



Call Out: Creative Facilitators

Make Space York - Creative Workshop Programme 2026

I'm looking for artists, makers and creative facilitators to deliver a series of workshops with teenage girls as part of the Make Space York project.

These sessions will take place between April and October 2026, with some sessions ideally running in late spring and summer when activity in York parks are at their peak.

About Make Space York

Make Space York is a grassroots project focused on creating welcoming, inclusive parks for teenage girls.

Since 2021, the project has worked directly with girls to understand their experiences of parks and public space, and to co-create changes that help them feel more comfortable, confident and able to belong. The project started as nationally girls' use of parks drops, compared to boys, as they enter their teenage years. Girls state they feel there is nothing for them to do in parks, and many state they feel uncomfortable and see parks as a place to pass through and not stay. When councils build teenage facilities in parks - they focus on sports and skills based competitive areas - and many girls, non binary young people and some boys, want spaces where they can be active on their own terms - to hand, swing, chat and climb but not in a competitive way. These teenagers don't feel welcome in the smaller children's play parks due to judgement of adults but they want spaces to 'play' and just be themselves. This project is about creating welcoming parks with girls.

The project has included:

- Co-designing and installing new equipment in Rowntree Park based on girls' ideas
- Running free events and workshops designed specifically for teenage girls (the festival has run each June since 2023)
- Feeding insights into wider conversations about how parks are designed and who they are for and raising awareness of the campaign.

The project started in Rowntree Park but is expanding to include events in other parks, and helping other groups work with local girls to rethink and improve the physical space. This grass roots project is run by Abigail Gaines (me) and is only able to happen through finding grant funding and sponsorship. I may write 'we' at times - I usually mean myself, the teenage girls, any volunteers and people supporting the project.

This programme of creative workshops builds on that work. It offers girls a chance to explore their experiences, express their ideas and shape the space in visible ways.

The Workshops

I am commissioning 8 creative workshops, each 1.5 to 2 hours long.

Facilitators can apply to deliver:

- A one-off session, or
- A short series of 2 sessions

Workshops should be low pressure, welcoming and participatory, with a focus on creativity rather than technical skill.

They should connect to one or more of the following themes:

- Belonging and identity
- Feeling safe in public space
- Power, voice and expression
- Joy, play and friendship
- Nature and connection
- Future visions and design of parks

Each needs to be closely linked to the project aims as a whole and show how it links.

Workshops might include (but are not limited to):

- Zine making
- Printmaking
- Collage and mixed media
- Creative writing or storytelling
- Photography or visual documentation
- Mapping or design-based activities

I am open to ideas and particularly welcome approaches that feel fresh, thoughtful and relevant to teenage girls.

Additional Opportunity: Collective Outdoor Artwork

I am also interested in commissioning an artist to work with girls to create a collective outdoor piece to be displayed in Rowntree Park (likely along railings near the Make Space area or on a nearby wall).

This could take the form of:

- A banner or textile installation
- Printed panels or visual statements
- A “voices of the park” piece reflecting girls’ experiences and ideas
- Any other ideas considered!

There is a separate fee of £600 for this commission, inclusive of materials for the piece. It’s expected this involves a workshop, or two with girls, to be collaborative.

Creatives/facilitators can apply for this as a separate or combined proposal, alongside other workshop delivery (that may or may not lead into this piece).

It is important that the work is co-created with local girls and reflects their voices, experiences and ideas, as well as the wider aims of the Make Space York project. I am particularly interested in work that helps make girls feel welcome, visible and a sense of belonging in the space. It's important facilitators understand the issues linked to collective art that may be displayed outside and need to think about materials, longevity and making sure the installation creates no danger to the public!

Who It's For

Workshops will be for girls aged 10-18. Sessions can be tailored to specific age groups if appropriate.

Group sizes will vary depending on the activity, and we are happy to discuss what works best for your approach.

Fees & Budget

- £180 per workshop, inclusive of your time and materials
- An additional small budget is available for room hire if needed

I recognise this is a modest fee - this work is grant funded, and part of a wider project focused on creating meaningful, lasting change for teenage girls in public space.

Location

Workshops ideally can be based in places such as Rowntree Park, West Bank Park and Homestead Park in York. Therefore workshops need to understand the implications of working outside. It may be possible to host a workshop in an inside venue you find near these areas or in the City Centre. Of the parks, only Homestead Park has an indoor space that can be booked for sessions, the other park workshops would be outdoors.

Practical Information

Creatives/facilitators should ideally:

- Have Public Liability Insurance
- Be able to provide a basic risk assessment

I understand not everyone will have this in place, so please still get in touch and we can discuss options.

If you do not hold a DBS check, we will ensure that parents/carers remain responsible for their young person/people during sessions.

What I'm Looking For

I'm looking for people who are interested in the overall project and it resonates with you. Please familiarise yourself with the project and what's happened so far. The proposals need to clearly link with the project.

<https://letsmakespace.org/make-space-york-project/>

I'm particularly interested in people who:

- Are comfortable working in a youth-led, flexible way
- Can create a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere
- Value process and participation as much as outcomes
- Are interested in themes of belonging, public space and girls' experiences

Ideally it would be great to schedule one or two sessions for May if possible - a tight turn around. Other sessions can be from July onwards (June we have the Make Space Festival on 13-14 June and 20-21 June). Ideally those running the sessions will be based in York.

Inclusion & Safeguarding

I particularly welcome applications from women and non-binary facilitators, and those with lived experience relevant to the themes of the project. I am keen to work with artists from a range of backgrounds and perspectives.

As this work involves children and young people, selected facilitators will be required to follow safeguarding guidance. Full information and support will be provided.

How to Apply

Please send:

- An outline of your proposed workshop/idea
- Any relevant examples of your work or previous sessions
- Which themes your idea connects to and clearly how it connects to the project as a whole
- Suggestions on where you'd prefer to be based, age group and numbers who could be involved

The more detailed the proposal the better.

Deadline: April 24th 2026

Contact Abigail Gaines at makespaceyork@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to bounce some ideas.

I'd aim to have decided by the end of April and start scheduling with chosen creatives/facilitators.