



Creating Cultural Spaces in Diverse Places

Connected Communities Fund

THAMESMEAD 

 Peabody

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THE BLACK CULTURE COLLECTIVE AND PEABODY ARE SEEKING CREATIVE PROPOSALS TO CELEBRATE THAMESMEAD'S DIVERSE CULTURES AND HERITAGE WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

3 creative projects will receive grants of up to £4,000 to deliver activities which celebrate Black culture for the benefit of Thamesmead residents and communities.

The Black Culture Collective are passionate about facilitating spaces where the vibrant histories, cultures and traditions of African and Caribbean heritage people can be showcased and celebrated. Made up of a group of leaders from within several local community groups, organisations and charities, the Black Culture Collective works to actively engage a wide sector of the community in arts and culture.

Since 2021 The Black Culture Collective with the support of Peabody Thamesmead have successfully awarded £90,000 of commissioning to support 11 local community-based artists, collectives, and community groups to deliver a wide range of activities in the Thamesmead area for the benefit of Thamesmead residents.

The Black Culture Collective will once again be collaborating with Peabody's Culture Team in Thamesmead, to deliver this commissioning fund for (2025/26) and increase representation in Thamesmead's cultural Programme, in order to improve the relevancy and accessibility of cultural activities to local residents from a diverse array of backgrounds.

Peabody, London's oldest and largest housing association, are leading the visionary regeneration of Thamesmead, and are putting culture and communities at the heart of their plans. Collaborating with local residents and community groups is a key part of the Thamesmead cultural strategy. These cultural commissions will mark a step-change in Thamesmead's cultural programme, as a public and ongoing commitment to diversity and local representation, led by local voices and expertise.

Funding Allocation

A panel of members of the Black Culture Collective are responsible for deciding on which proposals will be funded, supported by Peabody's cultural team.

This brief sets out the context and opportunities in more detail and explains our ambitions for this programme. Please read the brief in detail as it contains important information on how to submit your proposal and how the final decision will be made.

Connected Communities Grant - There is a total budget of £12,000 which will be used to commission 3 different projects up to £4,000 each. Only three projects will be selected for delivery during this funding period.

Black History Month Fund - There is also a total budget of £3,000 which will be used to commission workshops, events and performers up to £500 each. This will be awarded to individuals, groups or organisations to deliver a workshop, event or performance as part of the Black Culture Collectives Black History programme of events starting in October 2025.

Who can apply: Each application must be from either a Black led cultural organisations, Black led voluntary or community groups, Black led charities or a Black (African or Caribbean); professional artist or creative practitioners working with one of the above groups.

Any individual artist wishing to apply must be a registered professional with a unique tax reference (UTR) number.

Application process

1. Proposals responding to this brief must be submitted by 1pm Saturday 20 September 2025.
2. For the purposes of clarification, shortlisted applications may be invited to an informal interview with the Black Culture Collective Selection Panel, prior to a final decision being made.
3. Only three proposals will be commissioned as a part of the connected communities commission.

The technical details relating to this grant, the application submission process and the documents to be provided are detailed within the 'Terms and Conditions' section of this document.

Please take time to read them carefully.

COMMISSION BRIEF

1. Our aims for the Commission

The commissioned programme needs to increase our celebration and representation of African and Caribbean culture and heritage throughout Thamesmead for the benefit of residents and communities.

The projects need to be creative and of high quality, they must 'speak' to the local community and be accessible and relevant.

You can submit a proposal for a project of up to £4,000 for the Connected Communities Grant or up to £500 if applying to the Black History fund.

Key criteria

Through the commissioning of this programme the Black Culture Collective and Peabody aim to:

- Deliver high quality creative projects that increase the diversity of Thamesmead's cultural offer.
- Raise the awareness and celebration of African and Caribbean cultures in particular.
- Support local Black African and Caribbean artists and creatives to access funding and deliver successful projects.
- Support creative projects that are of benefit and relevance to local residents and communities.
- Develop work that is inspired by, or that is specific to Thamesmead as a place and its diverse community.
- Support enterprise; encourage the use of local fabricators and businesses wherever possible.
- Support small Black led voluntary and community groups, artist, and creatives to showcase the work they do.

Activities can take place in any location in Thamesmead, and can last for any period of time, but must be complete by 30th April 2026.

About the applicant

This commission is open Black African or Black Caribbean majority led non-profit community/ voluntary groups, charities and or to Black African or Black Caribbean individual artists.

The project delivery should be Black African and or Black Caribbean led. Artists whose work centres around Black art, culture or heritage are welcome to apply, as are those whose work does not.

For the purpose of this application, Black led refers to your organisations, community/ voluntary groups, or charities having at least 51% leadership (key decision makers) who are either Black African or Black Caribbean.

2. Key Funding Themes

The Black Culture Collective and Peabody are inviting creative proposals to celebrate Thamesmead's diverse cultures.

