

Brief for Artist Led Health and Wellbeing Community Engagement Commission

Leicester Museums & Galleries

Since 1849 Leicester Museums & Galleries have been welcoming the public into our Museum venues for free. We are a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) supported using public funding by Arts Council England (ACE).

It is an exciting chapter in the history of the museums as our new strategic vision is in place, a new and exciting dedicated website was launched in 2020 and there are several significant capital projects in the pipeline.

Our Vision

- Creating experiences to make Leicester special by involving and inspiring residents and visitors and sharing the city's significant collections.
- Celebrating the stories of Leicester's diverse communities and the unique places, art and heritage which shape the city's identity and showcasing these to the world.
- Engaging with every primary schoolchild in Leicester.

The Museum venues have nationally important collections and objects with extensive collections and displays across Visual Arts, Archaeology, Social History, Natural Sciences, Costume and Technology. We have an array of wide-ranging engagement opportunities and resources.

We are committed to putting Leicester Museums & Galleries on the map. We have a lot to share and showcase.

We strive to work collaboratively to develop new ways of working, ensuring that innovative and relevant engagement lies at the heart of what we do and demonstrating the wealth of creative talent that exists in our city and beyond.

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, the city's flagship Museum, is Leicester's original museum with wide ranging collections and displays spanning the natural and cultural world.

It's home to the resident Egyptian, Victorian Art and Dinosaur Galleries amongst others, as well as the internationally renowned collection of German Expressionism and the most comprehensive collection of Picasso ceramics in the country; donated to the museum service by the Attenborough family.

Project overview

Museums share the commitment to improve the health and social wellbeing of individuals through cultural interventions in innovative, enjoyable and sometimes challenging ways.

We believe that collaborative relationships result in the meaningful delivery of our goals.

Within our Therapeutic Museums strategic objectives, we aim to increase the number of Leicester residents improving their wellbeing through engagement with collections and arts.

As part of the Health and Wellbeing strand of our ACE funded NPO activity, an opportunity to develop and deliver an Artist Led Community wellbeing commission is available.

Project Commission (including budget)

We are looking to engage a creative practitioner to create an exciting, interactive work, engaging individuals and communities to be installed and displayed in Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

The theme of this commission is to celebrate **Leicester Museums & Galleries** collections and memories of Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, linked to past, present and future engagement and the impact on health and wellbeing. Visit the museum to view the collections and exhibitions or access the Leicester Museums & Galleries website to learn more. The commission should meet the following criteria:

- The artistic response to the theme must be inspired by our collections and/or building, the impact of museums and collections on health and wellbeing outcomes of visitors in particular:
 - How it contributes to the health and wellbeing agenda in an exciting, innovative, and creative way, enhancing positive mental and physical wellbeing enabling people to feel good and function well
 - Actively engages local communities in the development of an artistic response.
 - Produces high quality engagement activity that will enhance the wellbeing of participants.
- The commission should focus on engaging our core and harder to reach audiences, including audiences that have specific physical and mental needs.
- The artistic response must be installed within the specified area of the museum.
- All text, physical labels and panels produced should meet our guidance and policy on accessibility, style, and appropriateness.

Installation location

The immediate right hand wall space and area (immediately on entering the World Arts gallery from the landing) in Leicester Museum & Art Gallery has been identified for the location of the artistic response.

The space is visible to all visitors from the landing area on the first floor.

