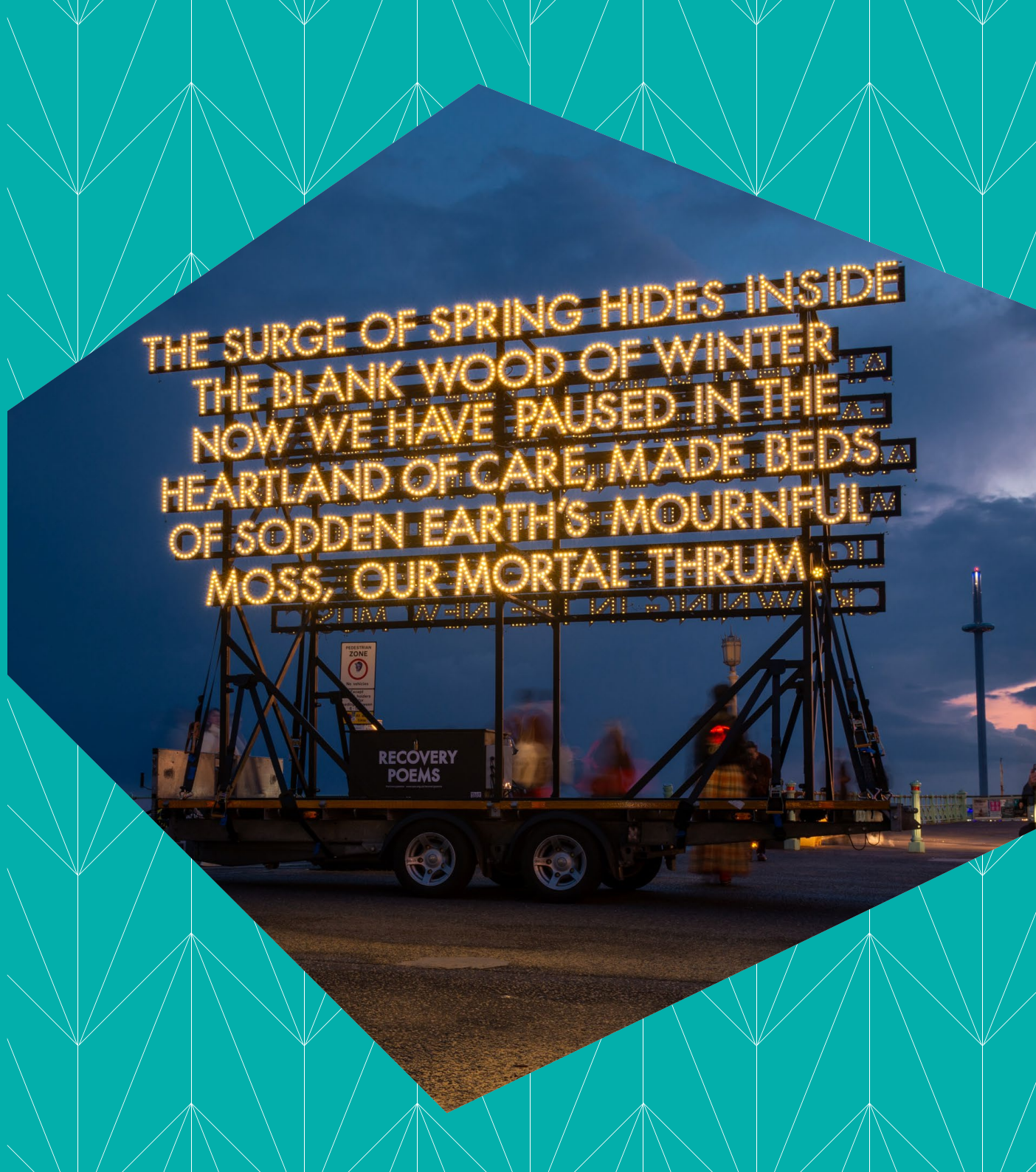
# Recovery Poems

How do we commemorate what's been lost as we start to take tentative steps to coming out of lockdown? What do we want to hold onto and grow? What positive changes can we make to society and the natural environment as we recover from the pandemic?

Through talking and listening to communities, artists **Robert Montgomery** and **Deanna Rodger** have created an inspiring light poem, produced by Emergency Exit Arts, that will visit Corridor of Light as a backdrop for performances and reflections.