We are looking for creative projects that respond to the following themes and represents African and/or Caribbean culture and heritage.

- **Educational activities:** that promote the creative learning of African and Caribbean history, culture, and language.
- **Cultural programmes and provision;** celebrating the performing or visual arts. This can include dance, song, drumming, storytelling, spoken word, open mics, poetry, craft, discussions, traditional dress, carnivals, events, showcases, talks, readings, etc.
- **Food heritage:** providing opportunities to learn about cultural dishes and how to cook them using local communal kitchens/cafe spaces.

3. Key Outputs for the fund

Below are details of all the practical deliverables expected from the appointed artists and/or organisations in delivering the work.

Your responsibility

- To manage the delivery of the proposed project, including timeline and budget.
- To be responsible for securing all insurances, licensing, and legal provisions.
- To liaise with relevant persons in Peabody who manage most of the public spaces in Thamesmead.
- To consider the health and safety implications of the project.
- For events or public engagement programmes, ensure first aid, food, refreshments, and toilet facilities are provided at all locations, where they are required and not already in place.
- To provide sufficient staff and support for any events and activities delivered as part of the commission.

Budget

- The budget submitted needs to cover all of the costs for the project: including all fees, materials and delivery costs. These should be clearly outlined in the budget submitted with your application.
- **Alcohol:** This commission cannot be used to fund the cost of alcohol.

Please note that organisations will be responsible for designing, printing and/or distributing of any flyers and posters they wish to produce themselves. The costs of designers and printers can be included into your project budget. You will also be expected to have a Black Culture Collective banner displayed during your events or activities, this will be provided by a member of our team.

The appointed individual or organisation will:

- Need to provide all text and images for marketing by times to be agreed with the Black Culture Collective team.
- Be expected to promote the work through their own channels.
- Making sure to credit The Black Culture Collective and Peabody Culture Team Thamesmead and include the relevant logos provided.
- Follow GDPR rules when using data, photography and film.
- Ensure that any appointed organisations/artists have sufficient core staff engaged in the delivery of the project.
- To work with local volunteers in the development and delivery of the project; passing on skills and providing work experience opportunities to work with local businesses and entrepreneurs (where possible).
- To coordinate marketing and communication with the Black Culture Collective team, appropriately acknowledging the support of the BCC and Peabody.

4. Additional Support

The Black Culture Collective will act as a 'critical friend' throughout the delivery of each project. The Black Culture Collective will aim to meet with each project lead to talk through their progress and discuss next steps to ensure the best possible outcomes. Members of the collective will aim to attend project delivery at least once and any main events.

THE COMPETITION

1. How to apply for the Connected Communities Grant

This section details what you need to do to apply, and how all submissions will be scored and selected. Please note that ALL proposals must be submitted via the Black Culture Collective website following this link:

<https://www.blackculturecollective.co.uk/connected-communities-fund-application>

Proposals submitted by email to the Black Culture Collective will not be considered.

The deadline for proposals to be submitted is 1pm GMT, Saturday 20 September 2025.

Please provide 1 document file, of no more than 3 pages of A4 and no larger than 10MB, that outlines your idea. Any information given outside of this limit will not be factored into the selection process. This document should provide responses to all of the questions and areas detailed below in the order outlined: **A) The Idea, B) Budget C) Other information.**

Please include the following at the top of your attached file (written application) before submitting it:

- Full name
- Contact information
- Name of your organisation
- Proposed project name

A) The Idea (70%)

The highest weighting is given to your idea and project proposal. You will need to articulate your vision clearly and succinctly, making sure it addresses one or more of our key criteria for the commission outlined on page 5.

Your application should include the following information:

- A brief description of your project idea including details of how it will increase the diversity of Thamesmead's cultural offer.
- Who is your target audience for this project and how many people do you aim to engage with?
- How will your project be of benefit to the wider Thamesmead community?
- How will you ensure your project is accessible and relevant to local residents?
- Explain how you will ensure it is a high-quality project and who will be responsible for ensuring this.
- Where will your project be delivered? What venue/s will you be using for project delivery?

B) Budget (20%)

Please provide a detailed budget, outlining all costs associated in the delivery of your project. You will be scored on the quality and detail of your budget rather than the total cost.

We want to see realistic figures that have been researched and feel achievable. We also want to see a good balance between fees and production costs.

We want to ensure that all artists, creative practitioners and organisations are paid appropriately, while also ensuring that enough budget is left to deliver cultural and artistic activity of high quality.

If you are applying as an organisation, the budget should not be used to cover standard overheads or core costs, but organisational fees for the project can be included.

C) Other information (10%)

All other questions related to the application will be considered and weighted.

