

Townhall Art Programme

12-month Commission for a Creative Practitioner

1. Context

Lambeth is an exciting and dynamic borough, full of culture and creativity.

The Townhall Art Programme (TAP) reflects Lambeth's commitment to showcasing and sharing our rich heritage, art, and cultural identity.

The programme includes artworks, installations, and events by local contemporary artists who transform Lambeth's Town Hall and Civic centre into vibrant public spaces. By giving local artists and practitioners valuable exposure and recognition, TAP promotes civic engagement, nurtures community pride, and celebrates local talent.

By highlighting Lambeth's distinctive creative identity, TAP establishes Lambeth as a cultural and civic hub, enhancing its influence and prestige both locally and beyond.

You can find examples of previous projects and exhibitions here: [TAP: Town Hall Art Programme - Lambeth \(lambethnow.co.uk\)](https://lambethnow.co.uk/tap-town-hall-art-programme)

2. The Brief

Lambeth Council is looking to appoint an early to mid-career creative practitioner or collective to take up our Lambeth Townhall Art Programme commission. The appointed creative practitioner will take part in a 12-month commission: six months will be for research, development, community engagement and creation of artwork and the other six months will involve an exhibition on display in the Town Hall.

We are looking for creative practitioners who are excited to create artwork that responds to, and is inspired by, the people and stories in the borough of Lambeth, our Town Hall building, and our existing artwork collection.

Applicants must also have a practice that is accessible, inclusive, and environmentally responsive. They must be committed to engaging Lambeth's local communities and support with widening access to contemporary art and heritage for under-represented groups. They should actively familiarise themselves with [Lambeth's Borough Plan](#) and the ambitions within it.

The creative practitioner's practice will be central to the programme and will help develop a cohesive project and final exhibition, which could include a combination of artworks, performances, films, digital media, or sculptures. As part of the process, the successful applicant will be required to engage Lambeth communities, deliver a series of public events and, work with the Business, Culture, and Investment team to evaluate the programme.

The successful applicant will receive support to develop their artistic practice, build new connections, and participate in publicity opportunities.

3. Outputs

The successful practitioner must deliver the following outputs as part of the commission process:

- Produce a body of work, either yours and/or co-created with participants, that is visually engaging and both physically and conceptually accessible to audiences.
- Engage at least 40 people through at least 2 activities or events as part of the development process for the final artwork(s). We expect participants to reflect the full extent of Lambeth's diverse communities.
- Deliver a final exhibition of the artwork which will be displayed in Lambeth's Town Hall for at least six months.
- Curate an event to celebrate the installation of the artwork(s) and opening of the exhibition.
- Create a series of engagement/public programme activities or events during the exhibition that engage at least 100 people and at least 2 Lambeth schools.
- Document and evaluate the creative process to raise the profile of the programme, including producing written, video, and visual material for Lambeth's website, social media, and press releases.
- Manage the project budget and deliver the programme within the agreed timeline.

4. Programme budget

There is a budget of £9,000 for the commission (including artist fee, materials for activities and final output).

You will be required to prepare, manage, and monitor the commission budget with the support of the Culture and Creative Economy Coordinator.

5. Indicative Timeline

The year-long commission will last 12 months from November 2024 until September 2025.

There is some flexibility to the timeline, and we will develop it with the appointed creative practitioner.

Tuesday 27 August 2024	Open call announced
Friday 20 September 2024 at 12pm	Deadline for submissions
w/c 14 October 2024	Shortlisted applicants invited to interview
w/c 21 or 28 October 2024	Interviews with shortlisted applicants
November 2024 – April 2025	First 6 months: Research, development, and community engagement period
May 2025 – October 2025	Second 6 months: Exhibition opens and public programme period.
November 2025	Final evaluation due

6. Eligibility

Applicants must: -

- Have a strong connection to the London Borough of Lambeth, for example being from or working in the borough.
- Be an early to mid-career creative practitioner or collective working in any artistic discipline (please see below for more detail)
- Be interested in making work that responds to or is inspired by Lambeth through directly working with local communities.
- Have experience in developing and delivering participatory activities.
- Have the ability to think and plan creatively and strategically.
- Have excellent organisational skills and the ability to manage multiple priorities.
- Be willing to be DBS checked.
- Be available to fully participate in a 12-month commission process.
- Be a UK resident and be registered with HMRC as self-employed.

Early career is at the beginning of your career. You may still be in art school or recently graduated and have yet to create a large body of work, exhibit or receive a commission. Normally up to 3-years of professional experience.

Mid-career is further along in your career. You may have exhibited publicly or have received a few commissions but have not exhibited extensively nationally or internationally. Normally up to 5 years of experience.

7. How to Apply

There will be a two-stage approach to the application process.

1. An initial online application
2. Interview with shortlisted applicants

To apply for the commission, please fill out an online application form: [Townhall Art Commission Application Form](#)

Applications can be submitted in written format or video/voice recording.

Stage 1:

You will be required to fill in our online form. The form will ask you to provide information about yourself and answer five primary questions about your suitability to take part in the programme.

The five main questions are:

- 1. Tell us about you and your work including your creative practice, ambitions and any projects or experience you feel are relevant to your application.**
- 2. Briefly explain what you would like to do for this year-long commission, how you will relate the commission to Lambeth's borough plan and ensure that the outputs are representative of Lambeth.**
- 3. Explain how this opportunity will benefit your research, artistic development, and practice.**

4. Share how you intend to work and engage with Lambeth communities during this opportunity.

5. Provide a brief overview of how you would spend the budget.

There is a word limit of 300 words per question if submitting a written answer, or five minutes per recording if submitting an audio or video file. You will be given the option to choose how to respond at the relevant section of the form

Deadline for applications: **Friday 20 September 2024 by midday.**

The shortlisted applicant will be informed by the middle of October.

Selection Process:

The answers provided in the form will be reviewed and evaluated by Lambeth officers and each question will be scored from 1 to 5. The highest scoring applications will be invited to stage two of the process.

Score	Rating	Description
0	No Response	Failed to address the questions and brief.
1	Unacceptable	Response is not relevant to the brief and the response suggest that there is a lack of ability to successfully deliver.
2	Poor	Less than acceptable. The response/answer/information lacks convincing evidence that the proposal is relevant to the brief and the individual will be able to deliver.
3	Acceptable	Acceptable response/answer/information shows relevance to the brief and evidence has been given of ability to deliver.
4	Good	Above acceptable – response/answer/information has clear relevance to the brief and compelling evidence has been given of ability to deliver.
5	Excellent	Excellent – response/answer/information has clear relevance to the brief and shows a strong understanding of outputs. Response indicates the individual will add real value to the engagement and will be able to respond to the needs of Lambeth.

Stage 2:

We will invite up to 5 shortlisted practitioners to interview. As part of the interview process, we intend to:

- Find out a bit more about you.
- Give you the opportunity to expand on your answers in your application.
- Present up to 2 previous projects and work.
- For you to ask us any questions about the commission.

All questions and preparation guidelines will be sent in advance of interviews.

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If you have any questions about the commission or application process, please email culture@lambeth.gov.uk