**"The surge of spring hides  
inside the blank wood of winter  
now we have paused in the  
heartland of care, made beds  
of sodden earth's mournful  
moss, our mortal thrum**

**At what point do we fall into  
each other's arms and dance  
again loosening our shadow?  
We are vulnerable in this first  
light, but rising steady now,  
crowning in the new music."**



*Produced by Emergency Exit Arts with Deanna Rodger and Robert Montgomery. Recovery Poem is a partnership project between Without Walls, Emergency Exit Arts, 101 Outdoor Arts, Robert Montgomery, Deanna Rodger and Thatcham Town Council.*

# Manchester's Oxford Road

A poem with Words by Sarah Butler from *Stories from the Road* which you can [read here](#).

There are no lines telling you where it starts and where it ends.  
So let's draw them in. Two trails of coloured chalk across the  
tarmac. Here: from park to shops. Here: from library to hotel.

Let's make them both the beginning. This is, after all, a place  
where things start: life; adulthood; careers; love affairs; ideas;  
my own entrance into the world amongst them – on a snowy  
Thursday morning, April 1978.

Let's make them both the end. Things come and go, after all:  
dingy clubs and office blocks, bridges and grand plans –  
all that dust.

Two beginnings. Two ends. And everything in between lined  
up one after the other. Except this place doesn't like to stay  
still. Corridor. *Correre*. A run, rush, hurry part of town.

*write me a line, hold your breath, walk the length of it,  
as far as you can go without falling off*

The busiest bus route in Europe, they say. Thousands  
shuttling from stop to stop, forever changing their collection  
of strangers. Amongst them, bikes weave their own, solitary  
patterns along the road. And the cars. And the taxis. And the  
people who walk. You never step in the same corridor twice.

Corridor. Forget lines of chairs under fluorescent lights,  
noticeboards crammed with warnings about salt and cigarettes  
and unprotected sex. Forget swilling crowds of school kids.  
Forget carpeted non-spaces lined with closed doors.  
Forget the place where the shoes get left.  
*The thing about lines is that you can  
break them.*

Under the bridges, everything is amplified. The slap echo of  
a manhole, not quite flush with the tarmac. The stink of traffic  
fumes. The lack of somewhere to sleep. The colour grey.  
*Out of line.*

*Cross the line.*

*Down the line.*

*End of the line.*

*Bottom line.*

Free books. Pizza. Burrito. Noodles. Theatre ticket. Plug  
adaptor. Memories. Cheap veg. A place to go. Guitar string.  
Lamb Karahi. Family swim. Concerto. Americano.

Chameleon. Knowledge. Music. Prayer. Pre-loved jumper.  
Haircut. Bank loan. Fertility treatment. Contemporary art.  
Trees.

A line into and out of the city. A place of beginnings and  
middles and ends. A string of and then, and then, and then.  
Except nothing will stay in place. In August it sleeps; come  
September it's frenetic. In the early hours, the night time  
stragglers do-si-do with street cleaners, delivery vans, early  
shift workers.

There are no lines telling you where it starts and where it ends.  
So let's draw them in. Two trails of coloured chalk across the  
tarmac. Here: from hotel to library. Here: from shops to park.  
A beginning and an end. An end and a beginning. All this life and  
dust in between.

# Call Out Area

Included below is a description of a selection of locations where partners are actively offering up parts of the Oxford Road canvas for your work (see Pen Pictures for more detailed descriptions), and an illustrative map of the Corridor of Light call out area, so you can explore your ideas in the overall canvas. We welcome you thinking of and suggesting other spaces and this will be essential if you are thinking of trail-based work.

