

LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

at the City's heart
CHEAPSIDE



Open Call A City of London bench 2019



'Here Lies Geoffrey Barkington' bench by Patrick McEvoy, June 2018

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The commission

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) and Cheapside Business Alliance invite you to create one of several one off public benches, to be installed in the public realm of Cheapside, City of London.

We are inviting architecture students, recent graduates and emerging to submit a design proposal for a bench that will transform the public realm of Cheapside as a place to sit and rest – public furniture fit for a festival.

If your design is one of the winners, you will be awarded £800 to make your bench ahead of the London Festival of Architecture 2019. This will be a chance to participate in a unique project and showcase your imaginative design to the public and the many festival producers involved.

The Context

The Cheapside Business Alliance in partnership with the The City of London are delighted to be working with the LFA 2019 for the second year running.

Cheapside continues to evolve into a leading London destination, with the past year seeing further investment through the opening of more businesses and leisure offerings within the footprint. Many Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) programmes and projects continue to showcase this fantastic part of the Square Mile.

CBA is committed to continue delivering for the businesses, community and visitors of Cheapside harnessing the great potential of the seven-day destination through supporting their strategic themes - Environmental, Tourism and Culture, Marketing Business Alliance and Employment and Enterprise.

CBA are sponsoring a series of benches to be placed in and around the footprint show casing iconic buildings, architecture and opens spaces. The benches should be sustainable, some colourful but most importantly, inviting the community to sit, enjoy and take note of the surroundings they are in.

The site



Cheapside Business Alliance Boundary Map

A variety of locations across the Cheapside area have been selected for the benches. These are areas where there is significant scope for public realm enhancement or seating provision. Previous locations included Bow Church Yard,

Bloomberg Arcade, One New Change, public realm in front of the Royal Exchange and Cheapside 150. Individual sites will be revealed in parallel with the winning designs in March.

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Design requirements

Each bench must offer a comfortable seat for a minimum of 2 adults. We are looking for pieces that function for visitors (are not purely sculptural) and are realistic to the brief (do not become pavilions or follies). They must be safe, durable and offer a low-cost design solution.

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Further Guidance

- *Budget:* If successful, the £800 will need to cover all associated production costs (materials, transport, construction and deinstall). You can use salvaged materials or seek in-kind materials sponsorship to reduce expenses. The budget will be managed by the entrant.
- *Design:* The bench should be designed to prevent use or damage by skateboarders. It should be free-standing without the need for ground fixings. The design must also take into account of the site conditions and any slopes.
- *Health & safety:* The drawings will be checked by a City engineer who will also carry out a risk assessment. On delivery, the bench will be checked to ensure it is safe for public use. You may be asked to make modifications but on sign-off the bench will be the property and responsibility of City of London Corporation.
- *Durability:* The project will exist for 3 months and you should consider the longevity and appearance of your design accordingly, to ensure that no maintenance is required during this period. Subject to durability, the benches may be able to be in place for longer or moved to a different City location for an extended period.
- *Property:* The bench will be the property of the City of London Corporation for the duration of the installation. At the point of deinstallation the bench will become the property of the competition winner.
- *Timescale:* The bench is expected to be installed between 1 June to 23 September 2019.
- *Installation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the City of London Corporation installation will take place on 31 May 2019.
- *Deinstallation:* Unless otherwise agreed with the City of London Corporation deinstallation will take place on 23 September 2019.
- *Afterlife:* There might be an opportunity to re-site the bench within Cheapside area after 23 September 2019.

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Budget

The total budget available for this project for one bench is £800. This is to include all fees, fabrication, installation and deinstallation costs (materials, transport and construction).

Half of the fee will be awarded in May, on receipt of a signed agreement in which you commit to provide a bench as per your submission and any revisions as requested by Cheapside Business Alliance and City of London Corporation. The remaining fee will be given in June after delivery and approval of the bench.

