

## Notes from our Live Q&A Open Call Session

### **Q: Can we have a copy of the slideshow?**

**A:** Here's a link to the website version of what is being presented: [Inspiring change through art: New strategy & programmes - Metal Culture](#)

### **Q: How do you offer support to people who want to mobilise and how does that happen? How do people find ways to take part in the research?**

**A:** Some structures already exist in each city, for example, ways of gathering, community groups (which often gather at Metal), support systems which can be plugged into. You will work with Metal staff to think about who we need to bring into the process. It will be collaborative working.

### **Q: Metal is based at 3 sites (Liverpool, Peterborough and Southend), how is the work split across the sites?**

**A:** This isn't the first time we have run cross-site programmes/work, so the Metal staff can support you. This is also where we can think about methodology. We want to split it fairly across the three sites, for example, with research days built in to cover each other. There will be lots of talking to and engaging with communities in each area, and we can collaboratively set a framework to do this. We also have provision for bringing in local artists to work with the leading artist.

### **Q: Can the same methodology/framework be applied to each place?**

**A:** We are open for the artist to lead on that, but we want the artist to be open to embedding Metal's values.

### **Q: Over the years, will artists be 'passing the torch'? What do you anticipate that time looking like?**

**A:** We are still planning this. These commissions are the first phase, and there will be a moment of coming back, reflecting and refreshing in about two years time. There may be moments of passing the torch.

### **Q: Can I apply for both open calls?**

**A:** Yes. Both programmes are inspired by each other and linked to our strategy – you are welcome to apply to both as long as you are addressing both commissions.

**Q: Is the 30k in the Power & Cultural Democracy commission for the three years ?**

**A:** The 30k is for the first year (£10k fee + travel expenses, £20k production budget). We are open to how that will progress in year 2 and 3. How it progresses depends on our learning from the first year. We will reflect with artists to think about what year 2 and 3 will look like together.

**Q: Do you need a professional full time artist to spearhead the commissions?**

**A:** No - we have given guidelines on this in the applications, we are flexible and open to what that looks like.

**Q: I'm not an artist, but I work with communities on the frontline. I have a personal art practice and have lived experience of other things. Could I put a proposal in considering that I'm not really an established artist or formally trained as one?**

**A:** Yes. We are very open to your artistic ideas and how you might approach this.

**Q: Do you already have three artist you could work with in each city?**

**A:** We haven't chosen artists, but we have budget and networks to identify the best artist against the proposal submitted. We will work together to find who will be a good person to work with.

**Q: The applications say you can submit an example of past work – is this one artwork or one portfolio?**

**A:** We are quite open – we don't want pressure artists into submitting lots, but we are happy for artists to present an overview.

**Q: Can I send a link to my website as an example?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Is there a welcome policy already even if unfinished?**

**A:** Metal Welcome exists in the knowledge of artists, staff and our buildings, but no formal policy exists. There will be a process involving talking to partners who embody the message of Metal and we encourage our partners to be involved. It may never be formal policy but an interpretation, for example a poem.