

Royal Docks Public Art Series

The Pump House Mural Opportunity

Help us to make an iconic creative landmark in the Royal Docks.

The Royal Docks Team, Hive Curates and Projekt invite applications from artists or creative studios to create a mural launching Spring 2025 on a new work and event space, The Pump House, next to Royal Victoria DLR. Working with local communities, the artist should draw inspiration from the theme of Transformation in the context of the surrounding areas and celebrate the untold stories and diasporic cultures of the Royal Docks.

Once the largest enclosed docks in the world, the Royal Docks is fast becoming London's Cultural Engine – a vibrant centre of creative production. Together we hope the mural will be an opportunity to create a new landmark that the community will be proud of, forming a gateway and welcome point to the thousands of people using the Royal Victoria DLR.

Marking 'six months to go' and positioned at an entry point to the Royal Victoria dockside area, this mural will set the tone and demonstrate the ambition for Royal Docks Originals 2025.

Lasting beyond the Festival, the mural will make a creative landmark that the community will be proud of, forming a gateway and welcome point to the thousands of people using the Royal Victoria DLR.

The artist Fee is £7,500.

Deadline for Expression of Interest: 5th September 2024 midday.

We aim to make our application process as accessible as possible. We encourage applications from all artists and studios and if you require any assistance with your application or would like to submit in a different format please contact us directly by email via hello@hivecurates.com.

Background

Royal Docks was built over 100 years ago, at a time of industrial revolution and British colonial trading, the Royal Docks played a pivotal role in London's growth as a global city. Today the area is shaping the city's fortunes once again, but now standing as a beacon for more sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth. Through the cultural public art series the area's artists, creatives, and communities will explore its past and future through the lens of Transformation.

[The Royal Docks](#) team has commissioned [Hive Curates](#) to curate and produce a series of public art works for Royal Docks Originals 2025. With development work spanning eighteen months, the public art series includes this mural as a forerunner to set the tone of the Royal Docks Originals 2025 Festival as well as marking the main entry point attendees. RDO 2024-25 public art series will unveil new commissions in the public realm that characterise the identity of Royal Docks people and place. Within the wider festival theme of Transformation, the public art series seeks to explore the areas of:

1. **Flow and Transition**; artist's reflection on Royal Docks heritage and the transforming landscape.
2. **Decolonisation and Reclamation**; working together as communities to reimagine our public realm.
3. **Equilibrium**; exploring our connection to nature and our role as environmental stewards.

Royal Docks Team is a multidisciplinary team that was established in 2017 to help deliver the cohesive transformation of the Royal Docks into a vibrant, mixed-use destination with culture and community at its heart. www.royaldocks.london/

Hive Curates champion the development of an artist's career, creating opportunities to transform our everyday environments. Our work includes commissioning public art, delivering cultural programmes and producing light festivals.

Artist Brief

Hive Curates and Royal Docks Team are looking to commission an artist or creative studio to create a mural in a new work and event space next to Royal Victoria Dock DLR, The Pump House. The mural seeks to create a legacy for the Royal Docks area and will be widely promoted in the lead up to the unveiling of the wider public art series in 2025.

We are looking for artist's reflections on the Royal Docks past, present and future. The public artwork should explore themes of transition, reflecting the surrounding areas and its local communities. Together we hope the artwork will spark ideas of change and create a sense of

arrival at Royal Victoria Dock DLR. The overarching theme for the public art series Royal is 'Transformation', for this opportunity artists could explore one of the sub themes; flow and transition tying to the proximity of The Pump House, the surrounding waterways and the movement of people through the Royal Victoria Docks station.

The appointed artist(s) must deliver community engagement activities with selected community groups who will be revealed at Stage 2 to shortlisted artists. Hive has already made connections and can facilitate an engagement activity. Shortlisted artists will be asked to specify how they intend to deliver community engagement with the identified community groups. This could include mentoring opportunities, school engagement, workshops with community groups, surveys or polls or co-creation.

Stage 1: Deadline 5th September 2024 midday.

For the Expression of Interest stage, we are looking for artists to register their interest in the Open Call. Please fill out the short form and include relevant examples from your portfolio. In addition please describe in 300 words (max) how you might approach the mural.

