

**Artist Brief: Large-scale object mural: Celebrating 25 Years of
Community Partnerships and the People of Leeds****1. Introduction**

Leeds Museums and Galleries are celebrating 25 years of working with communities across Leeds. The culmination of this celebration will be a major exhibition at Leeds City Museum titled, 'It Takes a Community' in October 2026. Several smaller projects will compliment this exhibition, including a mural depicting 10 objects collected and added to Leeds Museums and Galleries' collections through community acquisition. We are looking for an artist to show 'personality' behind the object. Objects could include a high top trainer from the hip hop community, a sketchbook from a whistleblower that fought prejudice and discrimination or a record composed by an award-winning trans artist. Some objects may have reference photographs to their owners, whilst some may require your imagination to develop an identity through historical awareness / research into the community the object represents.

Total fee for the art piece is £1500 – This fee includes all materials. We would be happy to make an early payment instalment to help cover the costs of the materials, if required by the selected artist. Please just let us know if selected.

The Mural dimensions are

Height 200cm

Width 658cm

The Mural is to be created on 6 pieces of 12mm thick plywood (200x122cm). This will be mounted onto existing walls. This wood is already purchased and not subtracted from the artist fee.

The work will need to be created onsite unless the artist has appropriate transport and a location to create the work before installing the work at Leeds City Museum. If the art medium is aerosol, such as spray paint, then the work will have to be completed outside due to health and safety regulations.

Days when the work will be completed can be organised by both the artist and the Leeds City Museum team. Work will need to be completed and installed by 21st September, therefore supporting the wider exhibition installation scheduled to open 1st October.

We have 10 community objects to be depicted as part of the mural, selected by the curatorial team and a panel of community partners.

The mural will be displayed alongside a lead image created by Pinc College students. Pinc College is an Independent Specialist College, offering an inspiring and impactful approach to education and pathways into employment for neurodivergent young

people, aged 16-24 years, and are in location at Leeds City Museum. It is important that the artistic styles are complimentary, so we will be selecting an artist that can do this. The artist will be provided the lead image before creating their final design.

We encourage applications from underrepresented communities, diverse backgrounds and individuals with specific protected characteristics.

We will try to work flexibly to support any artist in their application.

2. Overview

a) Our Organisation

Established in 1821, Leeds Museums & Galleries (LMG) is the largest local authority-run museum service in England and has one of the largest and most significant multidisciplinary collections in the UK. We care for 1.3 million objects which we use to inspire, educate, entertain, and challenge the people of Leeds and visitors to our city. We run nine historic sites and visitor attractions, to which we welcome over one million visitors each year, approximately 25% of all museum visits across Yorkshire.

Our sites:

-Leeds City Museum

Abbey House Museum

Kirkstall Abbey

Leeds Discovery Centre

Lotherton Hall

Temple Newsam

Leeds Industrial Museum

Leeds Art Gallery

b) Project Description

We are looking to recruit an artist to create a large-scale mural. The mural will depict community selected objects that reflect a diverse representation of the people of Leeds across the timescale of Leeds Museums and Galleries' collections that were either

acquired through community collecting or showcase an important area of Leeds communities.

The mural can be illustrative, graphic, abstract or be created from a range of mediums. The design can include the objects themselves or demonstrate how they were used and are represented at the artist's preference and style. We do have particular interest in showing the identity of the people behind the object and therefore at present favour a style that shows the person interacting with the object. This may require using reference materials from Leeds Museums and Galleries to support this, such as our photographic archives and knowledge of the object and its importance.

Please be aware, the selected objects to be represented in the mural will also be mounted on top / alongside the artwork, so please consider this within your design process. Objects will also vary in size, material and colour so this should be considered in how it will impact artwork.

The objects will be mounted in clear Perspex boxes.

Our intention is that Leeds Museums and Galleries photograph the final mural and collect these images. With a view to potentially using them in exhibitions and outreach activities, making them available for research and for use by other groups and organisations (subject to internal procedures).

3: Scope

We are committed to sustainability and ask that artists work with the most environmentally sustainable materials available. For example, as far as is practicable, we ask spray paint-based artists to use alternatives to traditional spray paints such as water-based spray, spray with ecological propellants and carbon-based spray.

We expect the artist to use methods and materials in preparation, delivery and finish which will enable the mural to last at least 9 months in good condition and maximise longevity. The work will be displayed in a public space and although monitored by staffing is open to risk from the public.

4. Considerations

- The fee offered covers the full scope of the project and should include materials, equipment and travel.
- Artists are responsible for the cost and logistics of any equipment and/or permits needed to complete their work.
- The artwork should have the capacity to be replicated digitally to share online to promote the exhibition and Leeds Museums and Galleries' objects. For example

we may take a high quality photograph of the original artwork and share online to promote the exhibition with artist credit.

- The final art piece belongs to Leeds Museums and Galleries after complete artist payment. Leeds Museums and Galleries reserve the right to relocate the artwork to other sites across our service for display, crediting the artist as agreed.

5. Timescales

Artists are expected to manage and communicate scheduling to ensure artwork is completed and ready to install by the 21st of September at Leeds City Museum, in preparation for the exhibition launch on the 1st of October.

A rough design concept will be needed by the 1st of August. All object information to be depicted in the mural will be given to the artist to influence their design concept. Artists can participate in an object handling session with the selected objects with a member of the curatorial team and can take photographs for reference.

The artist must consider in their planning how much time it takes to complete the mural, and the impact of the fee for materials. The budget and timescale are determined by other elements of the project and cannot change.

6. Budget

£1500 - total fee for a design concept and final art piece to specified dimensions.

This fee includes all prep work and time to create a design concept.

Wood for the mural and any reasonable install materials and costs are covered by Leeds Museums and Galleries.

7. Tender instructions

The deadline for return of responses is July 1st at 9am. The submitted tenders will be considered by a panel.

Please submit the following in your response:

- An outline of your creative approach to the project (in the form of pictures/designs/ explanation into how you would create appropriate content)
- An outline of your logistical approach to the project (in the form of a project plan)
- Examples of relevant previous work. Please include 6 images of your work style. This can be large scale artwork / previous murals / sketches.
- Relevant work might include, but is not limited to, projects involving creating art pieces and / or large-scale artwork either internally or externally to a brief.

- Background information on yourself or your organisation and team –
for example, if you have experience creating artwork for creative public spaces.
- Confirmation of your availability to undertake the work.

We do not expect a planned design at this point; this is your opportunity to share with us your artistic style and your ability to develop and deliver a concept.

You should demonstrate:

- That you can meet deadlines and work to a brief: For example, by telling us about previous projects where you have worked to a brief on time. This could be a brief for a BTEC/A Level or University project or a commercial brief
- Good communication
- Understanding and experience of developing relevant content: You could demonstrate this by telling us about a project you have worked on that involved painting physical structures, objects, featured people and movement or incorporated community engagement

Your response can be provided in any of the following formats:

- A written application of up to 1000 words
- A film of up to seven minutes in length
- An audio recording of up to seven minutes in length

We encourage you to send us imagery of your work to showcase your artistic style so that we can imagine how it would work in the exhibition space. We recommend at least 4 images, max 10 images in your application.

Please send an electronic version of your response via email to: sapphia.cunningham-tate@leeds.gov.uk with the subject Community Artist Mural

For questions about the project please contact sapphia.cunningham-tate@leeds.gov.uk

The responses will be scored on a combination of experience and quality. We are committed to diversity and want to hear from practitioners that reflect the population of Leeds.