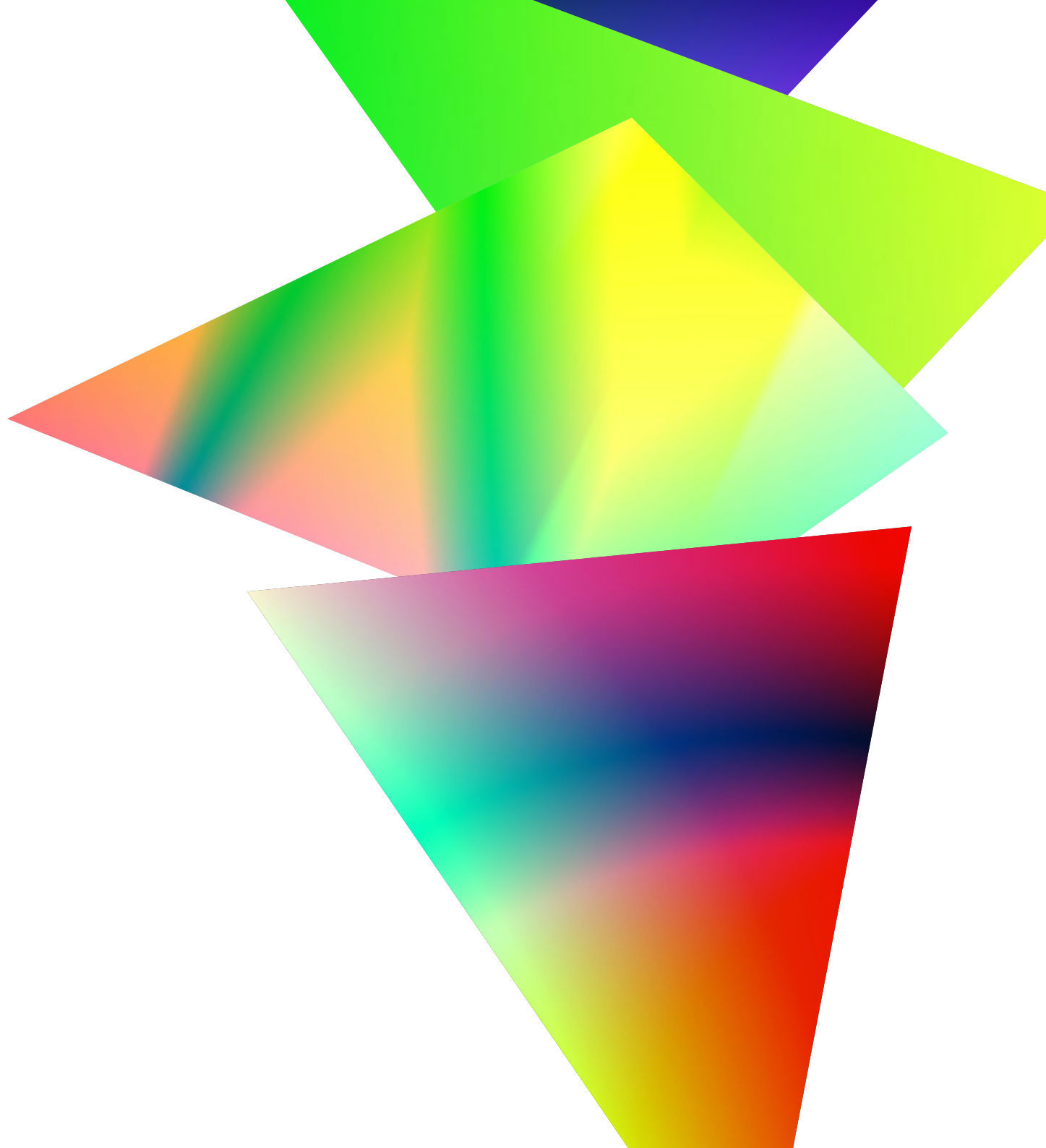
We welcome proposals which include an element of community engagement with the communities dwelling, studying and working in and around Oxford Road. Note that there are many schools, community centres and places of worship in the Oxford Road Corridor area. Please be sure to detail this in your proposal.

Proposals that demonstrate an element of match funding and in kind support are positively welcomed.

Given the relatively short time-scale, you must have some track record, or collaborate with a partner who has some track record of delivering the type of project you are proposing. Corridor of Light will attract a broad audience. We expect to reach audiences virtually and physically across all age ranges, with family groups earlier and students later in the evening. The commissions are required to reach a large number of people and we would like to see that you have considered the volume of audience and duration of their experience with your work.

## RESOURCE LINKS

- [Download Pen Pictures](#)
- [View Google Maps of Corridor of Light canvas](#)





# Budget

Funding: available project budgets of £2,500-£7,500. Proposal budgets need to cover all costs needed to realise the piece, including de-commissioning of site specific work where it applies, fees, materials, equipment hires and/or purchase, transportation, installation, insurance, accommodation, subsistence, technical production and crew. The status and level of any match funds needs to be clearly indicated. Please also state in your outline budget if any expenditure incurred will be capital (i.e. purchase of equipment, materials that will have an asset value once the Corridor of Light is ended).