Key points to note:

- The wall space and the area immediately in front and a display case nearby can be utilised.
- An electricity supply is available. PAT (Portable Appliance Test) certification must be supplied if utilised. The installation is required to be turned off at night and when museum is closed.
- The materials used for the installation are required to be fire retardant. The use of certain materials such as natural materials, textiles, wool, felt or reclaimed timber certain materials will also be required to have a non-toxic surface layer/chemical barrier to deter insect activity. Fire retardant compliance must be confirmed/certified.
- A sound element is permitted.
- Use of water is not permitted.
- All floor standing proposals should not exceed 0.667 tonne (677 kg)

Images of space and dimensions



The wall measurements are:

Wall width maximum 5.95 metres

Wall height maximum 3.38 metres



The display case measurements are:

Internal

Internal height maximum 1.78 metres high,

Internal width and depth maximum 96 centimetres wide by 96 centimetres deep

With the lighting lenses added the overall internal height is reduced to 1.75 metres.
(The lenses enable the higher shelves / objects to be spotlighted, or flood light the case)

With shelf fittings included the measurements are:

Internal width, depth, and height measurements 90 cm wide by 90cm deep by 1.78 metres high.

Shelves are 90 centimetres x 90 centimetres square (with half depth shelves available at 90 centimetres x 45 centimetres).

External

External height maximum 2.11 metres

Width and depth maximum 1 metre by 1 metre

Note: All measurements are approximate, and the artist is required to check the area's measurements themselves prior to installation

Lift access

The location is on the first floor of the building. There are two lifts in the building which can be used.

- Passenger lift – maximum user weight 1000kg
- Goods lift – maximum user weight 3000kg

Budget

The budget for the commission is £10,000. This should include all artist costs and materials, including all installation and demounting costs, and PAT certification. The budget will be paid as follows:

- £8000 at start of contractual period
- £2000 at end of contractual period following deinstallation.

How to apply

Your application must be no more than 12 pages and should include:

- A proposal of what you would like to do and who it will engage with, including how it will be delivered in the current circumstances.
- All tenders to indicate:
 - Type of materials to be used.
 - Methodologies on how the final installation output is to be achieved including any specialist equipment to be used, how the installation will be securely and safely fixed to the walls.
 - Inclusion of an indicative risk assessment and risk controls on key foreseeable risks for installation and deinstallation work and security of displayed work
- A summary of your creative practice and experience, including any images, information, or links from past projects that you think will be relevant to your proposal.
- A breakdown of how you will use the budget.

Assessment of application

Your proposal will be assessed by a panel and according to a scoring matrix as follows:

1. How relevant is the activity for the identified space and location?
2. Does it offer an innovative approach and engaging method/product for our communities?
3. How practical is the proposal and can it be delivered within the current circumstances?
4. Does the proposal utilise the Leicester Museum and Galleries collections and exhibitions and/or building as inspiration for the work?
5. Does the proposal meet the Health and wellbeing aims and objectives identified in the project commission requirements?

Liabilities Cover

The appropriate level of public and other liability insurance will be required relating to the nature of work and if any work is undertaken by an additional paid/unpaid workforce.

These requirements will be confirmed once the successful artist has been selected.

Project schedule

- The deadline for applications is: **Friday 26th April 2021**
- The successful applicant will be confirmed and contacted week commencing **10th May 2021**
- The timescale of the successful commission is from **week commencing 10th May to 31st October 2021**
- The commission will be installed in the specified Leicester Museum & Art Gallery location for a period of 6 weeks (September/October 2021)

Please send applications for the attention of to:

Alison Colledge

Health and Wellbeing Officer

Arts, Museums, Festivals and Events Service

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

53, New Walk

Leicester

LE1 7EA

Shortlisted artists may be contacted for further information.

The selected applicant will be invited to a meeting to discuss the proposal and contractual arrangements. They will also be invited to conduct a site visit.

Due to the changing nature of the current COVID 19 situation, the project schedule is flexible and may need to adapt to certain circumstances.

Further information

For further information about Leicester Museums & Galleries please visit:

our website: <https://www.leicestermuseums.org/>

Story of Leicester website: <https://storyofleicester.info/>

If you have any queries or further questions about the brief or the commission, please contact:

Alison Colledge

Health and wellbeing Officer

Leicester Museum & Galleries

Leicester City Council

Email: Alison.colledge@leicester.gov.uk Telephone: 0116 454 3534