

**422 ARTS**



**PUBLIC  
COMMISSION  
OPPORTUNITY**



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



422 Stockport Road, Manchester M12 4EX, United Kingdom

## BACKGROUND

**422 Arts** is commissioning a new building front installation to mark the recently completed restoration of our building and invites artists to express their interest in this unique opportunity. If you are a socially minded artist who already has some experience in creating public art commissions or outdoor installations, and you are passionate about working with local communities in a site-specific context – we would love to hear from you by **Sunday 2 July 2023 at 23:59**.



422 building front detail, photo by 422 Community Hub

## ABOUT US

**422 Arts** is a Manchester-based arts organisation established in collaboration with 422 Community Hub. Our projects utilise creative practices to tackle social problems and respond to the needs and interests of our neighbourhood and its people. We aim to serve the local communities of Longsight and Ardwick and the broader arts sector by delivering artist commissions, events and workshops that are accessible, engaging, and diverse.



422 Arts public event, 2023, photo by Another Provision

## THE BUILDING

**422 Arts** operates in a beautifully restored Victorian building located in one of Manchester's most ethnically diverse areas. Our building has gone through various phases since it first opened to the public in 1851 as one of the first free public libraries in the UK. In the 80s and 90s, it was better known as the Longsight Youth Centre, followed by over a decade-long closure before reopening in 2021 as the 422 Community Hub. Stockport Road is one of the city's busiest transportation arteries connecting south Manchester to the city centre, meaning that our commission will be **seen by over 20k people every day**. In 2023, renovation works were finally completed and 422 is now fully accessible and provides home to multiple non-profit organisations and community wellbeing initiatives.



422 building back, photo by 422 Community Hub

# THE OPPORTUNITY

We are looking to commission a new building front artwork to celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and reflect on the rich social-justice heritage of our building. We invite expressions of interest from socially-minded artists with demonstrated experience in producing outdoor installations or public art commissions. This opportunity is open to individual artists or collectives working in any visual medium.

Personal knowledge of the area is not a requirement but dedicating time to learn more about our neighbourhood and its people in order to develop your project would be strongly advised.



422 building front, photo by 422 Community Hub

# PAYMENT

This opportunity is funded with the support of Arts Council England. The project's budget is **£8,000** covering artist fees, materials, production, and installation costs. The final breakdown will be confirmed with the artist according to the specifications of the commissioned work.

## **For guidance purposes, a recommended breakdown would be:**

Artist fee: 20-50%,

Materials and production: 25-75%

Installation: 5-25%

Other/contingency: 5-10%






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## HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to be considered for the project, please fill out this form by **Sunday 2 July 2023 at 23:59** – <https://forms.gle/NK8Ps7aNmkAnnZH88>

**422 Arts** opportunities are open to everyone. We particularly encourage applications by artists from underrepresented backgrounds in the arts. If you prefer to express your interest in a different format, please contact us at [or@422arts.org](mailto:or@422arts.org) and we will make sure to accommodate your needs.

**We will host an informal gathering and venue tour on Thursday, 15 June at 2 PM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.**



**Thank you for your interest  
in working with 422 Arts!**