



*stellar creates*  
**Commission Brief**  
**Happy Rooms**

# Happy Rooms

## COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY

**Stellar Creates is inviting artists and creative organisations to submit applications to create temporary spaces inspired by the theme of happiness.**

### **Summary**

Happy Rooms by Stellar Creates is a vibrant and interactive project that delves into the essence of happiness. In Summer 2024 we are creating a visitor attraction for Tees Valley, filling a large empty shop with a series of creative installations focusing on colour, joy, playfulness, and creativity. Happy Rooms will be a walk-through experience for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

### **Background**

Stellar Creates focus on creating joyful experiences which impact positively on the lives of local communities, enhancing their sense of connection and wellbeing. Happy Rooms began in 2021 when we commissioned artist Sarah Harris to create 'Blissed Out', a joyful space inspired by the magical, playful light which shines as the sun rises. Since then, we have continued our exploration of happiness with local communities in Teesside. In 2023 we created a joyful Happy Rooms temporary pop-up space which we took to venues across Teesside, delivering creative activity for participants of different ages inspired by happiness, mindfulness, rest and wellbeing.

This commission opportunity is the next stage of the project, where our ideas and research will inform the transformation of a large empty retail unit into a creative and joyful place where people can connect, be inspired, experience something new and ultimately, feel better for a while.



## Commission opportunity

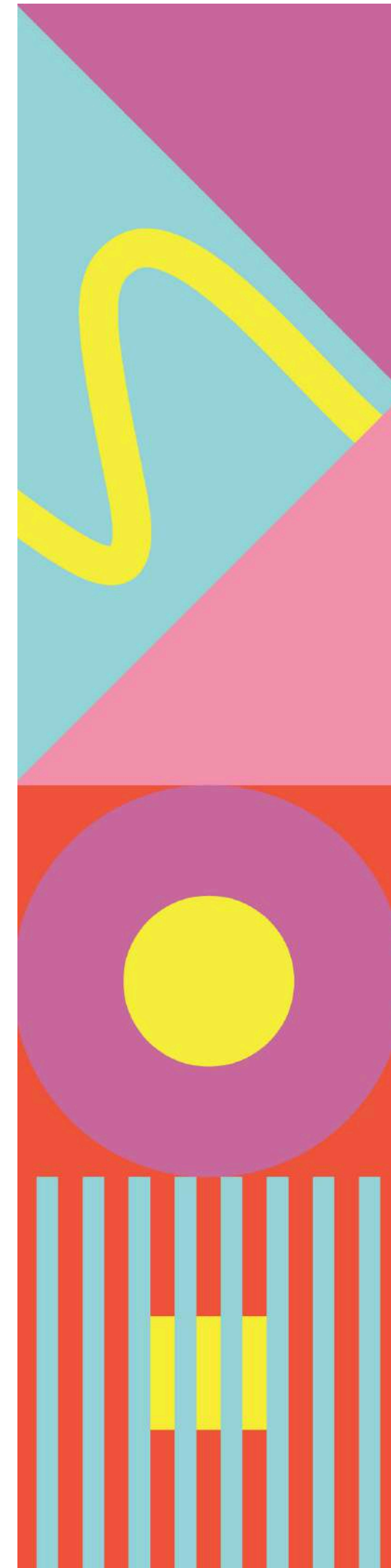
We are inviting artists and creative organisations working in visual or digital arts, installation/ immersive arts to submit ideas to create colourful and engaging temporary rooms as part of Happy Rooms in Teesside, Summer 2024. The commissions will need to be suitable for all ages, providing simple ways for people to engage with the theme of happiness as they make their way around the Happy Rooms experience.

The commissions should complement our research with communities in Teesside, which identified a number of happiness themes including play, colour, love, family, rest, nature and connection. We are also open to new ideas which fit the happiness theme. The commissions will need to engage visitors, create moments of joy and playfulness, suspending reality for a while.

At this stage, we don't have fixed dimensions for the commissioned rooms and they can be scaled – for example, each room could be for a small number of people to experience at any one time (e.g., a family) or larger groups of 30+.

Our requirements:

- Ideas for temporary room(s) which explore one or more of the happiness themes
- Room(s) which may have interactive features that that will help visitors engage with the theme, adding moments of magic and joy to their Happy Rooms experience
- Commissions can be new ideas or we will consider adaptations of existing ideas (but must relate to the Happy Rooms theme)
- Work of a high artistic standard which is suitable for an indoor event over 6-8 weeks in the summer.
- Artists/organisations with a track record or creating similar spaces and work which is interactive
- Artists/organisations with the capacity and experience to deliver their idea within a tight timescale



A production schedule will be agreed with the selected artist(s). The commissions will need to be installed at Happy Rooms between 20 – 24 July. Artists should consider the use of environmentally responsible materials where possible. The successful artist/company will be required to provide Health & Safety documentation for the artworks including Risk Assessments and Method Statements and evidence of £5 million Public Liability Insurance.

