

Open Call

Co-designing Equity in the Public Realm



Fusion Futures Project delivered in partnership with Culture Mile, City of London and Foundation for Future London. © Christian Cassiel / Culture Mile.

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The commission

The public space is seen as the playground where the society reinvents itself.

Culture Mile, the City of London and Foundation For Future London are collaborating with the London Festival of Architecture (LFA) to launch a new design competition between Smithfield within the City of London and the target areas of Foundation for Future London's work in East London to develop a deeper understanding on how people feel when they are in the area's streets and public spaces. They are looking for a multi-disciplinary team to create temporary small scale intervention(s) and activations in one or more of these areas in Spring / Summer of 2023 which have been informed by public engagement.

The public realm interventions will explore inclusive design, equity and public space as well as involvement of young people in city making. Artists, architects, designers, social enterprises and creative organisations are invited to develop and submit a design proposal that includes public engagement with relevant local groups during the design development and delivery phase of the project. We are seeking a proposal that can be co-designed with young people and/or other relevant local groups.

A winning team will be confirmed in September awarded £50,000 (including VAT) to develop a fully costed, feasible design alongside engagement plan that can be delivered ahead of June 2023 when the next edition of the London Festival of Architecture will take place. There will be no set budget split between a physical intervention(s) and supporting engagement, activation and/or educational activities.

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Context

The competition embraces the belief that the arts are uniquely placed to connect communities, celebrate their immense collective power and create positive social change.

Funding provided by City of London Corporation has supported the development of collaborative programming with the communities from across East Bank and Culture Mile. This 4-year partnership has sought to utilise creativity to support the development of new models of practice and collaboration around education, life-long learning, employment opportunities, health & wellbeing and inclusive public realm.

The aim of previous cross-district partnership projects such as the Fusion Prize and Fusion Futures has been to support root our engagement with local audiences, demonstrate our commitment to funding local cultural infrastructure, support diverse new creative talent and to develop longer term shared learnings between the two new cultural districts of East Bank and Culture Mile and the wider value they bring to London.

This commission develops this work further through focusing specifically on the use of places, public realm, wayfaring and culture to create inclusive connectivity between both cultural districts.

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Site

This competition is looking at both the Smithfield Public Realm in the City and the target areas of Foundation for Future London's work in East London: the boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. It is not necessary for teams to create physical interventions in both areas but applicants are encouraged to work across them in some ways (via community engagement, digital engagement/intervention) during the project.

The specific locations of the engagement work and installations are open to discussion at Stage 2 of the of the 'Co-designing Equity in the Public Realm' process. Shortlisted teams will work with the City of London and Foundation for Future London teams and relevant local

authorities to identify appropriate space within the project areas and support the selected team in project development and mentoring.

See appendix 1 for more detailed information on the Smithfield Public Realm Project.

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Design and Engagement Requirements

What would an inclusive and accessible (public) space look like?

The aim of this project is to explore the themes of inclusivity, equity in public space, and the involvement of young people in city making to create physical installation(s) led by community engagement or co-created with relevant organisations. We have left the focus of this brief open but we are particularly interested to hear different approaches on how to promote equity in the public realm, by which we mean supporting underrepresented people's ideas and visibility in public spaces. We see this as a broad spectrum which could cover each stage of development of public space such as the design, usage, and public programming in the built environment.

As such, the design should explore the themes of inclusivity, equity in public space and the involvement of young people in city making. Developed with an understanding of how public space is interpreted by different groups, the design could explore more abstract themes such as behaviour and social interactions, or sense of belongings. It could also explore aspects of diversity and inclusion and how they might link to the happiness and wellbeing of people using these spaces.

Installation

The brief is open, but the physical installation could be achieved through physical design elements such as materials, planting, seating, public art, digital integration, lighting, design of space, wayfinding, historical reference, etc.

- The design should work as a freestanding, self-supported piece that does not need to be fixed to the ground.
- The project will be in situ for a minimum of 3 months and you should consider the longevity and appearance of your design accordingly, to ensure that no or minimal maintenance is required during this period. Subject to durability, the project may be able to be in place for longer or moved to a different location for an extended period.
- Designs must be practical and realistic, whilst responding to the project objectives – evidence should be given that it is buildable within the budget.
- Any winning design will be robust enough to withstand all weather conditions.
- Design(s) should also consider sustainability and require minimal maintenance
- Interventions should not block fire hydrants, fire exits, utility covers, street signage, or any other emergency access.
- The work is expected to be in place for a minimum of 3 months.