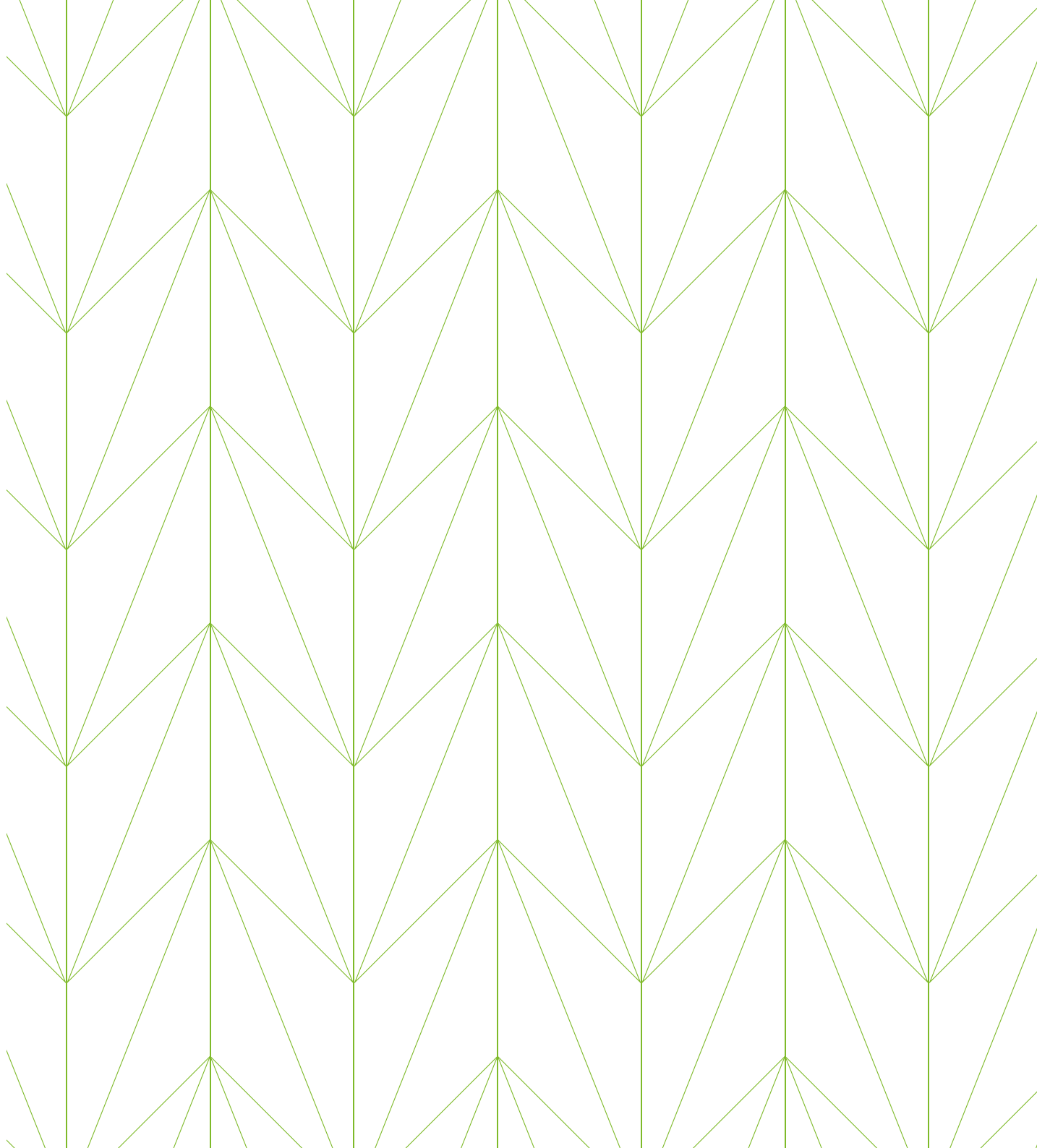
# Eligibility

Greater Manchester-based artists, scientists, creatives, designers and digital makers with a track record in delivering high quality, high impact cultural and scientific activity who can demonstrate appropriate capacity and resources to deliver work that is relatable, of scale, quality and public benefit.

