



**CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD: CHILDREN'S
CAPITAL OF CULTURE PROGRAMME BOARD
13th NOVEMBER 2024**

ITEM 2A

PROPOSAL TITLE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
Otherham	Flux Rotherham
PROPOSED DELIVERY DATE	PROPOSED PROGRAMME THEME
24 th -26 th January 2025	You're Not From New York City, You're from Rov'Rum
ESTIMATED INVESTMENT	ESTIMATED AUDIENCE
£130,000	15,000

PROPOSAL

SUMMARY
Five large scale, captivating projections will highlight five much loved buildings in the Town Centre.

DETAIL
Imagine a place... a town where things aren't quite as they seem, where the imaginations of our brilliant young people have taken over, giving everything a sideways tilt. It's a magical place where anything seems possible, where a stone wall becomes a portal to new worlds, where the weather can be ordered from a menu with your coffee, where kindness is delivered by a swarm of bees, or where you can catch a train to the distant future, or to visit your great, great Granny on her market stall 100 years ago. It's this place and, at the same time, it's an 'other' place. Welcome to Otherham.

With a nod to the town's industrial past but a keen eye to the bright future, inspired by the incredible Grimm & Co, and the delightful hodge-podge of architecture developed over time, around the stunning Minster, our idea re-imagines Rotherham as a town existing slightly out of step with reality. Retitled buildings would form the starting point for storytelling workshops with young people which, in turn, would be the seeds of inspiration for our five central projection installations on our newly reimagined buildings. A magical, "other" town created from the imaginations of the young people of Rotherham and brought to life over 3 nights through projection and sound. All installations would be clustered around the Minster on a walkable route.

The project would re-purpose and re-design the function, form and reality of five town-centre buildings to create a whole new world; a world in which the Nationwide building becomes the "Cinema of Future Films", Rotherham Minster becomes the "The Ministry for Weather and Good Will", Rise House becomes the entrance to the "Soul Smelting Factory", Holy Ghost Tattoo is the "Otherham Chronicle" and The Town Hall becomes the "Centre for Comings and Goings".

CO-PRODUCTION
Grimm & Co will run a 6-week writing programme in collaboration with Imitating The Dog for young people aged 12-16 years where they will imagine an alternative, otherworldly Rotherham. The stories created will be used as inspiration by imitating the dog in their designs for the installations that will be projected on Rotherham buildings during the Winter Festival.

As part of the FLUX Rotherham Winter Festival in January, we're looking to celebrate young filmmaking talent across Rotherham. As part of this major event, we're looking for 4 imaginative and original short films made by young people aged 5- 25 to be shown in the "Cinema of Future Films" over 3 nights. The films can be made in any style: animation, cinema, stop-motion, video art...anything! They should be created around the theme of "Hidden Worlds". The festival will have a real sense of magic and playfulness and we'll be looking to include ideas which fit within that ethos. They should be 2-3 minutes in length and, as part of a family festival, be accessible and appealing to all. A soundtrack is preferable but not vital.

Visual content will be created with children to be incorporated into the projected artwork.

INCLUSION

All sites are outdoor and in easily accessible public realm space. The event will be free and once sites are agreed, we will write a full access document. Imitating the Dog and Grimm and Co both have exemplary engagement practices and inclusion is core to their work. All of the artwork is non-verbal, reducing barriers for people with hearing impairments and for those with English as an additional language.

SAFEGUARDING

Our staff are DBS checked and updated annually. Our Director was head of safeguarding at her previous organisation and has level 3 safeguarding training. All artists will be DBS checked and will adhere to the Voluntary Action Rotherham Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. We will work with young people within their existing safe groups and frameworks such as schools, youth and constituted groups.