### **Target Audience**

Happy Rooms will attract a predominantly family audience, including children of all ages. Most visitors attend the event in groups, with family and friends. The commissions must reflect our commitment to attracting audiences of all backgrounds and ages and our intention to create joyful and playful shared experiences.

### **Timescale**

Commission deadline - Friday 7 June

Successful applicants notified and contract awarded - By 10 June

Development & fabrication - 10 June-20 July

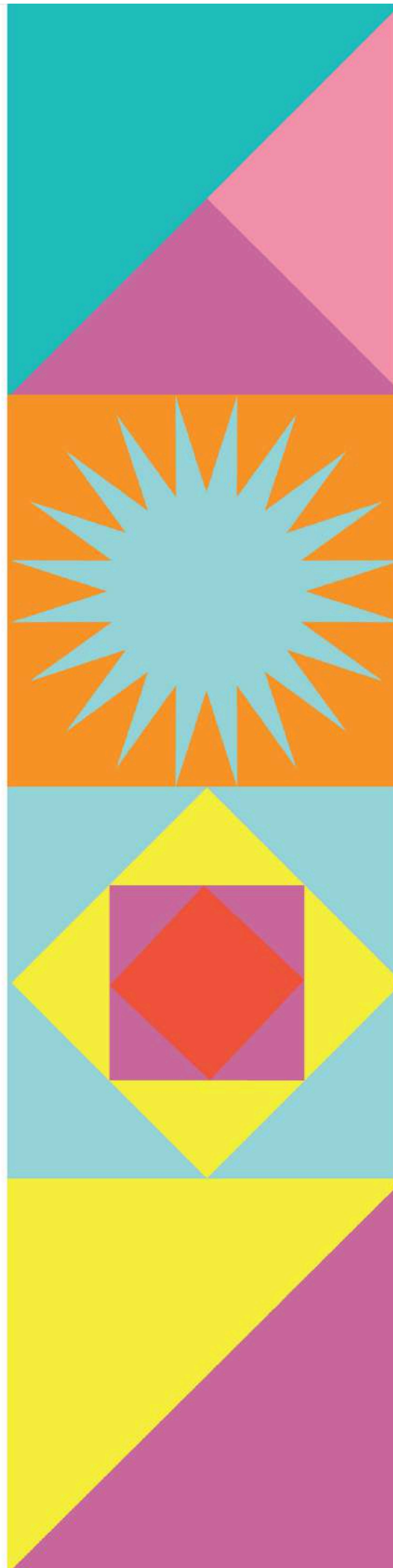
Installation - 24 - 30 July

Happy Rooms - 31 July – 22 September

Deinstall - from 23 - 25 September

### **Fee**

We are offering commissions at £5k, £10k or £15k. Artists are welcome to apply for more than one commission. The fee should cover all design, materials, fabrication, travel/transport and installation/deinstallation. Personal access costs can be covered in addition to the fee.



## Application process

To apply for this commission, please send:

- a summary of your idea and creative response to the brief. This should include details of what visitors will experience in the room and details of how many people you envisage being in the space at any one time
- an indication of the amount of space you think you will need for the room
- an indication of which commission you are applying for (£5k, 10K or £15k) and an outline budget
- a CV/biography detailing your previous experience and any similar projects you have undertaken
- supporting images (max 5) and/or link to a website where we can see images of your previous work

Proposals can be sent in a range of formats, including written, audio or video files.

Deadline: midday on Friday 7 June. Please send applications to: [hello@stellar-projects.co.uk](mailto:hello@stellar-projects.co.uk)

Applications will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact us to check that your application has been received.

We welcome and encourage applications from people who identify as D/deaf, visually impaired, disabled or neurodivergent, as a person of colour, and/or as LGBTQIA+. Self-definition is at the sole discretion of the individual.

We want to ensure that our application process is as accessible as possible, and that the way we work and our working environment actively removes access barriers. If you would like to have a conversation about access, please contact [lyndsey@stellar-projects.co.uk](mailto:lyndsey@stellar-projects.co.uk)





# ABOUT STELLAR CREATES

Stellar Projects are producers of creative projects and imaginative events.

Our projects and events bring people together in celebration, using innovative approaches to create memorable experiences that amaze, entertain and transform the familiar into the extraordinary. Our work takes place in the outdoors and temporary spaces and we aim to give people the opportunity to experience high quality creative activity to share those 'you just had to be there' moments in environments which are open to all.

From the largest of spectacles to the smallest of gatherings, we design shared experiences which inspire wonder, create lasting memories and contribute to people's wellbeing.

We work in partnership with other cultural organisations, festivals and local authorities across the region to deliver projects which engage our local communities and artists, helping instil a sense of pride of place. Our events include Nightfall Light Festival and Make & Mend Festival – a day of craft, creativity and wellbeing.

Further information about Stellar Creates can be found at [www.stellarprojects.co.uk](http://www.stellarprojects.co.uk)

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