

LUMIERE

AN
ARTICHOKE
PROJECT

COMMISSIONED BY
Durham
County Council

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

LIGHTING UP LIVES: LUMIERE ANNOUNCES 2023 DATES

- *The UK's light art biennial returns to Durham, November 16-19 2023*
- *Free for everyone to visit, Lumiere enriches lives, creating opportunities and building skills*
- *For 2023, Lumiere will partner with County Durham Community Foundation to unlock donations for the Poverty Hurts Appeal*



Alongside international and UK artists, community groups are at the heart of Lumiere.
Image: *City of Light*, *City of Stories*, The Lantern Company, Community Groups of County Durham (UK), Lumiere 2021, produced by Artichoke. Photo - Matthew Andrews.

Tuesday 15 November 2022. Today marks one year until the return of *Lumiere*, the UK's light art biennial. The free-to-attend, four-day event will take place from 16-19 November 2023 in Durham. Produced by leading arts producers Artichoke and commissioned by Durham County Council, *Lumiere* will reimagine Durham's iconic buildings and spaces with a thought-provoking



and entertaining new programme of spectacular light artworks and exclusive commissions by UK and internationally-renowned artists who have something to say about our world.

Fundraising for the event is already underway and with plenty of opportunities for local businesses to get involved. Since 2009, *Lumiere* in Durham has attracted more than one million visitors and stands as a landmark event in the cultural calendar of the North East. For its 8th edition in 2023, the programme will continue to bring magic, joy and light to the local community, brightening the dark winter nights of November and boosting the local economy.

Recognising these are difficult times, in 2023 *Lumiere* is partnering with the County Durham Community Foundation to channel investment back into the local community. Selected donations made to *Lumiere* by individuals, new partners and local businesses will be doubled by The Foundation, unlocking additional funds for *Lumiere* learning and participation programmes and the Foundation's Poverty Hurts Appeal. Poverty Hurts will provide year-round support to County Durham families, older people at risk due to cold homes, younger people struggling with mental health and employment issues, and children without warm winter coats.

Beyond the lights, *Lumiere's* established learning and participation programme and volunteering opportunities have benefitted over 12,000 local people and schoolchildren since 2009, inspiring ongoing artistic endeavours and providing learning resources. For *Lumiere 2023*, these programmes will return, creating new opportunities for the local community to take part in and develop skills, demonstrating County Durham's creativity on a national platform.

Artichoke is signed up to Vision: 2025, a network of over 500 outdoor events and businesses taking climate action towards net zero. In 2023, *Lumiere* will engage industry experts, A Greener Festival, to undertake a carbon impact assessment of the event and is committed to working collaboratively with Durham County Council and the local community to deliver a sustainable and environmentally-conscious event.

Artistic Director of Artichoke, Helen Marriage says, *"It would be tempting to think Lumiere is not a priority in our current difficult economic circumstances but Lumiere has never just been about stunning spectacle and pretty lights. Over the years, Lumiere has consistently brought tangible benefits to the local community, building the local economy, investing in local businesses, training local kids and putting Durham firmly on an international culture map. In these challenging times, it is all the more important that families have events to look forward to without having to worry about what it will cost to attend."*

"Lumiere is free for everyone to enjoy, the result of amazing partnerships forged over the years with Durham County Council, Arts Council England and Durham's local institutions and businesses who all invest in the event to bring wider benefits to the community. And as part of County Durham Community Foundation's match-funding programme of the Poverty Hurts Appeal, donations to Lumiere will both help local people and shine a light in these dark times."

Chief Executive of County Durham Community Foundation, Michelle Cooper, says *"To support Lumiere is to support one of County Durham's great treasures – an event that brings art, culture and magic to everyone, while enriching local lives throughout the year. To be able to*



offer businesses match funding once again, and the chance to support our Poverty Hurts Appeal is a win-win situation that can only strengthen our communities as they face increasing hardship.”