Engagement & Learning

The key objectives of the project are to deliver a design that:

- Is strongly collaborative, participatory and socially engaged.
- Engages, involves and can be co-designed with local communities across East London and the City of London/Islington, removing barriers to participation in the arts and civic life.
- Demonstrates a strong understanding and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, sustainability and the environment.

The commissioned organisation should demonstrate a bold and innovative engagement plan (recruitment, marketing, content delivery etc.) that supports commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity including outreach with new audiences (arts and non-arts) and participants. We are looking for a team who can deliver a range of accessible activities or outputs e.g. public events, exhibitions, workshops, skills learnings sessions, informal jobs & training opportunities for example, paid work experience, one to one coaching or mentoring. We are particularly interested in proposals that would allow participants' opportunities (across education and employment) to improve their communication, creative thinking and organisational skills.

Measures of success might include reaching a high proportion of participants from the global majority, or who self-identify as having faced socio-economic barriers; participants who don't have a parent or guardian with degree level; young participants who are eligible for free school meals.

Proposals should describe how programme recruitment and content delivery will be developed in a way that is inclusive and accessible to a wide and diverse audience.

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Budget

The total budget available for delivery of this project is circa £50,000 (VAT inclusive), including the cost of implementation; engagement, fabrication, install, de-install, materials and any necessary licences or other capital costs.

The winning team will be responsible for leading on the engagement delivery, fabrication and installation of the design, whilst working closely with internal teams to facilitate the installation.

- The £50,000 budget outlined includes design fees and other costs required to deliver the concept.
- The budget allocation for the different project components (design fee, engagement activities, physical installation) is not prescribed. You are invited to suggest how you would plan to split the budget in your proposal if shortlisted.

The winning team will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- To develop a fully costed, feasible design that can be installed in May 2023 and be in place for 3 months.

- Programme and deliver public engagement during the design development and delivery phase of the project (e.g. co-design workshops with young people, co-build etc.). We had suggested the majority of Co-design, development and engagement to be completed by Dec 2022 (see timeline below).
- Project management of the installation and de-installation of the winning design.

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Submissions requirements

This competition has a two stage submission.

- Round 1: We will seek Expressions of Interest
- Round 2: Up to 6 shortlisted practices will be invited to develop a design and engagement concept, reflective of the honorarium sum (£500+VAT).

This first stage 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. A 200-word description about your organisation / collaboration along with any relevant experience acquired through previous projects.
4. A selection of relevant previous work, including images.
5. A short paragraph of max. 300 words on why you are interested in being involved in the project and how you are going to engage relevant local groups to deliver your proposal if selected. Please include some thoughts about your vision including any initial written reactions you may have to the brief.
6. No design work is required for the first stage.

These submissions will be shortlisted by the judging panel. After the first stage submission, the judging panel will shortlist up to 6 individuals and/or practices which will then be invited to develop a design concept based on the information laid out in this open call and will be awarded an honorarium of £500 + VAT each. The work required for the second phase of the project will be reflective of the honorarium sum.

At shortlisting, the second stage submission should include:

- 2 x A2 boards in portrait format explaining your proposal.
- Additional information to be submitted as a separate PDF (we would advise to include a summary of all the points on the exhibition boards):
 - Budget and timetable information
 - Approach to public engagement
 - Approach to issues regarding fabrication, longevity, robustness and implications for maintenance, could include examples from previous work
- PowerPoint presentation for the purposes of judging.

The submission should but is not limited to including hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation, key construction details drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted, an outline of all materials, budget, maintenance plan and fabrication process.

Submission information

For any questions about the competition or submission process, please email:

lydia.allainchapman@nla.london

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Eligibility

The competition is open to emerging architects, designers, engineers, artists, urbanists, community social enterprises and creative organisations. The selected project team must include a named architect, engineer or designer but we are looking for cross disciplinary teams that reflect this diverse expertise and experience.

The judges encourage entries from, or collaborations with groups who are underrepresented in public space e.g. Black, Asian, disabled people, unemployed and/or low waged residents, children and young people, older people and people with mental health issues or long-term health issues.

