



## City Arts Initiative Application Form

### APPLICANT DETAILS

Contact Name: Shanay Jhaveri	Date 23/11/23
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	Preferred day time contact

PROPOSAL DETAILS	INFORMATION
Proposal Title	Ibrahim Mahama: Purple Hibiscus
Is the proposal being submitted on behalf of others? If so who or what company?	n/a
Brief description of the proposal <b>Please refer to any supporting documentation as needed and ensure a visual representation is included as part of this submission</b>	Commissioned to coincide with the forthcoming Barbican Gallery exhibition Unravel; The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art (14 February to 26 May 2024), Purple Hibiscus is a temporary site-specific, colourful, and spectacular commission that brings together textiles and materiality with a focus on communities – craftspeople, weavers, and makers in Ghana, but also referencing the many workers that contributed to the making of the Barbican’s iconic building. Comprising approximately 3000 square meters of bespoke woven cloth in pink and purple, woven by weavers and sewn together by hundreds of women from collectives in Ghana, the fabric will be fitted around the Lakeside façade of the Barbican Centre.

<p>Brief description of the artistic merits of the proposal <b>Please refer to any supporting documentation as needed</b></p>	<p>Ibrahim Mahama: Purple Hibiscus is the second project commissioned as part of an ambitious programme of public art across the Barbican Centre’s iconic site. These commissions look to weave together the laboured textures inherent in the very fabric of the Barbican with material artistic commissions from leading international artists, animating the building for all visitors and initiating new conversations about the value of art in the public realm.</p>
<p>Does the proposal have funding and/or sponsorship? <b>Please give details, including how funding will be sought if not yet in place</b></p>	<p>The commission is supported by private funding, a combination of Foundations and individual donors.</p>
<p>When is the proposal for and how long will it be on site?</p>	<p>The commission will be in place for 4 months between February and August 2024. The actual installation of the work will be between 3-4 weeks.</p>
<p>Where is the proposal to be sited and why was this location chosen?</p>	<p>The proposal will be sited on the Barbican Lakeside, which was chosen due to its nature as a free, accessible gathering space for all visitors to the Barbican.</p>
<p>What are the dimensions of the piece, including its weight if applicable? Are there any structural requirements?</p>	<p>The installation is made up of approximately 3,000 square metres of woven cotton fabric, backed with synthetic mesh for stability. <b>Fabric + Mesh weight</b> Dry - 6.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, Wet (fully saturated) - 11.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The fabric will be supported by a steel structure and metal cables. <b>Steel Frame weight: 7850.0 kg/m<sup>3</sup></b></p> <p>A framework of metal trusses and steel cables will be in place to support the fabric. For further details on the structural requirements please see structural engineer’s report in additional materials.</p>
<p>Is the proposal part of a series and/or related to something else in the City, or is it a one off?</p>	<p>The proposal is in connection with the Barbican Art Gallery Unravel, which will be on display 12<sup>th</sup> February – 26<sup>th</sup> May. Additionally, it forms part of new series of site-specific commissions across the Barbican’s public spaces initiated in 2023 with the commission in the Barbican’s Conservatory by sculptor Ranjani Shettar. Furthermore, it aligns itself with the Corporation of London’s Destination City initiative, opening up creative and cultural offerings in the Square Mile for all.</p>
<p>What are the maintenance</p>	<p>The proposal will need to be monitored closely once installed in relation to adverse weather conditions. This is being carefully considered by the structural engineers and measures are being put into place that will enable elements of the project to be detached in high winds if necessary. These are accounted for in the project budget from the outset. As outlined in the engineering report the project is temporary and no part of it will come in contact with the building itself. In addition to the monitoring of the wind, the Barbican Art Gallery’s production team will also be tracking the installation on a regular schedule.</p>

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requirements for the proposal and how are these to be funded?	
How does the proposal meet the City's commitments to Sustainability, Accessibility, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion?	<p><b>Sustainability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The artwork is to be collected following its display at the Barbican, meaning none of the fabric used in its creation will go to waste</li> <li>- The structure of steel and cabling will be primarily hired, and elements that cannot be hired will be recyclable or resaleable once the commission is deinstalled.</li> <li>- The fabric will be transported from Ghana to London via sea freight rather than air.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The commission is part of a programming strand celebrating the value of art in the public realm, a large part of which is about creating work that as many visitors to the City and the centre can experience as possible.</li> <li>- Interpretation and accompanying materials in the Barbican's foyers will allow visitors to better understand and engage with the project and its themes.</li> <li>- The lakeside terrace has full step-free access from the centre's Silk Street entrance</li> </ul> <p><b>EDI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This work is part of a new area of programming that is particularly focused on platforming artists from diverse international backgrounds.</li> <li>- Mahama's installations and his wider work in Ghana reflect important and relevant conversations around unseen labour and the global distributions of power.</li> <li>- There are a number of educational projects being planned in conjunction with the project, a number being spearheaded by the Barbican Library as part of their Local Makers programme.</li> </ul>
Does the proposal have any special requirements?	Applications have been made to Listed Building and Planning Permission. We have also been in active consultation with the Residents Association. Guild Hall School as well as internal stakeholders including the Gardeners and the Library.

**Please provide any other information that you consider would be useful**

The proposal is being supported by the members of the Barbican Renewal project team, including Buro Happold Engineers and Allies & Morrison architects.

Supporting documentation:

- Combined Planning, Heritage and Design and Access Statement
- Structural Engineering Report

Please note that all information and images provided on your application (excepting contact details) may be published and accessible from the City Corporation's website before the application is either approved or rejected. **Recommendations of the City Arts Initiative are submitted to the City Corporation's Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee for ratification. As part of our legal obligations as a public body, that report (with imagery) is uploaded to our website at least one week before the committee meeting. The report is discussed in the public session which may or may not be attended by the media.**

If your application is approved in principle by the City Arts Initiative and ratified by the Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee it can then be progressed. **It is important to note that this approval is not a guarantee that your proposal will go ahead. It will still be subject to agreement of the logistical considerations by the Special Events and Highways team and you will need to apply for other individual permissions as required such as Hoarding Licences, Planning Permission and permissions from building managers/owners depending on the specifications of your application. Officers will be able to advise on next steps, which will vary from application to application.**

Please email the completed form to [public art](#) with any supporting documentation.