

Billericay Voices Commission

February 2026



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**CREATIVE
BASILDON**

Creative Basildon

Billericay Voices Commission

Who We Are

Creative Basildon is a radical cultural programme for people living, working and socialising in Basildon borough. It is funded by Arts Council England via the Creative People and Places Programme (CPP).

Our vision is redefining what culture means to the people of Basildon, celebrating and valuing all Basildon people and cultures in all their glory. Creating a place that champions people to embrace and value their creativity, individually and collectively.

Our mission is to create a radically sustainable cultural system in Basildon that unleashes the power of Basildon's creative people, by ensuring no cultural expression is undervalued, no creative mind goes to waste, no curiosity goes unsatisfied, and no voice goes unheard.

What We Do

Our Community Voices programme is led by the community, for the community. Community engagement and participation sit at the heart of the programme, and you should keep this in mind when developing your application.

Community Voices are local community panels that meet every 2-3 months to commission projects for their local area. These five town-based groups develop and commission activity which is ambitious, accessible and relevant to local residents.

The previous commission from Billericay Voices was [The Billericay Art Trail, by Lizzy Mellish-Dix](#)

Important Dates

- 9.00am 24th February 2026 – Commission application opens
- 11.59pm 17th March 2026 – Application closing date
- w/c 23rd March 2026 - Billericay Voices decision making session
- w/c 6th April 2026 – successful and unsuccessful applicants notified
- May 2026 – August 2026: provisional project delivery window

Commission Outline

In November 2025, local Billericay residents came together to explore ideas celebrating the history, stories, and identity of Billericay. Therefore, we are looking for an artist to create:

A programme of workshops/activities that explore Billericay's local history and stories through creative writing, poetry and/or visual arts. The project should culminate in a multi-venue public exhibition across the town.

We want you to interpret this as creatively as you can. We are interested in hearing about your previous projects that clearly connect local heritage, storytelling, and public exhibition. This may look like story writing inspired by place (real memories, imagined narratives, or responding to historical events), an exhibition across multiple locations, a storytelling trail, or multimedia interpretations of Billericay's past and present. Billericay Voices came up with a topic that they would like to see happen, **but you should use it as a seed of imagination.**

Practical Information

- **Timeline:** Your project should run anytime between May 2026 - August 2026.
- **Delivery:** Your proposed project is required to be open or available to the public for at least 6 days (depending on your artform this could include, but is not limited to: workshops, screenings, performances, passive or active installations, projections, displays, interventions, etc).
- **Location:** Billericay
- **Audiences:** Your project should appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Venues:** This depends on your proposal. Potential venues for activity could be street corners, public parks, libraries, leisure centres or social clubs. We do not have a venue, but we will work with the successful applicant to identify and support in accessing suitable venues/spaces for any workshops, performances, installations or other engagement.
- **Community engagement:** Your delivery schedule should be planned to suit your project and target audiences to maximise engagement. This must include weekend delivery. All activities should be completely free of cost to participants.

Selection Process

Creative Basildon has community-led decision making at its core. There is no interview for this programme due to the nature of this commissioning process. You may be invited to speak to the Creative Basildon team to talk through logistics/budget/project plan.

Billericay Voices will work with the Creative Basildon team to select the successful project. At the Billericay Voices session, we will talk through each application and then play the applicants video/audio supporting evidence for the panel. Your proposals will be read and reviewed by people who may be **unfamiliar with the terminology and references of the arts and culture sector**. **You should consider this when writing your proposal.**

Commission Fee: £7,500* inclusive of VAT.

A fixed fee will be paid for the work, not per person. If you are applying as a collective, it is your decision how the fee will be shared.

*This inclusive fee should be used for all artist and production fees (including but not limited to; planning, delivery, purchasing resources, marketing, administration and evaluation).

If your project costs exceed £7,500, please explain in your budget how you will meet the additional costs. All external funding sources should be confirmed and committed by the project start date at the latest.

You will be expected to plan and run any workshops/community sessions; however, the Creative Basildon team is available for check-ins and supporting where possible.

Accessibility: Creative Basildon can provide additional support for artists' personal access costs on top of the £7,500 commission fee. Please include any anticipated access costs clearly within your proposal and budget.

Applicant Requirements

This opportunity is open to individuals, artist collectives and organisations.

Candidates must possess Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) and Professional Indemnity Insurance (£2 million), and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). If you lack these prerequisites but are interested, please reach out. Membership of A-N will cover the necessary insurance.

Learn about A-N: <https://www.a-n.co.uk/join/>

Essential skills required:

- **Skill:** Strong disciplinary background and leading public engagement
- **Co-Creation:** Proficiency in co-creation and community-led practices
- **Adaptability:** Adjusting event/programme plans to suit the community's interests
- **Ambassador:** Representing the Creative Basildon team in a professional and friendly manner

Desirable skills required:

- **Accessibility:** Confidence in working with diverse ages and backgrounds
- **Safety:** Confidence in risk management and writing risk assessments
- **Reporting:** Liaising with the core team to ensure accurate documentation of each activity-numbers of those engaging/location information for Illuminate/quotes.

How do I Apply?

To apply, please complete the following application form:

[Billericay Voices Commission Application 2026](#)

Please send all supporting documents to hello@creativebasildon.co.uk.

Supporting Documents Required:

- Your budget breakdown (using our template or your own)
- A max 2-minute video or audio talking about your project to be played to the Billericay Voices/ 1 page cover letter to be read by Voices Facilitator
- *Optional:* Any images to support your application

Additional guidance

- Please make sure the audio in your video is clear and loud enough.
- If possible show examples of your work in the video
- If you are working with a collaborator explain how this will work
- Be clear about the main focus of the project and how this meets the commission theme (local history/creative writing/ exhibitions)
- Make sure that the language you use is accessible to a non-arts audience
- This commission can be used as match for a larger project, if it still fits the criteria

Please note: to consider your application, we must receive both the application and your supporting documents by the deadline. We strongly recommend that all applicants submit either a supporting 1-2 minute video or audio recording to aid the community decision making process.

Applications should be received by **Tuesday 17th March 2026, 23:59pm.**

You will receive an email within 1 week confirming your application has been received.

We encourage applications from candidates of diverse backgrounds, including those who are BAME, working class, and those with accessibility requirements- reflecting the rich diversity of Basildon.

We look forward to hearing from you!

If you have any questions or queries (no matter how big or small), please email our team at hello@creativebasildon.co.uk.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