Stage 2: Deadline 1st October 2024 (£300 fee for 3 shortlisted artists)

Shortlisted artists will be selected to develop their ideas further, creating a proposal that takes into consideration The Pump House, a response to the artist's brief and ideas for community engagement that are relevant to local groups at Royal Docks. At this stage we would expect an artwork proposal with a more informed concept specific to the area.

Context

Built in 1912, the Pumping Station adjacent to The Pump House building is a key infrastructure facility serving to impound water from the River Thames helping to maintain the water level within the docks. The station impounds water from the River Thames at Gallions Reach using pumps weighing c.17 tonnes, each having a flow capacity of 7150 liters a second through 70-inch pipes.

The mural will go onto the facade of Projekt's latest building in the Royal Docks, a new three floored affordable work and event space which will be launched in July 2024.

[Projekt](#) provides high-quality, mixed-use, affordable space for businesses, events, artists, designers and creative SMEs in the UK. It currently operates over a million square feet of workspace and event space throughout London and beyond, and supports in excess of 400 creative businesses.

Projekts' sites in The Royal Docks include: The Factory x Beams - a partnership with Broadwick on an expansive centre for arts and culture, The Silver Building, which along with 60,000 sqft of creative workspace, houses London's newest cultural indoor and outdoor venue '60 Dock Road', operated by the award-winning events organisation The Cause, Brunel Street Project in Canning Town and the film and TV production location ASD – E16.

Projekt has a network of over 6,000 creative enterprises, from individual artists to established cultural organisations, and works with landowners to secure long term creative and cultural space within the capital.

Guidelines

Artwork must take into consideration the context of Projekt's The Pump House which will be an operational creative workspace from July 2024.

The main wall is approx: **14.5m wide x 10.5m high**

However we welcome proposals which playfully celebrate the architectural features of the building and explore using additional facades on adjacent walls.

Eligibility

At this stage we're welcoming Expressions of Interest (EOI) from visual artists and collectives who have experience working with communities. We particularly encourage applications from artists with a practice in the Royal Docks or the wider borough of Newham.

Three applications will be shortlisted and these artists will be given a stipend of £300 to help develop their proposals in more detail. The artist doesn't necessarily need to be experienced in delivering murals as a production partner can help facilitate the installation and delivery of the mural. Hive Curates will also provide support throughout the commissioning process.

Artist Fee

3x Shortlisted Artists Fee: £300 to develop proposal

Appointed Artist Fee: £7,500 inclusive of expenses.

Please note there is a separate budget to cover installation of the mural, materials and access equipment. Support will be provided by the Hive Curates team to facilitate the production.

**If you would like to enquire more about production budget or support please contact us directly.*

Timeline

The appointed artist should be available to undertake the scope of works between October 2024 to April 2025 with the installation and launch of the mural week commencing 8th April 2025.

Milestone	Timeline 2024
EOI Artist Brief goes live	24th July 2024
Deadline for clarification questions	22nd August 2024
Deadline for EOI applications (Stage 1)	5th September 2024
Deadline for final applications (Stage 2)	1st October 2024
Shortlisting and interviews	7th - 18th October 2024
Artist selected and contract shared	21st October 2024
Community engagement delivered	November 2024 - January 2025
Design development with curators and producers.	January - February 2025
First draft design shared with the working team.	w/c 24th February 2025
Final design to be presented to the working team as a digital vector.	31st March 2025
Mural Installation. Launch event to coincide with 6 months to go for RDO 25.	w/c 8th April 2025

How to Apply

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

To apply for this Open Call - EOI please complete the [form attached](#) using the link by **12:00 BST on 5th September 2024**. Three shortlisted artists will be selected by the RDO Team and Hive Curates before the final artist will be appointed by a panel formed of the RDO Team, Hive Curates and other community or project stakeholders.

Stage 2: Artist Development

Should you be appointed to develop your proposal further we will assist you in researching information about the local community groups and partner organisations. We want your Stage 2 developed proposals to display an understanding of what makes up the fabric of the Royal Docks, by submitting a proposal for how the artwork will connect to local communities.

You will be required to complete a form at this stage which will be provided to you once shortlisted for development.

Deadline for final applications: **1st October 2024 (12:00 BST)**

We aim to make our application process as accessible as possible. We encourage applications from all artists and studios and if you require any assistance with your application or would like to submit in a different format please contact us directly by email via hello@hivecurates.com.