

CREATIVE BRIEF: ARTIST LED ENGAGEMENT FOR TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

WALWORTH LIBRARY AND SOUTHWARK HERITAGE CENTRE

SEPTEMBER 2019

Southwark Council is looking to commission an artist led community engagement process to create a temporary exhibition to open the borough's new library and heritage centre. The commission is open to individuals, consultancies or consortia bids. The engagement and exhibition is to focus on the subject of representing Southwark's diversity and discover connections between place, individuals and communities today with those of Southwark's past. There is the opportunity for co – curation and content creation within the temporary exhibition that will be on display for 12 months.

We want the temporary exhibition to excite, impress, empower and open minds. It needs to be inclusive of Southwark's diverse communities and reach out to a wide audience. It must be of a high quality with the potential for new content to be added to the borough's heritage collection.

The borough's art, museum, Cuming and Archive collections are available to inspire and contribute to the exhibition development and display.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Southwark Council is investing in a new library and heritage centre to celebrate the histories and stories of the borough. It will be located on Walworth Road, near Elephant and Castle. The library and heritage centre will both have discrete space within the premise but the facility will be physically integrated and designed with a coherent look and feel.

The vision for the Walworth Library and Southwark Heritage Centre is to create a new modern facility, which delivers a high quality visitor experience. We want to create a sense of belonging for all combined with amazement and intrigue. It is a chance to inspire with fascinating stories about Southwark, its people and objects from our collections. We want to encourage lots of new people to this unique place and re-connect with past users.

This facility brings exciting opportunities to increase access to the Southwark collections and extend the context of both the heritage and library service. The integrated facility can explore different ways of presenting information, learning and engaging and thus provide a unique resource for Southwark's diverse communities. The space is to be welcoming, flexible, democratic, comfortable and safe. It will reflect the uniqueness of Southwark and promote inclusivity and participation.

The space available for the temporary exhibit is approximately 50m² with potential for a showcase moment close to the entrance.

The delivery timeline for the facility is programmed for completion Summer 2020 and the development of the temporary exhibit will work alongside the design of the facility.

Related Policy

Southwark Libraries and Heritage Strategy

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries/southwark-libraries-and-heritage-strategy>

Culture Strategy

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage/creative-southwark/about-creative-southwark/cultural-strategy>

Collections Research

There are 10's of thousands of objects in Southwark's collection with a considerable amount available digitally <http://heritage.southwark.gov.uk/>

NB Interior architectural design and layout of the facility is undertaken by others. This appointment is for engagement, content creation and exhibition curation and will require a strong interface with the project architects to insure complementary outcomes.

Key to the success of the content and exhibition development will be close working with the existing Southwark curator and borough archivist using their knowledge and experience to successfully deliver the exhibition. We are looking for someone who can work with staff, community stakeholders and other consultants involved in the delivery of the facility.

OPENING TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

Vision: The opening temporary exhibition should connect the community with Southwark's heritage through sharing stories, community participation and new content development. The exhibition will be representative of the diverse Southwark community and speak to all. It should use a range of communication and display methods to engage, inform and inspire visitors and encourage them to return with their friends and family.

The commission is to:

- Explore and determine the narrative of the exhibit around the theme of 'diversity: our connections with the past'
- Involve different representative groups and or individuals within the Southwark community to co-curate and develop tangible content
- Create a quality exhibition that is relevant and intriguing to a wide audience
- Encourage ongoing dialogue through audience response to the exhibition
- Complement the uses and activity within the new facility.

Exhibition Objectives

- Varied, interesting and interactive experiences and presentation accessible by all
- Legible content and layout
- Allows for smooth customer circulation avoiding congestion
- A cohesive exhibition design including environmental conditions and lighting if required
- Creates opportunities for people to respond

BUDGET

Southwark Council is allowing up to £35,000 for fees related to the exhibition development, community engagement, interpretation, fabrication and installation. We would encourage and support external fundraising if additional budget is required.

EXPERIENCE & KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

If you are interested leading this exciting project please apply with an outline of your approach to the brief above and engagement process. Please include information regarding your skills, experience and knowledge in the following areas. Your application should not exceed 4 A4 pages excluding your project examples.

Concept development

Experience of delivering artist led community engagement and co-curating projects within a local community. Ideally some knowledge of London and Southwark history.

Research skills

Ability to research histories, collections, film archives, oral history sources and picture archives

Delivery to deadline

Strong project delivery focus, experience of working within a project environment. (Self starter etc).

Stakeholder management

Experience of working to multiple stakeholders, diplomacy, holding their own etc.

Recent examples

Provide 3 examples of relevant recent projects delivered to a similar scale and scope as the Temporary exhibition for the new Walworth Library and Heritage Centre

CV's of any personnel working on the project and their role for this project

Fee basis

Please break your fees down into the following and provide designated hours for each stage and total fixed fee. This schedule is based on a late October appointment.

Task/Outputs	Hours	Total
Project and heritage research		
Proposal development and sign off		
Community Engagement Plan		
ID Community Engagement participants		
Temporary exhibition space specification with lead designers		
Client sign off November 2019		
Outline exhibition concept and interpretation plan based on the brief		

provided and community engagement		
Southwark Collections Object selection (if required) and display requirements		
Client sign off January 2019		
In conjunction with community participants and main designers: Detailed exhibition design, interpretation text and visuals, final object selection		
Client sign off February 2020		
Full specification package including requirements for display equipment and IT		
Client sign off March 2020		
Exhibition fabrication and installation		
Complete July 2020 installation to be determined within fit-out schedule		

Please note any sub consultants required and their role noting associated costs

Evaluation will be a 60:40 Quality/Price against the following

- Relevant experience
- Innovation and creativity
- Approach/methodology
- Stakeholder management
- Research skills
- Written skills for a range of audiences

Responses should be sent by email to jillian.houghton@southwark.gov.uk by noon 14 October 2019. Please note that Southwark has a 10mb limit for receiving documents.

Those successfully shortlisted would need to be available for interview on 18 October 2019.