



**SIGNAL**  
FILM & MEDIA



# Sankey: Lives Through The Lens

**Community Artist/Photographer Commission - CALL  
OUT**



St Paul's School (Children)

© A295, BDB 86/1/3127 Sankey Family Photograph Collection - Cumbria Archives.

**Closing date:** Midnight Sunday 19th May 2024.

**Fee: £8,000** (To cover artist & workshop delivery fee, and some

production)

**Online Interviews:** Between Tuesday 28th - Wednesday 29th May 2024.

**Start Date:** June 2024.

**Exhibition dates:** 8th - 31st August 2024 TBC

**Apply here:** <https://forms.gle/kc93yJbHcdUGxtuWA>

## Brief and Application Guidance

Signal Film and Media are accepting proposals for creative projects from a socially-engaged, multidisciplinary artist who will work collaboratively with young people from ages 14 - 30 to produce a new artistic commission that responds to The Sankey Family Photographic Archive.

The Sankey Photographic Archive is a stunning collection of over 10,000 glass plate negatives and postcards of Barrow and the north-west, which were produced and shared around the world from 1895 to the 1970s.

We welcome applications from a multidisciplinary artist who has experience of, and the passion for, working in a socially engaged and /or participatory way. We welcome artists with an interest in archival photography and working collaboratively with a diverse range of young local people to form an exciting artistic exhibition.

Applications are encouraged from artists from all backgrounds and we actively encourage artists to apply who belong to one or more of the following groups: Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic group, Refugee, D/deaf, Disabled, Neurodivergent, Working Class and LGBTQI+

This project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to use digital media and creative interpretation to explore the Sankey Photography Archive and make it accessible to a diverse range of people.

## The Brief

### Signal Film & Media

Signal Film and Media (SFM) is an Award winning heritage and digital arts charity dedicated to providing inclusive, high quality digital media and cultural experiences. We believe in the power of creativity as a driver for social change and have a deep commitment to our vision of 'A Cultural Community where Talent is Nurtured and People Thrive'. Based in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, we offer an outstanding, year-round programme of inspirational heritage and digital arts learning opportunities, which support people at the margins of our community to reach their potential.

**THE SANKEYS** were a father and sons who documented life in Barrow and Cumbria over 70 years. Starting in 1900, they captured the landscape, cultural changes, individuals, industry and tourism (plus much more). The postcards they created from their photography were posted all over the world and tell fascinating stories of the 20th century. Since 2019, we have successfully re-housed, re-packaged and digitised the full collection in collaboration with the Sankey Family and Cumbria Archives.

We are now working with local people and partner organisations to bring the archive to life through research and creative workshops.

As part of our work we want to commission a socially-engaged artist or collective to work with the young people from the local community to explore the archive through creative workshops and activities to produce artwork to bring the archive to new audiences.

## Theme

The Sankey Photographic Collection was created by father and sons Edward, Raymond and Eric Sankey in Barrow-in-Furness, and Cumbria more widely from 1900 to the early 1970's. The main use of the Sankey negatives were as printed postcards which were produced using a special printing machine developed by Edward Sankey. During peak production the Sankey family were producing 100,000 postcards per year. The postcards were sold throughout Cumbria and the messages on the back paint a picture of a by-gone day, offering small glimpses into the lives of people who were living in and visiting Barrow and locations in Cumbria.

The Sankey family were pioneers in documenting the huge shifts in the social, economic and physical landscapes of the area. They photographed a wide range of events including royal visits, the launch of ships from Barrow's shipyards, the steam ships, glimpses inside the factories, airships, Barrow shop fronts, street scenes, railways, picturesque scenes of the Lake District and portraits of local dignitaries and ordinary working people alike.

The commissioned artist will work alongside young people to increase engagement with the archival collection through contemporary art. The artwork and the associated workshops, talks and masterclasses should engage and connect more young people, from more diverse backgrounds and marginalised areas.

### **FIND OUT MORE HERE:**

<https://www.sankeyphotoarchive.uk/>

### **Aims of the commission:**

- Explore the collection and develop high quality collaborative artworks with the young people from the local community, inspired by the Sankey Photographic Archive, to be exhibited to a wider audience.

- To run a series of in depth workshops/talks/masterclasses to a diverse range of young local people.
- To present a talk at a Preview night on the 8th August 2024 (TBC)

**We expect the project to include:**

- Research and development with the collection and in the local area
- A chance for the public to meet the artist and hear all about the project and the collection
- Development of an artwork (individually and as a group)
- Final artwork(s) produced interpreting the findings, for an exhibition and to be presented

**The artist(s) is required to:**

- Work closely with Signal Film & Media to deliver the project and final high quality artworks).
- Work in participation with local individuals in creating the artwork.
- We ask the artist to deliver a series of workshops or masterclasses for the young people in the local community.
- The artist will adhere to Signal's safeguarding policies and procedures

**We can offer the artist:**

- A fee of £8,000 (to include artist fees, workshop delivery, artists own materials/production and final exhibition costs). A further budget will be available for staging and output production.
- Studio/work space
- Curatorial, practical and technical support throughout the residency
- Wide Publicity and Marketing with associated public events
- Gallery and Online Exhibition
- Signal will arrange the publicity and recruitment of all workshops and spaces and is able to supply a range of digital camera equipment and editing software.
- Accommodation and Travel

**Information**

- Open to all professional artists (not students)
- For ages 18+ years

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**Online application deadline:** Midnight 19th May 2024

**Artist's selected for a short interview will be informed by:** Friday 24th May 2024

**Online Interviews:** Between Tuesday 28th - Wednesday 29th May 2024.

**Start date:** June 2024

**End date:** August 2024

**Exhibition:** 8th - 31st August 2024 TBC

## HOW TO APPLY

**Please apply using the online form here:** <https://forms.gle/kc93yJbHcdUGxtuWA>

If this presents any issues or you would like further information about the commission please contact [info@signalfilmmedia.co.uk](mailto:info@signalfilmmedia.co.uk)

**Selection Process and Criteria** All applications, including the supporting material, will be reviewed by a panel of assessors.

Please note, within the application form we ask you for:

- Artist Statement - Biography about you and your work (Max 300 words)
- How you would approach the brief, including outline details of your ideas and how you would engage the community in the process (Max 300 words)
- How you would use the commission fee
- Why you are interested in this application and how it fits in with your work -

Portfolio of work and a CV

We are committed to ensuring that all employees and applicants are provided with equality of opportunity. If you would like to discuss this brief, please contact Jo Day (Signal Film and Media) [info@signalfilmmedia.co.uk](mailto:info@signalfilmmedia.co.uk)



Kings Hall, 9th Dec 1907.

© 90, BDB 86/1/74 Sankey Family Photograph Collection - Cumbria Archives

### **FURTHER INFO:**

**SIGNAL FILM AND MEDIA** is an award-winning film and digital media company based in Barrow-in-Furness with a reputation for both high-quality, professional short film production and a wide range of community engagement media projects. Our artist-led company has delivered innovative film and digital media projects since 2001, providing access to opportunities and inspiration through film and digital media, creating award-winning works for exhibition and supporting the development of a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

<https://signalfilmmedia.com/>

**NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND** The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest dedicated grant funder of the UK's heritage.