

T100

PRESENTED BY

KINETIKA



Kineitka People
Opportunity

Poet Open Call

Lead activities and create original poetry for the T100 Festival

Apply by Thursday 15th January 2026



The Opportunity

Kinetika is looking for an experienced, community-focused poet to lead creative activities and create original poetry during the T100 Festival (22 May – 6 June 2026).

2026 Thematic Overview

T100 Festival 2026

Seeing Thurrock Differently: A Journey Home

A joyful celebration of the landscapes, stories and communities in Thurrock. An invitation to reflect on what it means to belong and to call a place home in the future.

For 12 years, Kinetika has brought people together across Thurrock to explore, talk and create – revealing hidden gems, unearthing untold stories, and finding fresh inspiration in familiar places.

Seeing Thurrock Differently: A Journey Home, will be a bold, imaginative celebration – honouring everything the programme has built and a heartfelt invitation to consider what it truly means to belong. From 22 May – 6 June 2026, we'll explore the places that make Thurrock special – from Purfleet to Grays, Tilbury to East Tilbury, Chafford to Stanford-le-Hope – and all the spaces in between. Exploring not just landscapes, but lives. The places we love, the streets we walk each day and the memories stitched into riverbanks, parks, and landscapes shaped by history and industry.

This 2026 edition will be a collective homecoming:

- Seeing the landscape through new eyes
- Connecting with stories that shaped us
- Exploring what home and belonging will mean for communities in Thurrock in the next 5 years.

Guided by curiosity, creativity and a shared spirit of adventure, artists, scientists, historians, and local voices will come together to explore who we are, where we come from, and where we go next.

Explore the resource pack for more information on themes and activities connected to the festival

About the Role

The selected poet will:

- Plan and deliver accessible, poetry-led creative activities connected to the 2026 festival theme. Activities will take place in the Kinetika Community Natural Dye Garden and the finale event (in a local community venue) in Thurrock.
- Encourage participants of all ages and abilities to explore poetry as a means of creative expression and a way to connect with their surroundings and local area.
- Listen to what emerges and collate community members' contributions and ideas to create original poems.
- Collaborate with the T100 team and volunteers.

We are looking for poets who are:

- Experienced in community engagement and workshop facilitation.
- Passionate about the creative potential of the natural world and able to inspire others.
- Comfortable working outdoors and at live events, engaging with a wide range of participants.
- Excited to bring their own creative perspective and unique voice to the festival.



Key Details

£1,000 commission fee (inclusive of VAT)

This fee covers the devising and delivery of poetry-led creative activities. It includes planning, creative development, delivery, and post-event reflection.

Expenses

Up to £100 to support travel and engagement activity around your chosen walk location.

Estimated Time Commitment

January – June 2026

- Up to 1.5 days planning and evaluation (recces, planning & meetings)
- 1.5 days – event delivery on date TBC during the festival and finale on 6 June 2026

Key Dates

- **Monday 26 Jan 2026:** Festival Artists & Volunteers Creative Planning Session
- **22 May – 6 June 2026:** T100 Festival
- **Wednesday 27 May 2026:** Natural Dye Garden Event day
- **Saturday 6 June 2026:** Festival Finale Event

Application Deadline

Midday on Thursday 15th January 2026

Locations

Kinetika Natural Dye Garden, Purfleet-on-Thames & Community Venue in Thurrock (details to be confirmed)

How to apply

We strongly encourage candidates of all different backgrounds and identities to apply. Each new engagement is an opportunity for us to bring in a different perspective, and we are always eager to further diversify our organisation and projects. We will aim to facilitate a great work-life balance wherever we can and are happy to discuss any specific requirements you need in the role to achieve this.

Email the following to George Bellamy at hello@t100festival.co.uk by **midday on Thursday 15th January 2026:**

- A short artist bio and samples or links to previous work including any relevant experience with workshops in outdoor or community arts settings
- A brief (1-page max.) statement about your approach to community creative activities and what inspires you about the 2026 T100 festival theme

For questions, please contact hello@t100festival.co.uk

About Kinetika

Kinetika unites communities through exceptional silk-based design and public spectacles that inspire social action and enrich local environments. For 28 years, we have pioneered an inclusive, participatory approach to walking, talking and making

that strengthens social connection, celebrates cultural diversity and supports positive environmental and community change.

Flagship projects include T100, a year-round programme and annual festival in Thurrock that has received six years of Reaching Communities funding; Beach of Dreams, a UK-wide coastal arts festival (2025); Thank You Dance for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant (2022); Silk River, a British Council commission for the UK/India Year of Culture (2017); and En Flag for the Cultural Olympiad at the Paris Olympics (2024).

Founded in 1997 by Artistic Director Ali Pretty, Kinetika is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

kinetika.co.uk



Kinetika Community Natural Dye Garden, High House Production Park, Purfleet

Artist Lora Aziz leading a Plant Story Walk, T100 Goes Wild, 2024



About T100

T100 is Kinetika's programme of activity that is shaped by the communities in Thurrock. It celebrates and offers a space for creativity, collaboration and care for the environment. Year-round activity includes walking and exploring Thurrock's hidden gems, learning about the history, the landscape and the stories of the people that live and work here. Since 2015 we have hosted the T100 festival, a programme of exploring, talking and creating that encourages multiple stories to surface. Each year's programme responds to a theme that is developed collectively with community members during a creative visioning session. The result is a programme of creative walking events and community devised activities

T100's strength lies in its simplicity. Groups and individuals can devise their own events and showcase them locally, connecting them into the larger festival framework.

T100 is guided by values which centre on working together, being inclusive, giving voice to self-expression through creativity and caring for the environment. The programme is deeply committed to empowering young people in Thurrock through the T100 Young Ambassadors programme giving a space for children and young people to design and deliver activities for local communities.

Recent Festival Highlights

T100 Goes Wild 2024

Inspired by our newly established community natural dye garden in a formerly neglected spot of land at High House Production Park, the festival invited audiences to explore Thurrock's lesser-known green spaces and wildlife past and present. Through a programme which included bird sketching walks, scavenger hunts, a heritage walks and a celebratory 10 year parade through Grays town centre, community members got to see their local area's green side.

T100 Our River 2025

Partnering in Kinetika's UK wide coastal arts festival Beach of Dreams, T100 focused on 'Our River', its culture, heritage and future - inviting communities to come together, share their dreams, creatively re-imagine the future and how we can work together to protect these vital spaces all whilst connecting up to a national conversation.

t100festival.co.uk



T100 Young Ambassadors

T100 Festival Finale, Tilbury Cruise Terminal, 2019