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Submission

This submission should include

1. Full name and contact details including postal address, contact number and email of project lead.
2. Brief biographies of all the project team.
3. Coloured photo of the design team (landscape) for promotional purposes
4. A 200-word description about your practice along with any relevant technical expertise acquired through previous experience.
5. Hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation
6. Construction detail drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted
7. Outline all materials, budget and production process

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Eligibility

The competition is open to students and emerging architects and designers. We welcome collaborations however the project must be actively led by a named emerging architect or designer. Emerging is defined by being no more than 7 years post graduate.

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Deadline and submission details

- Deadline for submission is Midday, Thursday 21 February 2019. Submissions received after this time will not be considered.
- For competition enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org
- Please send expressions of interest in a PDF format via: <https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/benches2019/>
- The PDF should be no more than 5MB and 10 A4 pages.
- You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

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Schedule outline

Submissions open: Thursday 24 January 2019
Submissions closed: Thursday 21 February 2019
Winners notified: March 2019
Benches installed by: 1 June 2019
Benches deinstalled by: 23 September 2019

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Judging panel

Anne O'Neil (chair, Cheapside Business Alliance)
Tanya Parkin (associate director, Eric Parry Architects)
Ellie Stathaki (architecture editor, Wallpaper*)
Tamsie Thomson (director, London Festival of Architecture)

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Further information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity and relevance to the brief, as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.
- The ownership of Copyright of the design will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, that is Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.
- All designs remain the intellectual property of the designer however the winning designs when built, will be the property of the Cheapside Business Alliance.
- Please bear in mind that the project requires a fast turn around and may have peak moments when your practice will need to dedicate sufficient staff to deliver the project on time, on budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders.
- If selected, your practice/collaboration needs to organise: Professional Indemnity, and Employers Liability (in case you have employees)
- Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage.
- London Festival of Architecture and City of London Corporation reserve the right to use images from the submissions for promotional purposes in press, social media and publications. All endeavours will be made to ensure accurate accreditation.

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Useful links

London Festival of Architecture:
www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Cheapside Business Alliance
incheapside.com

City of London Corporation

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Contact

To submit your entry please go to:

<https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/benches2019/>

For general enquires please contact: rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

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Disclaimer

The competition organisers are not liable for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgments and all decisions are final. While it is the intent to construct the winning scheme, the organisers reserve the right to not proceed with construction for any reason. Material submitted by you shall be your sole responsibility, shall not infringe or violate the rights of any other party or violate any laws, contribute to or encourage infringing or otherwise unlawful conduct, or otherwise be obscene, objectionable, or in poor taste. By submitting such material, you are representing that you are the owner of such material and/or have all necessary rights, licenses, and authorization to distribute it.

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**LONDON FESTIVAL OF
ARCHITECTURE**

London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture was founded in 2004, and is now firmly established as Europe's biggest annual architecture festival. The London Festival of Architecture 2018 will feature events across the capital from 1-30 June, and this year will explore the theme 'identity'. The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as a global hub of architectural experimentation, practice and debate, provoking questions about the contemporary and future life of the city, and promoting positive change to its public realm. The London-wide programme is delivered by a diverse mix of architecture and design practices and practitioners, cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Twitter: @LFArchitecture



Cheapside Business Alliance

The Cheapside Business Alliance takes a more innovative approach ensuring the area thrives and prospers over the coming years as a 7 day destination. The number of smaller businesses in the area, whose contribution and presence make a valuable contribution in shaping the location, is recognised by the business community as an important element of our activity. As such we want to ensure that we support small businesses through a range of projects that help to promote their services and further enable them to thrive as part of our local economy and community. From inward investment through to increased footfall and spend we will work hard to develop and influence a strong mix of assets to maximise the areas potential.

<https://incheapside.com/>

Twitter: @CheapsideBA

Reference



City Benches 2018

In 2018, London Festival of Architecture, in collaboration with the City of London Corporation and Cheapside Business Alliance for the first time organised a competition for a series of one-off public benches installed around Cheapside and the Eastern City Cluster areas. The competition championed fresh design talent, and was open to architecture and design students, recent graduates and emerging practices. A judging panel including Pooja Agrawal (Greater London Authority), Katy Ghahremani (Make Architects), Simon Glynn (City of London Corporation) and Ellie Stathaki (Wallpaper*) chose benches that responded to their settings with imagination and air, and which were enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people during the LFA in June.