Please be aware that successful candidates will be required to provide additional information, policies and documentation which may include:

- Public liability Insurance
- Safeguarding policy and DBS if working with children or vulnerable adults
- Volunteer policy

Please identify in your application which relevant documents above you have in place.

How to apply for the Black History Month Grant

This section details what you need to do to apply, and how all submissions will be scored and selected. Please note that ALL proposals must be submitted via the Black Culture Collective website following this link:

<https://www.blackculturecollective.co.uk/connected-communities-fund-application>

Proposals submitted by email to the Black Culture Collective will not be considered.

The deadline for proposals to be submitted is 1pm GMT, Saturday 20 September 2025.

Please provide 1 document file, of no more than 2 pages of A4 and no larger than 10MB, that outlines your idea. Any information given outside of this limit will not be factored into the selection process. This document should provide responses to all of the questions and areas detailed below in the order outlined: **A) The Idea, B) Budget C) Other information.**

Please include the following at the top of your attached file (written application) before submitting it:

- Full name
- Contact information (email and telephone number)
- Name of your organisation (if applicable)

A) The Idea (70%)

The highest weighting is given to your idea and project proposal. You will need to articulate your vision clearly and succinctly, making sure it addresses one or more of our key criteria for the commission outlined on page 5.

Your application should include the following information:

- Are you applying to deliver a workshop, event or performance.
- A brief description of your workshop, event or performance.

- Who is your target audience and how many people do you aim to engage with?
- How will it be of benefit to the wider Thamesmead community?
- How will you ensure your it is accessible and relevant to local residents?
- The Black History Month programme of events will be hosted at the Nest Thamesmead and the Moorings Social Club on weekdays and weekends in October 2025. Will your proposal be suitable for delivery at one or both of these venues?

B) Budget (20%)

Please provide a detailed budget, outlining all costs associated in the delivery of your project. You will be scored on the quality and detail of your budget rather than the total cost.

We want to see realistic figures that have been researched and feel achievable. We also want to see a good balance between fees and production costs.

We want to ensure that all artists, creative practitioners and organisations are paid appropriately, while also ensuring that enough budget is left to deliver cultural and artistic activity of high quality.

If you are applying as an organisation, the budget should not be used to cover standard overheads or core costs, but organisational fees for the project can be included. The Black History Month programme of events will be hosted at the Nest Thamesmead and the Moorings Social Club, you will not need to include venue hire in your budget.

C) Other information (10%)

All other questions related to the application will be considered and weighted.

Please be aware that if you are applying to deliver a workshop or event you will be required to provide additional information, policies and documentation which may include:

- Public liability Insurance
- Safeguarding policy and DBS if working with children or vulnerable adults

Please identify in your application which relevant documents above you have in place.

2. Scoring

Unless otherwise stated in this document, written responses will be assessed using the following scoring mechanism:

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
10	Response is of a high standard which considers the full brief and provides detailed and robust answers; provides convincing evidence that the Provider can deliver what is being proposed and create a high-quality cultural experience.
7	Good responses which address most aspects of the brief and provides more detail and evidence than that of an 'acceptable' response.
5	Acceptable response meets all basic requirements of the brief and provides the required evidence of the skills and experience needed to deliver the project.
3	Less than acceptable response which lacks convincing evidence of skills and experience sought; lack of real understanding of the brief and evidence of ability to deliver.
0	Non-compliant – failed to address the question or a detrimental response; limited or poor evidence of skill and knowledge required.

3. Decision Panel

This programme is led by residents. The decision panel will be made up of members from the Black Culture Collective (BCC).

4. Submission deadline and selection process

Application submissions for the Connected Communities Grant should be kept to a **maximum of 3 sides of A4**.

Application submissions for the Black History Month Fund should be kept to a **maximum of 2 sides of A4**.

Applications should be submitted via the Black Culture Collective website by **1pm GMT, Saturday 20th September 2025**

Applications should be submitted via the website <https://www.blackculturecollective.co.uk/connected-communities-fund-application>

You will need to complete the application form then attach your written proposal to the application.

- The shortlisting process will comprise of a desk-top evaluation of the submissions received by the Black Culture Collective, applying the evaluation criteria provided above.
- The top scoring applications may then be invited for an informal interview with the panel before final decisions are made.
- Post-interview: the Black Culture Collective reserves the right to use the outcomes from pre-selection interviews during the shortlisting process to qualifying the content provided in the applications and moderate the scores allocated in response to the interviews accordingly.

For any questions or to discuss the tender, please submit your comments or questions via email at info@blackculturecollective.co.uk, and a member from our team will respond accordingly.

5. Timescales and Project Management

Winners will be announced on Monday 6th October 2025. The winning proposals will be contracted directly by the Chair of the Black Culture Collective to discuss next steps.

The project lead and day to day contact for this commissions is Carmel Britto, Chair of the Black Culture Collective, supported by the Black Culture Collective Steering Committee.