Expression of interest for this commission could be for a new project or extension of a current programme/platform. Either way the role of collaboration, partnership and shared learnings should be key to your submission and its impact on the wider cultural infrastructure.

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Deadline and submission details

- Deadline for first submission is Midday, Thursday 1 September 2022. Submissions received after time this will not be considered.
- For competition enquiries please contact: lydia.allainchapman@nla.london
- To send your expression of interest in a PDF format go [here](#).
- The PDF should be no more than 5MB and 10 A4 pages.
- You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your submission.

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Schedule outline

Submissions open: Monday 20 June

Drop-in information session: Wednesday 6th July 10am -12pm in Smithfield (location TBC)

Submissions closed: Thursday 1 September

Successful shortlisted teams notified: w/c 12 September

Round 2 submission deadline: Thursday 13 October

Final judging / interviews: Winner notified: w/c 24 October

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Judging panel

Maria Adebowale-Schwarte (CEO, Foundation for Future London)
Esme Fieldhouse (Head of Public Realm, Hawkins\Brown)
Tim Jones (Culture Mile Manager, City of London Corporation)
Rosa Rogina (Director, London Festival of Architecture)
Clarisse Tavin (Environment Department, City of London Corporation)
Manijeh Verghese (Founding Director, Unscene Architecture and Head of Public Programmes, Architectural Association)

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Judging criteria

Round 1 Judging Criteria

- Practice/Team profile - 40%
- Initial vision & feasibility - 30%
- Approach to public engagement - 30%

Round 2 Judging Criteria

- Overall design, outcomes & feasibility – 30%
- Contextual design and engagement plan – 25%
- Approach to environment and sustainability – 15%
- Approach to inclusion and diversity - 15%
- Longevity and implications for maintenance – 15%

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Further information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity, relevance to the brief as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.
- To process entries to this competition we will share your application and any associated personal data provided on the application with our jury and competition partners.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, but due to the volume of submissions we may not be able to provide feedback to entrants individually.
- 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 design will itself when built will be the property of the landowners.
- Please bear in mind 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, to budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders.
- If your practice/collaboration is appointed to deliver the project it will need to have the following insurance: Employers Liability, Professional Indemnity, Public Liability.
- Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage.

- LFA 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

Gaia's Garden - community-built pop-up garden in the City of London:

www.culturemile.london/news/gaias-garden

Fusion Prize

<https://future.london/programme/fusion-prize>

Fusion Futures

<https://future.london/programme/fusion-futures/>

London Festival of Architecture:

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

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Contact

To submit your entry please go [here](#).

For general enquiries please contact: lydia.allainchapman@nla.london

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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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Commissioning organisations



The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) is a month-long celebration of architecture and city-making, taking place every June across London. The Festival's mission is to open up discussions around architecture, test new ideas and promote emerging talent. The Festival brings together the public and built environment professionals for the whole month of June and seeks to inspire and engage our audience with a programme that showcases London as a global architecture hub. LFA 2021 explored the theme of 'care' through a hybrid programme of digital and physical events, inspiring over 400 events across the capital and attracting a global audience of 110,000. Our digital projects attracted over 8,000 views from 64 countries worldwide including Australia, India, the USA, France, Philippines, Kenya, and Taiwan. LFA is run by New London Architecture (NLA), the world's leading centre for the built environment industry.

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

Twitter: @LFArchitecture

Instagram: @LondonFestivalofArchitecture



Led by the City of London Corporation, **Culture Mile** is a learning destination and cultural district that stretches from Farringdon to Moorgate. Culture Mile is working with a range of local businesses and communities to create a vibrant area in the north-west corner of the Square Mile.

Culture Mile – City of London's cultural district

www.culturemile.london

Instagram: @culturemileldn

Twitter: @CultureMileLDN

Facebook: @CultureMileLDN



The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK.

