

# Thamesmead Festival 2024

## Become part of the Festival Production Group

Application deadline: 9am, Monday 20 November 2023



**Are you a community champion, cultural change-maker and enthusiastic about Thamesmead as a home to some incredible local talent? Do you have energy and passion to help shape future Thamesmead Festivals? If so, then apply to be part of the Thamesmead Festival Production Group (FPG)!**

### **What is the Thamesmead Festival?**

The Thamesmead Festival, which is held around Southmere Lake, has grown over the last six years to become Thamesmead's annual flagship community event. It is part of Thamesmead's ongoing cultural programme, which aims to empower local communities and bring exceptional cultural experiences to the area. The festival, in its current form, has been running since 2017. Each year it is growing in ambition and scale. Our 2023 festival boasted four stages, over 72 artists and groups, visual arts, a dog show and much more. It attracted an audience of over 8,000 people from Thamesmead and beyond.

The festival's key success has been the input from the Thamesmead community, helping shape the festival and putting emphasis on showcasing local talent and celebrating the unique setting of the festival.

In 2018 we established the FPG, with the aim of putting local residents at the heart of planning and producing the festival.

Each year we invite new members to join the group and we are now looking for enthusiastic new people, who live and/or work in Thamesmead to join the FPG.

Working with an experienced festival company and local Festival Programmers, the FPG will make key decisions about the creative content of the event such as how the festival is promoted and communicated, how the budget is spent, how local residents are involved, and what future festivals might look like.

### **What does the FPG do?**

Members of the FPG will act as representatives of the local Thamesmead Community and champions for the Thamesmead Festival. They support the programming of the event and help to promote it locally. They will work closely with our Delivery Partner and the Festival Programmers to decide the final performances and programme for the festival. The Delivery Partner will look after contracting the artists/groups/performers, all health and safety requirements, as well as staffing and building the stages and festival site. The Festival Programmers are local people, who will be doing extensive research into performers, groups and artists, presenting them back to the FPG for approval.

FPG members will approach the development of the festival with dedication and ambition, making sure it is a welcoming, engaging, high-quality and celebratory event which is relevant to the widest communities in Thamesmead.

FPG members will be appointed for a minimum term of one-year and a maximum term of three-years. Each FPG member will be offered a bursary of £24 per two-hour meeting to cover travel costs, childcare and any other expenses.

### **Benefits of being part of the FPG:**

- To contribute to the development of the festival so that it will have a positive impact on your community
- To gain active experience of developing a large scale and professional event as part of your membership of the group
- Excellent networking opportunities
- To work with world-class professionals in developing the festival

### **What is the commitment?**

You will be asked to join monthly meetings between November 2023 and August 2024. Some of these meetings will be online and some will be in-person at The Nest Community Building and Library in Thamesmead. The meetings will take place in the evening between 6pm and 8pm and we will decide on the final weekday in our first meeting. These meetings may increase closer to the festival date in August 2024. Meeting dates will be agreed with the FPG in advance, though we do ask you to be available for our **first meeting on Wednesday 29 November 2023**. This will be a slightly longer session from 6pm to 9pm as it will be a workshop to set the vision and ambition for the festival. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided.

You should also be available to attend the Thamesmead Festival, which is currently proposed for **Saturday 10 August 2024**.

### **Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for ambitious and passionate local people over 18 years of age, who are enthusiastic about shaping the next few Thamesmead Festivals, and want to support spreading the word locally, engaging with their own peers, as well as new community groups. If you're interested in learning how to programme a large-scale event in your local community, then we want to hear from you!

### **What is the application process?**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the FPG, please apply by answering the questions below. The deadline for submission is **9am, Monday 20 November 2023**.

Applications can be submitted via email to: [Thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk) Please use 'Thamesmead Festival Production Group' as the subject line.

If you would like to ask any questions or discuss this opportunity further, please e-mail: [Lisa.Drew@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.Drew@peabody.org.uk)

### **Please send us the below to apply:**

Name:

If you live in Thamesmead, postcode of your home address:

If you work in Thamesmead, postcode of your work address:

Mobile number:

Email address:

Please tell us why you would like to be part of the FPG and what skills and experience you would bring to this role.

What is your vision and ambition for the festival?

You should explain your connection to the local area and why you think Thamesmead Festival is an important local event.

Please draw on your relevant professional, voluntary and life experience.

### **What is the selection process?**

A panel made up of representatives from Peabody will shortlist applications for the FPG roles. We will get back to you by Tuesday 21 November 2023. Those who are not successful will be invited to get involved in other local cultural and community activities.