



OPEN CALL

SUPER SLOW WAY ARTIST RESIDENCIES



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SUPER SLOW WAY ARTIST RESIDENCIES

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal powered the Industrial Revolution in East Lancashire. 200 years on from the canal's birth, we are staging a new revolution, this time powered by the creativity of the people that live along its banks.

From Blackburn to Pendle, the Super Slow Way works with local residents, artists, designers, manufacturers, and growers. Together, we aim to transform this post-industrial canal corridor into a thriving stretch of green, creative and healthy community spaces, all connected by this great waterway.

The name encapsulates this place; the canal, that was the super highway of the 19th century, is now a place where time slows down, where you feel a hundred miles away from your town even though you are moving through the heart of it.

Here you can enjoy nature that has been left to its own devices and is teeming with wildlife and bio-diversity. It's also a perfect metaphor for art – residents here are working with artists and designers to create a space you can retreat to, where your life takes on a different aspect and is full of possibilities with a timeframe of its own.

We are now seeking artists of any discipline to work with local residents over the course of a year to help nurture connections between them and the natural world found along the canal corridor. We are looking for three separate practices to work in three places along the stretch - in Pendle, Burnley and Hyndburn.

Super Slow Way has been working with communities in these places over the past ten years and has formed strong relationships with people who are passionate about where they live and eager to understand and develop the natural assets along the canal on their doorsteps. Many of these disused green spaces are sites of former cotton mills that were demolished at the end of the last century and carry that history.

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The overall budget for each commission is in the region of £10,000 which must cover fees, expenses and materials.

Delivery timescale:

- Application deadline: 5pm, Friday 26th June 2026
- Interviews: Week of 13th July - exact dates TBC
- Projects to take place between: September 2026 - Sept 2027

Please send us:

- A short outline of why the opportunity interests you.
- An outline of your previous work and examples of up to 4 projects that you feel demonstrate why your practice is relevant for this opportunity (including images or links to video/sound based work)
- An outline budget - at this point we only ask that you provide us with a simple budget including fees/daily rates/outline costs. If successful, we will work with you to define a detailed project budget over the key stages of delivery.
- Please state if you have a particular interest in working in one of the three locations or are interested in working across the stretch.

Please email applications to zara@superslowway.org.uk by 5pm, Friday 26th June 2026