Cllr Amanda Hoggood, Leader of Durham County Council says, *“We are delighted to announce the return of Lumiere in 2023. Lumiere demonstrates our commitment to championing culture and culture-led regeneration following our campaign for UK City of Culture 2025. It also provides a huge boost to our economy and helps to strengthen our communities as they come together to experience the festival.*

“The chance to come together with friends, family and neighbours is more important than ever in these challenging times. We look forward to working with our partners to ensure next year’s event is as sustainable as possible, supporting our beautiful environment and our commitment to tackling climate change and achieving net zero across the county.”

Lumiere Durham is a central pillar of The Culture County, the long-term creative regeneration strategy born out of the Durham 2025 UK City of Culture campaign.

Lumiere is made possible through the support of commissioning body Durham County Council, Arts Council England and a host of funders and supporters. Fundraising for the 2023 edition is underway. Find out more about how to get involved by contacting Artichoke’s Development Director: Liz.McCarthy@artichoke.uk.com

To be the first to know what’s happening, sign up to the newsletter at the event website, Lumiere-festival.com.

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lumiere-festival.com

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Media Contacts

Anna Vinegrad, Director of Communications, Anna.Vinegrad@artichoke.uk.com

Ying-Di Yin, Senior Communications Manager, Ying-Di.Yin@artichoke.uk.com

Media Images: [VIEW LUMIERE 2021 HIGHLIGHT IMAGES](#)

Editors’ Notes

About Lumiere

Lumiere is the UK’s light art biennial produced by leading arts producers, Artichoke and commissioned by Durham County Council with funding from Arts Council England. In 2023, Lumiere will return to Durham from 16-19 November. Since 2009, Lumiere has presented 270 bold installations enjoyed by over one million attendees across Durham, Lumiere London 2016 and 2018 and Lumiere in Derry~Londonderry, Northern Ireland as part of the celebrations for



City of Culture 2013. Past highlights include French artist-architect Jacques Rival's playful snowdome, *I Love Durham* (2011), Fujiko Nakaya's *Fogscape #03238* (2015), Catherine Garret's extraordinary 3D whale in the river, *Mysticète* (2015), Jim Campbell's *Scattered Light* and Berlin-based artist, Mader Wiermann's mesmerising artwork on the Brutalist building, Apollo Pavilion, *Apollo 50* (both 2021). Past *Lumiere* highlight videos [here](#).

About Artichoke

Leading UK arts producers, Artichoke, works with artists to create extraordinary and ambitious public art in cities, the countryside and on coastlines around the UK. Artichoke believes in the transformative power of art to undermine the mundane and disrupt the everyday to create a new kind of world that we'd all like to live in.

Over the last 16 years Artichoke has produced more than 25 ground-breaking productions including the inaugural Artichoke project, Royal de Luxe's *The Sultan's Elephant* (London in 2006); La Machine's 50-foot high mechanical spider for Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations (2008); Antony Gormley's *One & Other* commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square (2009); *Lumiere*, the landmark light art biennial events produced in Durham, Derry-Londonderry and London; Deborah Warner's *Peace Camp* commission for the London 2012 Festival with Fiona Shaw and *Burning*, a festival commissioned by the City of London Corporation to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London (2016). Recent projects include *Sanctuary* (2022), the 65ft Covid memorial, designed by American artist David Best and built by 500 community members, set alight in a moment of catharsis for the nation and *The Gallery* (2022), a new public art initiative taking over billboards and digital screens with art, sparking national conversation.

About Durham County Council

Durham County Council is one of the largest unitary authorities in the country. The council is committed to culture-led regeneration and is proud to commission *Lumiere*, the UK's light art biennial, cementing Durham's position as the 'culture county'. Alongside *Lumiere* the authority supports a year-round culture, heritage and tourism programme and delivers major capital cultural projects. This helps to bring economic, community and creative benefits to the county, raising its profile as a great place to live, work, study, visit and invest.

About County Durham Community Foundation

County Durham Community Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation. The Foundation works with individuals, families and local businesses who want to put something back into their community. The Poverty Hurts Appeal is about bringing businesses and communities together to fight excess winter deaths, reduce poverty-related misery, and help the one-in-three local children living in poverty.

Lumiere 2023 Supporters

Key Partners

- Arts Council England
- Durham County Council

Event Partners

- County Durham Community Foundation
- Radisson Blu



Major Supporters

- Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Course
- MGL

Silver Business Club Members

- Harlands Accountants