YOUTH PROGRAMME PANEL COMMENTS

- Good for families
- Otherham concept-coming from young people- how can we communicate the idea? Think they would be intrigued.
- Like the multiple building approach
- The collaboration with Grimm + Co is great. It would appeal to a wide audience range and using multiple sites is great- I like that people will get active
- Love the interactive trail idea.
- Good- incorporates relevant stuff to Rotherham not random things
- Like using diff points on buildings- Idea around character linking- one complete story
- Otherham- think it's funny- clever campaign- We do different! Such a lot of opportunity.
- Elements- what do we think of the weird? We love it!
- Experiencing on different levels- would appeal to very young children, teenagers and older people
- Interesting for different ages/ groups- more complex as it gets older
- Related to real things- needs to be entertaining- needs to be uplifting
- It's amazing- like a portal into the weird world

CCoC PROGRAMME TEAM COMMENTS

Good fit for You're Not from New York City, You're from Rov'Rum theme due to scale of works and quality of artists. Co-production feels strong, both in terms of collaboration with children and young people and across creative partners.

PROGRAMME BOARD FEEDBACK

All content that the programme is a good fit for the You're Not From New York City, You're From Rov'Rum strand with the quality and ambition of the project standing out. More info on numbers of children engaged in each strand for co production.

Approval	Additional Feedback and/or conditions
Approved	Accessibility, co-production and quality of programme were all strongly represented, and the Youth Programming Panel were excited by the scale of the proposal.
CCoC Relationship Manager	Amy Lilley, Creative Programming & Events Manager

ITEM 2B

PROPOSAL TITLE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
The Last Unicorn Airways	Blanket Fort Club
PROPOSED DELIVERY DATE	PROPOSED PROGRAMME THEME
Currently fundraising, gives a project plan but no detailed dates	You're Not From New York City, You're From Rov'Rum Who We Are, Where We Come From World Beneath Our Feet
ESTIMATED INVESTMENT	ESTIMATED AUDIENCE
£43,000	500 audience and spectators across 9 performances 600 school children across 8 schools

PROPOSAL

SUMMARY
Immersive theatre project co-produced with schools and performed at Grimm & Co with a number of other elements that could form exhibitions and experiences in other locations e.g., Clifton Park Museum.

DETAIL
The Last Unicorn Airways is a sensory immersive theatre experience which explores the notion of fast travel and what would happen if we could no longer fly to distant lands. We meet two baggage handlers waiting for the final flight and as they do so they start to unpack the luggage, and with it tell tales of lands afar including the tale of The Flying Trunk. With the realisation dawning that they may no longer be able to travel by air they reflect on the adventures and connections that can be had, here in Rotherham. (And whether indeed they should fly again even if they could)

This theatre experience will be co-created with young people from mainstream and SEN schools in Rotherham. Young people will design what goes into each experiential tunnel filling them with local memorabilia, audio tales and soundscape. We will draw out questions and reflections on heritage, custodianship, identity and belonging, using local anecdotal history gathered from Rotherham Museums and local schools to conceive of Rotherham as a destination spot.

The ideas generated will be showcased within the tunnel for the duration of a local tour which will include: local schools, Grimm & Co, Clifton Park Museum and outdoor recreational spaces around Rotherham. These tunnels will later be displayed as an installation (and rendered as a digital legacy experience) at Clifton Park Museum's archive. In summary, this project will include a local tour of an interactive, sensory performance which is co-created with young people leading to their work being exhibited in Rotherham museums.

CO-PRODUCTION
Through research from our partners Grimm&Co about what they would like to see at their Storytelling Festival in 2025 one of their suggested themes was unicorns. This has already informed the title of our show. Through further work with Grimm&Co we will develop three creative workshops which we will then deliver in 8 SEN and Mainstream schools in Rotherham.

Our workshops will include cited examples of soundscape, visual arts and aural histories in order to ensure a truly responsive session and encourage participants to express what they're genuinely ambitious to explore and create whilst also raising aspirations through working with professional artists.

We will work with young people aged 9 -13 to co create the content for the immersive tunnel. This tunnel will include definitive icons of Rotherham depicted as 'Memorabilia Art' to include soundscape, text visual and digital art and more as catered to from their interests. We will reflect upon Rotherham's recent potted history in view of its communities, as an environment to grow, work and learn and explore the perception of inhabitants vs outsiders. This work will explore our central themes of environments, identity and a possible future with no fast travel. Co-creators will research and collate community stories with us and interweave them with our own. From this work we will draw out the stories and visuals which characterise 'Our Rotherham', establishing the most impactful way to iconically render the content to generate a tourism buzz.

