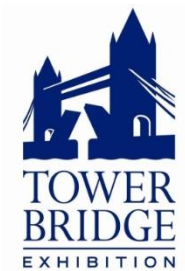




## **Department of Culture, Heritage and Libraries**

### **Brief for Artist in Residence at Tower Bridge**



## 1. Introduction

Tower Bridge is a familiar sight to millions across the globe. To many people, it is an icon; an internationally understood shorthand for London and the UK. It may also be seen as a feat of Victorian engineering, or as an example of High Victorian Gothic architecture. To 40,000 commuters daily it is a functional means of getting from A to B, part of the fabric of their everyday, seen but unnoticed.

An Artist in Residence, their process, public engagement activities and the resulting artwork(s), will cause this familiarity to be challenged. These new ways of seeing will start conversations, give cause to pause and reflect on the Bridge, and on what it means and represents to individuals.

This Residency will have public engagement at its heart. As such, we are seeking an artist with strong experience in developing and delivering workshops for schools, families and community groups.

## 2. Objectives

Our overarching objective as part of the City of London is “to increase the outreach and impact of the City’s cultural, heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation.” More locally, our mission as a place of learning is “to enthuse, inform and inspire learners through the exploration of Tower Bridge’s history, purpose, engineering, architecture and people.”

Through this Residency, we aim to:

- Increase and diversify public engagement with the Bridge by exploring new ways of seeing
- Establish new ways of providing meaningful learning experiences for school and community groups, including the opportunity for participants to work with and learn from a professional artist
- Increase local engagement with the Bridge – through targeted projects as well as through more general dissemination of artistic outputs
- Increase staff engagement by giving cause to pause and reflect on the Bridge they work in and are key to engaging the public with every day
- Support contemporary artistic practice

## 3. Focus

In 2015 we developed a three year interpretive strategy for Tower Bridge Exhibition. This strategy identified six key themes, which we feel will help the Bridge, its story and its people ‘sing’ to our visitors. For this Residency, we invite visual artists to respond to either one or both of the following statements, which are included in our Interpretation Strategy:

- Beauty or beast, Tower Bridge is a living showpiece of Victorian art and architecture
- Tower bridge remains a poignant symbol of historical and modern Britain and London

We welcome submissions from all types of visual artists.

#### 4. Scope of work

We wish to appoint a visual artist, with a strong background in school and community engagement to be resident c. 2.5 days per week, between 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The distribution of days per week may be subject to negotiation between the successful artist and the Tower Bridge team.

During the course of this Residency the Artist will be required to:

- Create a new artwork(s) which will be displayed at Tower Bridge following the Residency.
- Develop and deliver a series of four workshops with at least one school group, with support from the Tower Bridge Learning team as appropriate, which enable students to complete Arts Award Discover. The recruitment of the school will be led by the Tower Bridge Learning team.
- Develop and deliver a workshop with one community group. The recruitment of the community group will be led by the Tower Bridge learning team.
- Develop and deliver 1x public family learning activity on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with support from the Tower Bridge Learning team as appropriate.
- Participate in any associated publicity activities and work within the scope of the operational, political and commercial requirements/restrictions of Tower Bridge as an operational service, an international icon and a paid visitor attraction.

Tower Bridge will provide:

- One day per week of studio space
- Support from the Tower Bridge Learning team
- Public forum for display of newly created, and related, artwork(s)
- Material costs

#### 5. Residency structure

This project is led by the Learning team at Tower Bridge. Your main contact will be:

Natalie Cain                      Education Officer

Should you have any further questions regarding this brief or if you would like to arrange a site visit, please contact:

Natalie Cain  
Education Officer      Tower Bridge and The Monument  
Tel: 020 7940 3973  
Email: [natalie.cain@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.cain@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

#### 6. Timeframe

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deadline for tender submission	4th December 2016
Interviews	Week beginning 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Familiarisation visit	Week beginning 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Residency begins	Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Residency ends	31st March 2017

## 7. Budget

Artist's fee: £7000 for 28 days Residency, from January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. This is inclusive of travel costs, but exclusive of material costs.

Separate budgets will be available for:

- A production budget of £3500
- Associated costs of school and community engagement activity
- Evaluation
- Exhibition

## 8. Selection criteria

We are seeking an artist who:

- Has a strong, proven track record of planning and delivering workshops with school groups
- Has a strong, proven track record of planning and delivering workshops with community groups
- Ability to work to schedule and within budget
- Who can demonstrate a passion for the artistic inspiration which Tower Bridge can provide
- Experience of delivering Arts Award Discover is desirable, but not essential
- The successful artist will be required to undergo a DBS check

## 9. Returning your submission

Your tender should contain the following elements:

- Your proposed response to the focus point(s) outlined in section 3, you're your method statement – in particular, please include your initial ideas for how you would like to work with a school and a community group
- Examples of relevant previous work or projects
- Two references

The **deadline for the return of your proposal is 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 17.00**. We are looking to appoint an artist by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Please return tenders to: [natalie.cain@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.cain@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

If required, interviews will take place at:

Tower Bridge Offices  
Tower Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 2UP