# £6million for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival

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Credit: Birmingham 2022

The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England have awarded £3million each to showcase the West Midlands' rich culture and heritage.

## A worldwide audience

The Commonwealth Games takes place between 28 July and 8 August 2022, welcoming 6,500 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories.

Over 1.3 million ticketed spectators will experience the Games, while the broadcast audience is expected to be 1 billion.

The Games provide a fantastic opportunity for Birmingham to show off its distinctive cultural heritage – and that's where the Cultural Festival for the Games comes in.

"Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the Cultural Festival brings a new dimension to the games."

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the National Lottery Heritage Fund

## Bringing Birmingham's communities to the fore

The festival will run from March to September 2022 and will showcase and celebrate all art forms, interweaving heritage throughout the programme.

#### It will include:

- 29 headline artistic commissions showcasing the West Midlands' distinct creativity and diverse communities. Projects will range from the intimate to the spectacular.
- Open calls seeking ideas from local artists and organisations, leading to a further 28 commissioned projects.
- A Creative Communities programme for Birmingham, offering at least 100 grants to bring artists and communities together across every ward of the city.



The festival will explore a diverse range of cultural heritage. Credit: Birmingham 2022

## Celebrating the region's unique character

Ros Kerslake CBE, Chief Executive of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "The Cultural Festival is a fantastic opportunity to showcase to the world the rich and important stories and heritage that give Birmingham and the West Midlands its unique character.

"This national celebration will explore a diverse range of cultural heritage including music, nature, migration, food, LGBT+ history and industrial heritage through a wide range of activities including dance, music, theatre, film, oral histories and visual art.

"Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the Cultural Festival brings a new dimension to the games. The celebrations will engage 2.5m people from Birmingham's diverse communities, creating at least 400 volunteering opportunities and bringing people together in a shared moment of pride and celebration that is set to create a lasting cultural legacy."

### Find out more

Full details of the Cultural Festival programme are due to be announced in late spring. To stay updated about this and other news of our Midlands & East funding:

- sign up to our newsletter and select the 'Midlands and East' box
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