



## ***Exploring Polish heritage through storytelling, folklore and craft***

### **CPP Hounslow**

#### **Artist Brief**

We are inviting submissions from artists or collectives to propose a series of artworks for an exhibition in Autumn 2025. The works will form a creative response to a project exploring the role of storytelling, folklore and craft in understanding Polish heritage in the UK. The works can be made in any medium but will be exhibited in locations of high footfall.

This commission will form part of a wider project exploring these themes. The works produced will need to respond to output and discussion generated through a series of community workshops exploring the above theme. The community workshops will be coordinated by the CPP team and led by local craft artists.

This brief has been devised in consultation with leaders in Hounslow's Polish community and the project should be developed in collaboration with the community wherever possible.

#### **Context**

CPP Hounslow aims to increase engagement with arts and culture across the borough of Hounslow. We have a particular focus on increasing engagement amongst Hounslow's significant Polish communities, as a group identified as having less engagement with our arts and culture programme. We are aiming to amplify this work by connecting with the UK-Poland Season, being led by the British Council & Adam Mickiewicz Institute, from March-November 2025 to raise the profile of the Polish community in Hounslow.

We will be celebrating Polish culture throughout our programming in 2025.

#### **The theme:**

This project will explore how storytelling, folklore and traditional crafts provide a way for Polish communities in the UK to explore their Polish heritage; connect to Poland; each other and the potential for developing new stories, folklore and craft as Poles living in the UK.

This brief has been developed in collaboration with local Polish community leaders. We are open to a wide range of approaches to this broad theme and artists from any discipline can apply.

#### **This commission**

We are looking for an artist who can:

- Produce six artworks in response to the theme outlined in this brief
- Work collaboratively with the Project Manager and wider community; attending, responding to and engaging with a series of community engagement activities that will accompany form part of the wider project



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Proposals could explore the below ideas:

- The role of storytelling, folklore and/or traditional crafts in connecting to Poland and/or Polish heritage
- Using storytelling, folklore and/or craft making as a way to connect with Poland or engage with Polish history
- Exploring Polish culture and what connects people of Polish Heritage, living in the UK, with that culture
- What role do storytelling, folklore and/or crafts have in understanding Polish identity?
- Have new stories, folklores or crafts emerged amongst Polish communities living in the UK, and if not, could they?
- What would contemporary approaches to storytelling, folklore and/or craft look like?

### **The wider project**

Alongside this commission, the project will include a range of community engagement workshops that will be coordinated by a Project Manager and delivered by local craft artists, exploring the same themes as laid out in this brief.

The output from the workshops will be exhibited alongside the artist's work across the five CPP community gallery spaces and we ask that the chosen artist engages with the output and conversation generated by these workshops to shape their own work.

### **Proposed projects should:**

- Be of the highest artistic quality, innovative and well-thought through.
- Adhere to the exhibition specification as closely as possible.
- Respond to the community engagement workshops with the Polish community (this will be facilitated by the project manager), and ensure that the community is meaningfully included in the artistic and curatorial process.

### **Who we are looking for:**

- Practicing artists or designers with experience of delivering high quality visual arts projects
- An artist of Polish heritage who can speak fluent Polish and English
- The selected artist will ensure their process is open and collaborative, working with the Project Manager, Polish community leaders and local craft artists to inform the development of their work
- Whilst this commission may suit craft makers, we encourage artists from any discipline to apply and propose how they would respond to the commission brief
- The selected artist will hold Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5M



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## Fee

The artist fee for this project is £2,600

An additional materials budget is available for production of the artwork for display. The artist will be supported by a project manager who will lead the coordination of the community engagement sessions and contracting of local craft artists. They will also be supported by the CPP Visual Arts Producer who will oversee the production of the exhibition.

## Schedule

- Application deadline: 9am, 17th February 2025
- Successful artist confirmed: w/c 24th February
- Postcards design, print & distribution: March
- Workshops: March-May
- Production: June-Jul
- Exhibition launch: Aug
- Exhibition close: Dec

## Apply

To apply, please send to [lily@watermans.org.uk](mailto:lily@watermans.org.uk):

- Your contact details
- A short project proposal, outlining of how you would approach the commission and your past experience
- A PDF of images of examples of your work, these may deal with similar themes and way of working or examples of works shown in non-typical art spaces

**Deadline:** 9am, 17th February 2025

If you have any questions or would prefer to apply in another format, please contact [lily@watermans.org.uk](mailto:lily@watermans.org.uk)



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## Additional information

### Exhibition specifications and practical considerations

- Work exhibited must be able to withstand the environmental conditions of the community gallery spaces that include public libraries and cafes. Therefore, unfortunately, we can't accept proposals for original paintings or other very fragile unglazed surfaces. The galleries are high traffic environments.
- There is a budget available for production of the exhibition (which can include framing and fabrication of exhibition copies of work). Please indicate how work would be displayed so we have an idea of potential costs.
- The artist should consider the experience of users of the public spaces. It should not interfere with the smooth running of the library or businesses.
- The exhibition should reflect the diversity of our audiences, including those with diverse physical abilities and those for whom English is not a first language.
- The exhibition must be suitable for audiences of all ages, and not contain sexual or offensive material.
- Work in the exhibition needs to be attached with screws or nails, ideally using secure fittings such as Ryman locks or mirror plates. The methods of display will be finalised and agreed in consultation with the Visual Arts Producer.
- We are currently not able to show work that needs an electricity supply, although we have incorporated sound and moving image into projects successfully using online platforms and QR codes/AR software.
- The work made for display must be safe, secure, and risk assessed in consultation with CPP Hounslow staff.

### Please note, exhibitors are not expected to:

- Produce promotional materials such as posters.
- Install the work themselves, although they may be able to attend the install to oversee the work.
- CPP Hounslow staff will sign off all materials relating to the exhibition, and the exhibition plan prior to the delivery of the work. We expect the artist to liaise closely with the team.

## The Community Gallery Spaces

The resulting exhibition will take place across the below five spaces. How the spaces will be used will depend on the work proposed. We can not guarantee a certain space but please feel free to express a preference in your proposal.

### - **Beavers Hub**

2 x aluminium framed, wood board triangles (currently painted purple), giving 6 x walls of 200cm (H) x 100cm (W)

Suitable for hanging using command strips (for lighter work), or screws/picture hooks (heavier framed work)



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- **Salisbury Cafe**

4 x walls with STAS rail

Ideal for 2D framed work, with hooks on the back

Hanging system of hooks and wires can be used to hang works

- **Brentford Library**

2 x exhibition display boards each 210cm (H) x 120cm (W) giving 4 x usable sides.

Suitable for hanging using command strips (for lighter work), or screws/picture hooks (heavier framed work)

- **Hounslow House**

2 x exhibition display boards each 210cm (H) x 120cm (W) giving 4 x usable sides.

Suitable for hanging using command strips (for lighter work), or screws/picture hooks (heavier framed work)

- **Treaty Centre, former Debenhams shop window**

3m wide x 2m deep (approx) plate glass window space

Could be used for 3D work

Also possible to stick direct to the glass of hang from a ceiling fixture

**About Creative People & Places Hounslow**

Creative People & Places Hounslow is an Arts Council funded programme aiming to increase engagement with arts and culture in the borough of Hounslow. Find out more about

Creative People & Places Hounslow here: <https://www.watermans.org.uk/impact/crea=ve-people-places/>

Our Visual Arts Programme presents new and original exhibitions in libraries, cafes and other public spaces across the borough. Visit [www.hounslowvisualarts.org.uk](http://www.hounslowvisualarts.org.uk) for more information.