# Promotion

Promotion of Corridor of Light will run from September 2021. Marketing platforms will include the website, social media, flyers, advertising, public relations and the many partner marketing channels.

Commissions will carry the Corridor of Light identity and will be promoted in print and online.



# How to apply

## PLEASE GATHER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND BRIEFLY OUTLINE:

- The idea – what you would like to create and present
- How the idea meets Corridor of Lights overall aims
- How will audiences engage with and experience the work?
- How you will ensure your work is accessible to all
- Suggested site/venue or possible sites/venues for the work and the reasoning for this
- The process for creating the work (if applicable), including a timeline. Please include an opportunity to review progress at key points in the making to ensure it is on track.
- Details of any collaborators/makers etc. you intend to work with and who will be taking the creative lead on the project.
- The outline budget for realising the idea (see above for details to be included in this) referencing any match funding that your project may be able to contribute (This is not a requirement of the commission)
- Outline of any anticipated technical and audience hosting requirements in presenting the piece and confirmation that you have included these within your budget
- Please state any opportunities for community engagement and how you plan to identify, recruit and involve participants, working in partnership where possible
- An indication of any opportunities for future platforms for the work after Corridor of Light.
- Full contact details including postal address, telephone number and email address.

## IN ADDITION PLEASE ALSO FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE:

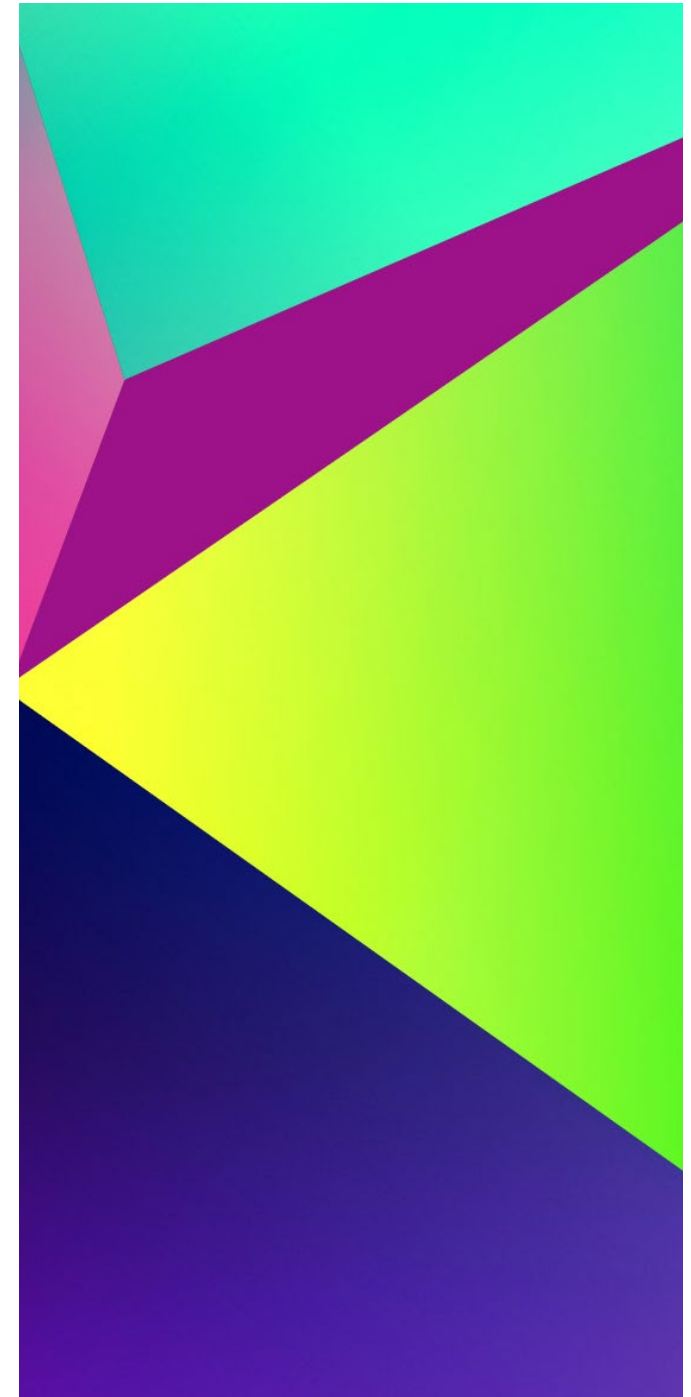
- Supporting visuals, photos, sketches, or mock-ups (max 5)
- A biography of maximum 250 words or link to website
- Examples of previous relevant work – this can be images (max 2), links to one video and/or brief descriptions.

