



# Kingston Sculpture Trail

## **Call for Entries: Kingston Sculpture Trail**

### **18 March 2021**

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK) has a long and proud tradition of supporting the arts and culture. Visitors can find many examples in and around the historic town centre, from the Anglo-Saxon Coronation Stone (c.900 AD) and our iconic red phone box sculpture 'Out of Order' by David Mach RA (1989). You will also find Carole Hodgson FRSS's wonderful wall-based sculpture in the underground car park (1986) as well as Lloyd Le Blanc's Flock of Mallard Ducks (2001), sited alongside our enchanting stretch of the Thames.

In partnership, The Canbury Community Trust, Kingston Council, Kingston First and Kingston University are looking to create an exciting and innovative sculpture trail, to encourage residents and visitors to explore its historic town centre, green spaces and attractive riverside.

The Kingston Sculpture Trail is looking to introduce six new temporary, individual, contemporary sculptures/artworks that can be safely publicly sited or, where appropriate, created in situ.

#### **Who is eligible to submit an entry?**

Anyone is invited to submit an entry and we also welcome entries from Kingston University, the Royal Society of Sculptors and our many talented Kingston-based artists. The partnership wishes to create a unique experience for both visitors and residents. Submissions will be open to professional and part-time artists.

We invite interested artists to put forward a proposal for a place on the trail, which might be either a free-standing sculpture or, an artwork fabricated in situ.

The partnership will pay all reasonable costs for transportation, installation, insurance, and promotion and marketing for all six selected artworks, up to a maximum of £1000 per item. We are not expecting artists to contribute to these costs.

#### **Location of trail**

The Sculpture Trail will run across the town centre including the riverside and Canbury Gardens, North of the town centre, taking in both existing publicly sited artworks and, our proposed new six Kingston sculpture trail artworks. Applicants are invited to suggest a location for their work around Kingston town centre, however, the final locations will be allocated by the selection committee. Subject to the relevant COVID-19 restrictions successful applicants will be invited for a site visit to review potential locations or to review the proposed site.

Publicly sited artworks should be ready to place on a hard service and designed to discourage theft or vandalism.



# Kingston Sculpture Trail

## Permanent artwork

Artworks must be available initially for loan to Kingston First, free of charge, for a maximum of 6 months from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. They must be suitable for outdoor display for the duration of this time. A condition report may be requested as part of the loan agreement.

In a true and welcome spirit of local democracy we will invite our residents and visitors to vote for their favourite artwork and the artwork achieving the most votes will be purchased by the partnership to remain sited in perpetuity in the town centre, reaffirming our commitment to supporting art and artists while encouraging its residents to join them in a celebration of all that this unique town has to offer. Please note that the winning sculpture will not necessarily be placed permanently in the same places as its original display.

The purchase prize for the final winning artwork, as voted by the residents of Kingston, will be capped at £10,000 (see below). This entire amount will be allocated to the winning artist, with all other costs for transportation, marketing, installation etc. funded from the project budget. This artwork will be kept in perpetuity by the Royal Borough of Kingston. All other selected and exhibited artworks will be returned to the artists at the project's expense.

## What we need from you

- Photographic documentation of the proposed pre-existing artwork to be sited, including costings for transportation, fabrication materials, dimension specifications etc.
- Detailed design drawings or maquettes of the proposed sculpture to be fabricated, including costings for transportation, fabrication materials to be used, dimension specifications etc.
- Detailed drawings and proposals of any site-specific based fabrication, what materials might be used and how this could involve our local students and/or residents in its production.
- Details of how to fabricate, install and de-install works providing all necessary information for a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS)

And the following:

- Artist sale price to the town for a maximum of £10,000
- Application should be sent to [sculpturetrail@kingstonfirst.co.uk](mailto:sculpturetrail@kingstonfirst.co.uk)

## Deadlines for applications

The deadline for submission of project proposals is **5pm Friday 30 April**, proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

## Criteria for shortlisting

We wish to create a unique sculpture trail, consisting of artworks of the highest quality, that push the boundaries of publicly sited art. They will complement our existing extensive and original portfolio of sculptures and wall-based art. All entries will be carefully considered by our selection committee who will be looking at entries against the following criteria:



- Evidence of artistic originality, merit and the quality of your practice and ability to deliver the project.
- Evidence of the relevance and suitability of artist's work to the town centre and adjacent riverside landscapes.
- A willingness to actively engage with the public at all age levels, in relation to their artwork. This may, for example, include workshops and artists talks.
- An ability to produce a plan for installation, understanding that sculptures/artworks will be free standing, wall based or created in situ
- A willingness to engage in any PR related activity to promote the project at all stages, including personal attendance at a potential high profile launch event. Details to follow.

