



CREATIVE COMMISSIONS: CANNINGTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL 2025

Seed's primary aim is to enable more people in Sedgemoor to actively engage in the creative arts, particularly those who don't usually do so. We seek to remove barriers to participation, increase opportunities for people to see and engage with the arts, and for the arts to become a part of everyday life. We believe that everyone is creative and can benefit from the opportunity to explore and develop that creativity.

Seed was established in 2019 by a consortium of local grass roots organisations in order to improve the lives of people living and working in Sedgemoor, Somerset, through creative arts-based activities. The communities we work with believe that arts, culture and creativity bring about positive changes and benefits to their lives and the places in which they live. We demonstrate this by:

- Bringing a shared sense of identity and community, and a positive sense of place, which results in greater community cohesion
- increasing wellbeing through the reduction of loneliness and isolation by increasing interaction and connection to others, and
- Improving mental and physical health through creativity as an early intervention strategy which promotes self-expression, enjoyment.

We have delivered more than 90 projects since 2020, with more than 4,000 participants each year.

The opportunity:

In partnership with Cannington in Bloom, we are seeking expressions of interest from artists, organisations, performers, community groups and others to deliver participatory and audience focused performance activities to form part of the inaugural small-scale ***Cannington Village Festival*** in July 2025.

Cannington in Bloom is a community group focused on making Cannington a more beautiful place. Members share their gardening experiences, participate in community events, share seeds and other activities. As part of the national Britain In Bloom movement, the community group working together improve both the environment and community spirit in the village.

The idea of a festival event has grown out of our creative accelerator consultation activities with members of the community. A report detailing our key findings can be found [here](#). We are seeking activities that respond to and are consistent with the ideas and priorities set out in the creative accelerator report.

The festival will run between 18-26 July 2025, and included events and activities can take place at any location in Cannington during the defined festival period of 18-26 July.

Seed will provide commission fees to enable selected activities to be part of the Festival.

Activities can be proposed for any of the venues or locations listed in the report. All activities will be free of charge to attendees. Those proposing activities must be able to provide a self-contained and self-managed performance, workshop or other activity. Activities can take place as a one off or multi performance basis. All requirements for the activity must be included in the budget provided with the expression of interest.

While we expect that most proposed activities will be proven, pre-existing activities we are open to proposals from experienced delivery teams and practitioners for new ideas and activities with the necessary experience and skills to ensure success.

Proponents will need to provide relevant insurances including public liability insurance and comply with all Seed policies and procedures including safeguarding when delivering their activities.

Budget:

Seed has a total budget to commission activities for the Festival of **£7,500**.

Proposal process:

Expressions of interests from proponents will be assessed against the criteria below by a committee comprising members of the Cannington in Bloom organising Committee, the Seed team and other members of the Cannington community.

You should only request the amount needed to enable your project to be self-sufficient, as demonstrated by your proposal budget. Your budget should include any other income sources and in-kind support secured, or intended to secure.

Assessment Criteria:

To be commissioned as part of the festival, your proposal must:

- Take place in Cannington during the defined festival period of 18-26 July
- Respond to the ideas and priorities set out in the creative accelerator report
- Be likely to engage and excite members of the community
- Demonstrate high artistic quality
- Be environmentally responsible, enhancing life in the village without adversely affecting the environment
- Provide evidence that your activity is well planned and can be delivered with minimal support outside of your proposed delivery team
- Demonstrate that the proposed budget is feasible, with the artist(s) paid appropriately, while offering good value for money
- Engage artist(s) and other personnel who are suitably experienced and skilled to continue to deliver the project, with current DBS certificates.

Seed also seeks to build connections, alliances and partnerships with local non-arts organisations. Proposals that include support and involvement from local organisations not traditionally involved in or supportive of the delivery of arts activities are encouraged.

Deliverables:

Artist/teams will provide:

- Delivery of the activity proposed
- On the ground management and delivery of the project, including risk management and adherence to Seed policies and procedures where required.
- Documentation of the activity including reporting of attendance and other data
- Participation in our evaluation activities
- Any resourcing listed in your original budget

Seed will provide:

- Advice and support on project development, delivery, documentation and evaluation
- Graphic design support
- Marketing and promotion of the Festival programme, through our social media channels and website, banners and a flyer
- Policies, procedures and other helpful documents as required

Timeline:

Seed will consider proposals lodged by the Wednesday 25th June. Proposals will be assessed and outcome advised by Friday 4th July. Project proponents should allow at least a further 3 days after a positive decision for contracting and further support prior to planning to commence their project. Unsuccessful proposals will be advised of the outcome within seven days of interview/assessment meeting.

How to Apply:

Please send an Expression of Interest (maximum two pages plus artist CVs) comprising:

- An outline of your proposed activity for the Festival, which addressed the criteria listed above. The proposal should make clear what your activity will be, including images or links to any video etc where available
- A detailed budget for your activity, broken down to show artist fees, materials, travel, venue hire, and any other costs
- Current CVs for artists and organisers to be engaged in the project

Please send your expression of interest to info@seedsedgemoor.com using the subject line 'Cannington Village Festival – Expression of interest' no later than 2pm on Wednesday 25th June 2025.

For further information or to schedule an informal chat about this opportunity please contact: scott@seedsedgemoor.com