You are welcome to submit more than one proposal.

Send applications & queries to: [info@oxfordroadcorridor.com](mailto:info@oxfordroadcorridor.com)

**DEADLINE: 5PM ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021**

Thank you.



# Selection process

The Artistic Director is managing the call out for content and ideas. Shortlisted applicants may have further discussions with her to clarify aspects of the proposal before the final selection is made. Proposals for the commissions will be shortlisted by the Artistic Director who will make recommendations to the Creative Group (which consists of partners from the Culture on the Corridor group) in Summer 2021.

Recommendations taken forward to the Creative Group will reflect the creative vision of Corridor of Light, the outcomes required by the funding, how well they will be managed and their financial viability, the relative strength against criteria compared to other applications received and the fit with the overall Corridor of Light programme.

## KEY DATES:

- Closing date for applications 5pm on Thursday 8 July 2021
- Selection of commissions informed by 5pm on Monday 26 July 2021
- Agreements for commissions issued week of 9 August 2021
- Programme announced September 2021
- Corridor of Light preview Wednesday 20 October 2021
- Corridor of Light Thursday 21 October – Saturday 23 October, 6pm-10pm
- Evaluation report December 2021

# Outcomes of Corridor of Light

The ambition is for Corridor of Light to open up the partnership's spaces to new audiences, and to inspire the next generation of artists to dream within the canvas of the city's innovation district.

Funds have been secured from Arts Council England, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Bruntwood, the University of Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, and Manchester City Council to enable an inaugural edition of Corridor of Light in October 2021 which delivers the following aims:

- Establish an annual event of national significance that celebrates the uniqueness of the area in the form of a participatory, diverse, inclusive and multi-generational experience, using light, music and ideas to bring people together
- Broaden access for local communities to the research and innovation that has shaped this part of Manchester for the last 150 years
- Work with artists to use light, music and ideas to bring together audiences and communities
- Animate the urban environment with high-quality content and wayfinding to create a vibrant public realm and a strong sense of place
- Build and sustain relationships with a wide range of partners involved in developing environmentally sustainable practices, including academic and private sector partners to deliver a low carbon event
- Deliver a creative leadership strand that brings together academics, artists, scientists and changemakers to ask how creative interventions can shape and support communities in positive ways

In 2021 Corridor of Light will embrace and celebrate language in its many forms. Manchester is home to a wealth and diversity of communities, with 200+ languages signed and spoken. Language is an inseparable part of our culture and helps define the social, economic and political motivations of different cultures. Not limited to geography, we create languages to interpret science, cultural heritage, music and engineering, history and even computer programming. From welcomes to songs, from stories to conversations, from letters to code.

Corridor of Light will champion the transformative and powerful role arts and culture can play to support communities and inspire people to envision better futures during challenging times. In contrast to the recent covid-influenced closed and separated life in the area, Corridor of Light will draw communities together, including students, workers, residents and visitors, around Oxford Road for moments of celebration, revelation and discovery. Featuring installations, projections, public art commissions, and performances as well as workshops, art trails, talks and an algorave.

We will take the opportunity to reveal and celebrate new public spaces and developments including Circle Square, School of Digital Arts and the Poetry Library, alongside the established landscape from Central Library to the Whitworth Art Gallery; HOME to All Saints Park; Manchester Museum to The Holy Name Church. The area is home to a multitude of great music venues including The Bridgewater Hall, Gorilla, YES, The Deaf Institute and the Manchester Academy, and iconic urban infrastructures like the Mancunian Way and the railway viaducts.

The overarching ethos is to open up the Oxford Road area canvas for artists to be inspired by and dream in and to develop and share the partners' experiences of presenting a programme with light, music and ideas at its heart.

Thank you.



Supported using public funding by

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