INCLUSION

Within our work we explore pertinent, nuanced themes with participants and audiences, backed by developing research on SEN learners exploring abstract or multifaceted concepts through sensory engagement. We work to remove all barriers to access including:

- Person led engagement, supporting young people to develop their own interests within the project.
- Accessible delivery through flexible multimedia activities, non verbal instruction, embedded use of Makaton and audio description, sensory breaks and incorporating broad stimulus and that appeals to different participants.
- Running the session at convenient times and offering online engagement options for students where preferable.
- Working with partners and schools to ensure strong communication and coordination as well as shaping the workshops around the needs of the students.
- Free or 'pay what you feel' performances in schools, ensuring young people's work can be accessed by the students and their families and friends.

SAFEGUARDING

Both artistic director and creative producer have many years experience working with children in formal education settings, in youth theatre and youth group settings and in community settings. We have worked in mainstream and in SEN provisions as teachers, youth theatre directors and facilitators. We have also supported other facilitators to design and deliver successful, safe workshops and cultivated positive rooms that are conducive to co-creation through CPD and training sessions. We have a stringent safeguarding policy in place that we review every year. We always follow the safeguarding procedures that our partners use, defaulting to those where appropriate. We will ensure clear and effective communication with parents, teachers, carers and participants.

YOUTH PROGRAMME PANEL COMMENTS

- I really loved this idea, and how it's directly tailored to children with SEND. Lots of events are created, and *then* tailored to include SEND needs; it's really valuable and important that this event is 'SEND needs first'. It's great how this project will target participants in deprived areas, as often in these areas there's less access to arts and culture. I loved the legacy work around digital legacy and making it part of the Archives.
- I liked it – but didn't really understand it?! It took me a while to understand what the tunnel was about, and did get a bit confused. But I think the idea is nice. The representation of SEND people is really good. They're not working with very high numbers though; this isn't a big proportion of how many people are living in Rotherham.
- I really loved how it connected to SEND. People with SEND are a big part of my life, and it means a lot to me when people really think about how to tailor activities for them. I liked the work around heritage, identity, and belonging to Rotherham. I'm really into family trees and knowing where I'm from, so this was great for me!
- How big are the tunnels? What are the dimensions? Overall, the panel were a bit confused about how it physically worked and how it would be transported from place to place. They're confused about which venues it will go into.
- Now I've thought about this more, I feel like my opinion has changed! Magical activities working accessibly with young SEND people sounds great. But when we discuss and dig into the actual idea, I'm less sure.
- Overall thoughts we need more information about what it is, and what's going on. Going ahead now feels a bit risky as we don't fully understand what the event is and what their story is. We really need more information before making an informed decision without knowing everything that we need to know. I couldn't be happy with my choice here, as I don't know enough. But overall I do really like this application.

CCoC PROGRAMME TEAM COMMENTS

The themes are a bit confused – would recommend focusing on Who We Are, Where We Come From and exploring stories of community with local school children.

PROGRAMME BOARD FEEDBACK

The board felt that the proposal was trying to do much and it wasn't really clear what the core activity was. There are some really strong ideas included in the proposal and the creative concept at its core is a good fit for the programme but the panel felt it was too difficult to understand and therefore the Youth Programme Panel found it difficult to engage with and it lost the element of genuine co-production with children and young people, becoming more of an experience for rather than a creation with young people. General feedback included:

- Needs more diverse range of schools
- 500 in Grimm doesn't seem a lot for a series of performances – is there potential for a higher reach at community festivals – utilise green spaces

- It feels younger than 9 – 13, suggestions to focus on primary school age, with a big difference between a 9 & 13
- Has there been any input from museums and CCoC teams?
- Feels like they are doing too much

Need to consider streamlining the concept, focusing on a younger age range and ensuring that the quality of experience and storytelling is evident by doing less.

Approval	Additional Feedback and/or conditions
Not Approved – requires further refinement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group feels there is potential to increase in audience reach through support of community festival work, could this be considered • How have they chosen the schools they work with, are they in the right places in school's areas, would they work more with SEN schools • Clarification on the age range, would they consider reducing to just primary
CCoC Relationship Manager	Leanne Buchan, Head of Creative Programming & Engagement