We want to work with you to achieve something unique and special for visitors to our town and we will support, help and guide you as much as we are able to. We very much look forward to receiving your applications to our project.

The partnership's wider community engagement programme is hoping to include educational activities such as art workshops, sculpture trail tours and participating artist talks. Communication students from Kingston School of Art (Kingston University) will utilise all contemporary marketing tools to publicise the trail making content available through QR coding, social media and all relevant platforms in order to increase the reach and engagement to as wide an audience as possible.

### **Notes**

1. The proposed activity must be your own original work and that of your collaborators if you are working in partnership with other artists.
2. All intellectual property in the applicant's work will remain with and belong to the individual applicant artist.
3. The partnership reserves the right to create a digital record of the activity, which may be used as evidence of completion and to promote the project on our website. The artist will be credited for the artwork and receive a copy of any such material.
4. The partnership reserves the right to publicise and promote the funded project, including individual profiles of the artists, artwork content and project summaries.
5. Successful applicants will be required to actively promote their project, be available for interviews and participate in related press/media activities or launches (under Government guidelines for COVID19 as applicable).
6. With regards to data protection, the partnership will use each entrant's personal details for the purpose of administering this application. Any data about you will be held securely with access restricted to those involved in dealing with our application in the selection process. Your application will be kept on file for a maximum of six months and then destroyed in a confidential manner.
7. Any costs incurred when putting together your application are the responsibility of the applicant.
8. Any expenditure incurred or committed before any award is made is the responsibility of the applicant.



## Kingston Sculpture Trail

9. Selection of the projects remains the decision of The partnership, whose decision is final. There will be no recourse to appeal if applications have not been successful. The partnership regrets it will be unable to supply individual feedback on unsuccessful applications.
10. This is an exciting, rare and unique opportunity and we hope that, where possible, interested artists will visit the borough and town centre to view potential sites, including this research in their final project proposal.

Bon Chance!

For more information please visit <https://www.kingstonfirst.co.uk/sculpture-trail/>

## **BACKGROUND FOR ARTISTS**

### **KINGSTON UPON THAMES LOCAL INFLUENCES**

#### **KINGSTON TOWN CENTRE CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND ASSETS**

Public Art could consider building physical and cultural bridges with the creative community such as Fusion Arts in Eden Street, Kingston Artists Open Studios (a collective of professional local artists), the Rose Theatre in the High Street and Creative Youth a local charity that will take up residence in the Undercroft where the foundations for the medieval bridge are preserved, underneath the John Lewis building. This space will become a 'Factory of Futures' for young creatives to programme and innovate.

Kingston's origins are therefore based on commerce and innovation - from Roman through to medieval times. More contemporary heritage includes aircraft manufacture. The site of the Hawker Siddeley aircraft factory is located to the north of the town centre.

Kingston has a rich music heritage, and many musicians and artists have their roots in Kingston and Kingston School of Art. Nipper Alley commemorates the burial site of 'Nipper' - the little dog made famous by HMVs His Master's Voice logo. Banquet Records is a significant presence in the cultural life of the town centre. A much-loved music promoter and record store, Banquet Records secures A list bands to play more intimate gigs in Kingston at All Saints Church in the Market Place, The Fighting Cocks and Pryzm Nightclub.

Kingston Museum's Eadweard Muybridge archive is due to be relocated to Town House, Kingston University in summer 2021 to preserve the work of this pioneering Victorian photographer and to provide better public access to the collection. Although Muybridge is a controversial figure, he brings together the world of art and science and his influence can be seen and interpreted in contemporary culture today. Kingston Museum & Art Gallery and Kingston Library on Wheatfield Way occupy another site due for significant regeneration.

The 'Coronation Stone' reputedly used in the crowning of seven Saxon Kings (adjacent to the medieval Clattern Bridge), is located on the high street in the grounds of the Guildhall complex.

The location of the Eden Campus on the Hogsmill river on its own 'green' island, and its association with trade and industry, is mirrored in the location of the Stanley Picker Gallery, also located on an 'island' where a coconut mill once stood. Both sites are connected along the Hogsmill river by a footpath used by local residents and university students.