The City of London Corporation

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Twitter: @cityoflondon

Facebook: CityofLondonCorp



Foundation for Future London is an independent charity created to connect communities, the new East Bank and its globally renowned arts, innovation and cultural partners to ensure East Bank is London's must-visit destination and becomes a resilient, thriving, world-class neighbourhood of local and global significance. We're fundraising to expand grant-making opportunities for East Bank communities and partners and facilitating creative placemaking, to support local places, learning, training and employment through arts, education, culture and innovation. Our vision is for a vibrant and inclusive creative East Bank, creating authentic engagement with local people of East London in the boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

Foundation For Future London

www.future.london

Instagram: foundationforfuturelondon

Twitter: @FdnFutureLondon

Facebook: @foundationfuturelondon

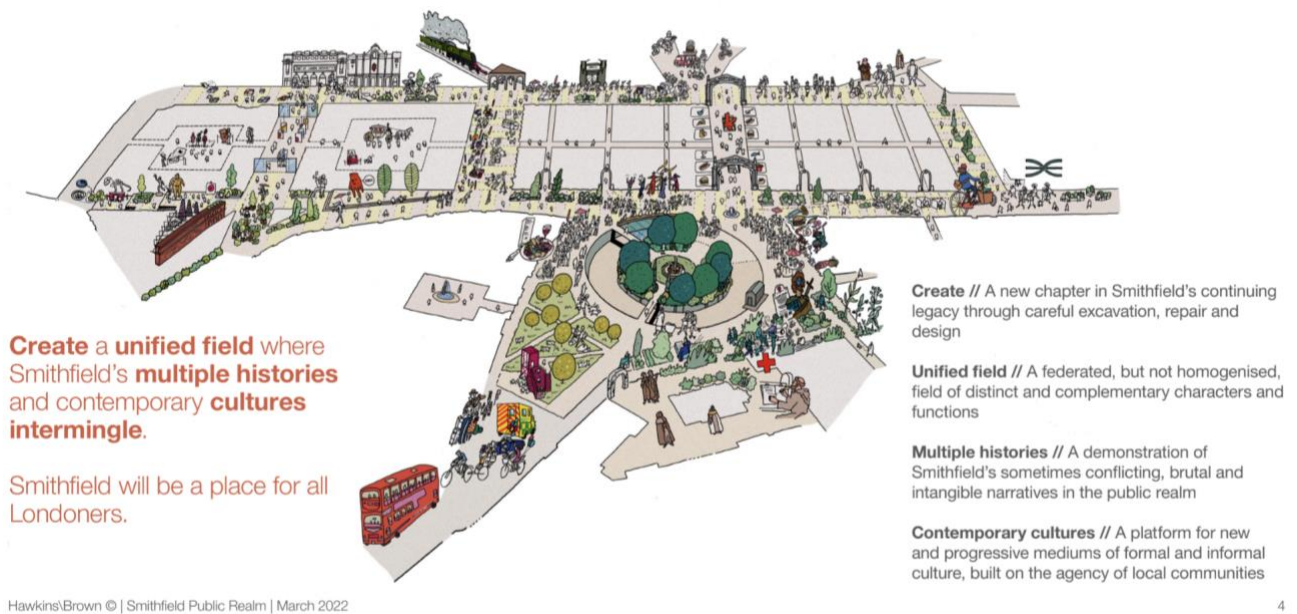
Appendix 1 - Smithfield Public Realm



The Smithfield public realm project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for developing a historic part of the City into an exceptional civic space and new destination for visitors. The project overall will see real transformation of the public realm in the Smithfield area, and will align with other key developments in the area:

- The redevelopment of the General, Annex and Poultry market buildings into the new Museum of London
- The redevelopment of the Central Smithfield Meat Market buildings into a new visitor destination
- The delivery of Culture Mile: a new destination and creative heart of the City, covering the Smithfield and Barbican areas
- The delivery of the City Transport Strategy, which includes a Healthy Streets approach to Smithfield

In order to inform the new public realm designs, the City is undertaking a series of research activities to allow for a thorough understanding of the current area.



Project Vision

Create a unified field where Smithfield's multiple histories and contemporary cultures intermingle. Smithfield will be a place for all Londoners.

Project Objectives

1. Express Smithfield as a unified but diverse cultural district, reflecting its social and spatial legacy as the 'Field'.
2. Maximise car-free areas, making Smithfield permeable, accessible and welcoming for people who are walking or cycling.
3. Maximise opportunities for new trees and soft landscapes.
4. Celebrate the ever-changing civic and cultural activity afforded by the flexibility of Smithfield's streets and spaces.
5. Enhance the setting of Smithfield's heritage assets and amplify the area's multiple narratives.

