

## VISUAL ART COMMISSION CALL OUT

### Creative response to the Queer Up North Archive

#### Introduction

To coincide with the launch of **Queer Up North 1992-2002: Celebrating Manchester's LGBTQ+ Heritage** digital archive, HOME is commissioning one early career visual artist to respond to selected material from the archive, culminating in an exhibition in HOME's Granada Foundation Galleries.

#### About the Commission

Over the course of three months, the selected artist will respond to selected archive material through their own artistic visual arts-based practice, to produce a new body of work for public exhibition.

To do so, the successful artist will:

- Have access to selected Queer Up North digital archive material. This documents significant artists and events that played a pivotal role in shaping Manchester's identity as an inclusive and vibrant LGBTQ+ city, selected by Queer Up North Project Co- Directors and QUN festival directors Gavin Barlow and Tanja Farman.
- Develop and deliver one practical visual arts workshop for one Youth Group from the Proud Trust. This will be done with support from HOME's Creative Engagement Team.
- Be offered making space in HOME Arches (June)
- Present a solo exhibition in HOME's Granada Foundation Galleries
- Receive a fee of £2,000
- Receive expenses up to £1,000 towards materials, transport and other production and exhibition-related costs
- Receive mentoring support from Queer Up North's Directors as well as HOME's Artist Development and Creative Engagement Teams

#### Eligibility Criteria

Artists applying to this opportunity must:

- Be age **18 and over** and not in full time education
- Reside in **Greater Manchester** (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan)
- Have experience of **working with Young People**
- Identify as **Queer and/or LGBTQIA+**



## **How to apply**

1. Complete the online form
2. Upload two images of your work which represent the style of artwork you might produce

All submissions will be considered by a panel from HOME and Queer Up North. Unfortunately, we do not anticipate being able to provide individualised feedback to all applicants due to the expected volume of applications.

**If you have any questions or access requirements related to this application, please email: [artistdevelopment@homemcr.org](mailto:artistdevelopment@homemcr.org)**

## **Key dates**

<b>Deadline to apply:</b>	Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026, midday
<b>Outcome announced:</b>	Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026
<b>Creating period:</b>	April - June 2026
<b>Visual arts workshop:</b>	Date TBC, between April and June 2026
<b>Artwork deadline:</b>	Mid June 2026
<b>Artwork delivery - deadline:</b>	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> of July 2026
<b>Install date:</b>	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> of July 2026
<b>Launch event:</b>	Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> of July 2026, 6pm
<b>Exhibition dates:</b>	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> of July 2026 – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026

## **TECHNICAL NOTES/SPACE LIMITATIONS:**

Please note that the Granada Foundation Galleries are situated in the public realm of the building (Level 1 and Level 2). All artwork presented here must therefore be fixable to a wall. Work of architectural/sculptural/textile or other three-dimensional nature might be considered if it is not bulky, does not obstruct circulation or pose a health and safety hazard.

## **Further information**

**The Granada Foundation Galleries** are a dynamic and ever-evolving space for contemporary visual art at HOME, designed to bring thought-provoking work that challenges perspectives and invites conversation into the heart of our building.

The Granada Foundation Galleries programme is at the heart of our Artist Development programme, spotlighting emerging artists making new work, developing their practice and showcasing their artworks to HOME's audiences.

## **Queer Up North 1992–2002: Celebrating Manchester's LGBTQ+ Heritage**

Recently supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Granada Foundation, the project aims to preserve and celebrate the cultural history of the Queer Up North Festival, culminating in autumn 2026 with a new website, digital

archive, and a series of events at HOME, Contact, and Manchester Central Library.

**Queer Up North Festival was one of the most pioneering and influential LGBTQ+ arts festivals in the UK and Europe.** Established in 1992 by Tanja Farman and Gavin Barlow as part of the Manchester Festival, QUN quickly became a beacon for queer culture, drawing artists and audiences from across the globe. Over its first decade, the festival showcased groundbreaking performances and played a pivotal role in shaping Manchester's identity as an inclusive and vibrant LGBTQ+ city.

Presented by Manchester Histories and Queer Up North with support from Archives+, Manchester City Council, HOME, Contact, Manchester Literature Festival and Factory International.