

# Guildhall Yard

The Guildhall Yard stands at the heart of the City of London and provides an imposing backdrop for a wide range of events and exhibitions

The City of London is looking to expand the use of Guildhall Yard and establish it as a venue for public events.

Its historic and beautiful surrounds, large size and central location make it the perfect place to host a wide range of activities.

We are looking for ideas to animate the Yard throughout the year. In particular we are focusing on the month of August when we are able to guarantee its exclusive use.

Projects must:

- Generate income or – at the very least – be cost-neutral for the City of London (a hire fee may be applied in the case of commercial ventures)
- Be accessible to the general public (although can be ticketed)

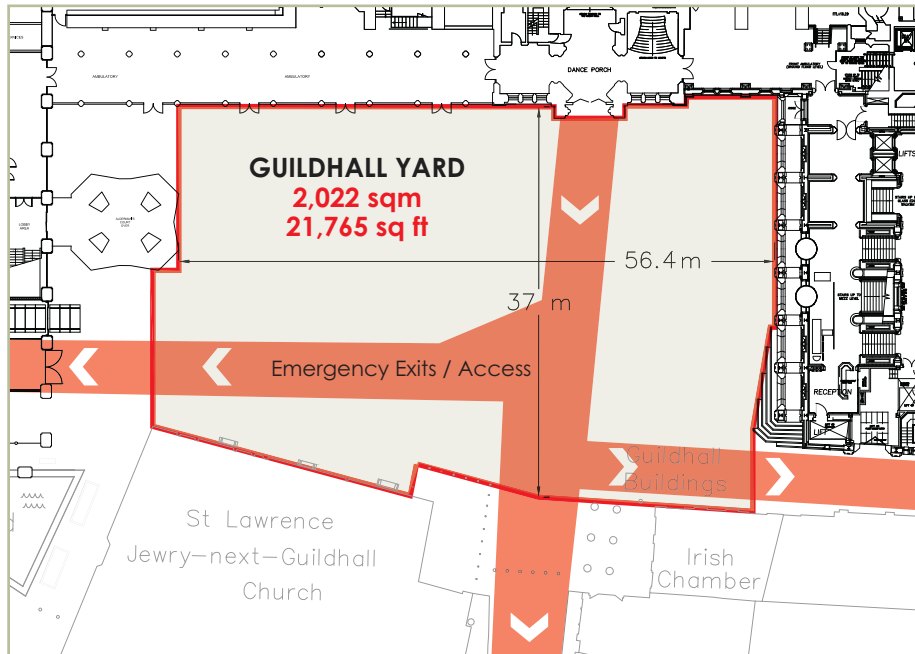
- Increase visitor numbers to the Yard, appealing to City workers and/or visitors to the Square Mile, including tourists and families
- Be practical given the following specification, bearing in mind particularly the restrictions on noise

We are open to any idea that fulfils the above criteria. A few suggestions for guidance are:

- A food/ drinks offer
- Enhanced seating offer
- Exhibitions or installations
- Live performance



city of london



## Background

As the home of the City of London Corporation, Guildhall has been the centre of City government since the Middle Ages. Indeed remains of a long-lost amphitheatre discovered in 1987 underneath the Yard indicate the site was significant as far back as Roman times. The present Guildhall, which borders the north of the Yard, was built in 1411 and, having survived both the Great Fire of London and the Blitz, is the only secular stone structure in the City dating from before 1666. On the east of the Yard stands the Guildhall Art Gallery, home to the City's art collection, whilst the western aspect houses the Guildhall Library and City Corporation offices.

**The Guildhall Yard is already used for a wide range of one-off events. These include an annual week of music each summer as part of the City of London Festival, City ceremonial events such as the Lord Mayor's Show and corporate hires.**

## Specifications

**Dimensions:** 56.4 x 37m (2,022 sqm) emergency access routes must be kept clear of infrastructure as marked on the map

**Weight loading:** max 30 tonnes

**Capacity:** approximately 1000 but variable depending on the additional infrastructure within the space

**Licensing:** the Guildhall Yard is included in the Premises License held by the Guildhall which permits sale of alcohol, exhibition of film and live performance

**Noise:** the Yard is surrounded by offices which means that no noisy activity can take place Monday to Friday, 10.00 – 15.30. These hours may be extended depending on other activity taking place in the surrounding area. A small number of residents live on site which precludes early morning or late night noise (including load-in/out), unless specifically agreed in advance

**Availability:** due to hires within the Guildhall and other activity taking place in the Yard availability is limited and subject to change. However, the month of August, when the Guildhall is closed for maintenance, can be booked out well in advance allowing for activity to take place over a longer period of time. Weekends also have greater availability

## Guildhall Yard

**Gresham Street, City of London, EC2V 5AE**

For further information, or to submit a proposal, please contact the City Culture Executive on **020 7332 3567** or **publicart@cityoflondon.gov.uk**