The riverside from Canbury Gardens to Seething Wells Filter beds has a particularly rich history. Canbury Gardens once hosted the Green Fair. The first fair was held in 1987 to promote and celebrate green thinking and was at the forefront of the environmental movement.

Walking along the riverfront, other notable sites include the entrances to the medieval alleyways such as King's Passage, Eagle Brewery Wharf (site of Fricker's Eagle Brewery) and southwards along the Queen's promenade towards Seething Wells Filter beds. The



## Kingston Sculpture Trail

filter beds and Lambeth Waterworks played a significant role in providing clean water to Soho and defeating cholera through the work of epidemiologist Dr John Snow.

Balletboyz and the Stanley Picker Gallery are both Arts Council England-funded National Portfolio Organisations and are located in close proximity to the town centre. Balletboyz moved from Sadlers Wells to develop their own dance studios, located in Canbury Park Road in an ex-aviation factory. They are one of the most original and innovative forces in contemporary dance - blending film and movement to create a different audience experience.

From its island location on the Hogsmill river, Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University is dedicated to commissioning and curating contemporary art and design practice, through a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and participation activities staged onsite, offsite and online. The Stanley Picker Fellowships support contemporary artists and designers to create ambitious new work and have supported two Turner Prize-winning artists.

The Rose Theatre is also situated on the Hogsmill. Its layout is based upon the original Elizabethan Rose Theatre in London. The theatre is evolving its artistic offer with modern adaptations of theatre and literary classics, alongside supporting more experimental work showcasing diverse and emerging talent. Supported by Kingston Council the theatre is developing its offer as a cultural hub for the community and will play a vital role in the regeneration of the town centre.

Bordering Richmond Park, Dorich House Museum at Kingston University is the former studio home of sculptor Dora Gordine and her husband the Hon. Richard Hare, a scholar of Russian art and literature. Now Grade II-listed, the building was completed in 1936, to Gordine's design, and is an exceptional example of a modern studio house created by and for a female artist.

Each year the town centre and marketplace host a variety of annual cultural events from Kingston Carnival and the Korean Harvest Festival to the International Youth Arts Festival.

### **WIDER INFLUENCES**

Kingston's BAME population will grow from 32.5% to 36% by 2021. The borough is home to Europe's largest Korean population. Second and third generation Koreans are culturally active and organisations like the Korean British Cultural Exchange and the Korean Residents Association organise a range of events to build cultural bridges with the wider community - celebrating their heritage through the arts and food culture. We are also home to a significant south Asian community - reflected in established organisations like the Gujarati School and the Institute for Tamil Culture. Kingston Museum is interested in how to represent this history of migration to reflect the significant contribution different cultures have made to the borough.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will the partnership pay for installation costs?**

The partnership will contribute up to £1,000 for the delivery, installation and removal of the artwork. Depending on location we may be able to provide assistance with transportation.

### **Will I be guaranteed to be able to site my artwork in my preferred location?**

Unfortunately, this will not be possible as the location will be determined by the panel, but where possible we will consider the location preferences provided by the artists.

### **Will I be expected to provide a detailed and costed plan for installation?**

Yes, we would expect that you provide a detailed cost to ensure that it meets the guidance above.

### **My work is freestanding will I be invited to supervise installation and siting of my work.**

Yes, you will be invited to supervise the installation.

### **Will I be expected to make a formal, personal, presentation to the panel?**

If shortlisted the panel will want to meet you – given the current restrictions this may be virtually.

### **Will someone from the panel show me around the town centre and potential sites.**

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID restrictions, this may not be possible. If, however, lockdown rules change then a member of the team would be able to show you round. In the meantime, we have provided a number of photographs of the borough and there is a pretty good coverage of the town.

### **Is there a 'map' of current artworks I can have.**

Yes, there is and can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Will the panel be responsible for publicising my work and if so how?**

The publicity will be run through Kingston First and Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames council, however, we would expect artists to also contribute to the marketing and publicity by use of their own channels (e.g., social media, websites and newsletters). You may also be invited to join publicity events during the trail timeline.

### **Will there be a private view or launch of the project?**

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions we aim to have a launch event – details to follow<sup>1</sup>

### **In the event that the public of Kingston vote to have my work purchased when would I expect to receive the funds**

The purchase funds will be released within 28 days of the final decision.

### **Will there be an opportunity to meet the other artists taking part?**

Subject to COVID-19 Restrictions we would expect this to happen at the launch event.

---

<sup>1</sup> Subject to COVID-19 Restrictions