



City Arts Initiative Application Form

APPLICANT DETAILS

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PROPOSAL DETAILS

Title of proposal	Seats At The Table
Is the proposal being submitted on behalf of others? If so who or what company?	No, but worth noting that this is a joint project commissioned by the City of London Corporation, Culture Mile and Foundation for Future London. The project is developed and delivered in partnership with Re-fabricate and the DisOrdinary Architecture project.
Brief description of the proposal <i>Please refer to any supporting documentation as needed and ensure a visual representation is included as part of this submission</i>	<p>In June 2022, the London Festival of Architecture (LFA) launched a competition ‘Co-designing Equity in the Public Realm’ in partnership with the City of London Corporation, Foundation for Future London and Culture Mile for a public realm intervention(s) that would explore inclusive design, equity, and public space as well as the involvement of young people in city making. This competition was won by the team of Re-Fabricate and the DisOrdinary Architecture Project with their proposal ‘Seats at the Table’.</p> <p>‘Seats at the Table’ explores the intersections between equity, accessibility and sustainable design. The project has four threads: an initial investigation of possible sites that can enable true public realm accessibility; a series of workshops with schoolchildren for designing chairs that creatively celebrate the multiplicity of diverse bodies and minds; a curated programme of table-based related events during the festival; and a disassembly process that integrates principles of the circular economy into the whole project.</p> <p>Re-Fabricate is a collective of architects and architectural professionals focusing on eradicating waste by promoting a circular economy and sustainable design in the built environment. Since 2019, they have been radically practical in their approach, running initiatives and collaborative projects for students and creatives to understand circular solutions, to real- world problems and give them the skills to become agents for sustainable change.</p> <p>The DisOrdinary Architecture Project is a platform that works across various projects to show how starting from disability – from the rich differences that biodiversity and neuro-divergence bring – is a powerful creative force for design. Originating in 2008, they have collaborated to bring the intersectional experiences and creativity of disabled and non-disabled creatives together on an equal footing.</p> <p>The team will bring together disabled and non-disabled architects and creatives at different stages of their careers to creatively engage with diverse co-creation and co- partnering methods for making inclusive and adaptable sustainable urban spaces.</p> <p><u>Please note that the appendices attached alongside this application showcases the programme for the delivery of this project and not a finalised design. The ambition of the team is to deliver a truly co-designed installation (down to the precise location) representing a diversity of experience, which means that exact designs will be finalised following the school co-design workshops at the end of March.</u></p> <p><u>The LFA team will be working very closely with Re-Fabricate and DisOrdinary to make sure all the designs are safe and appropriate to be displayed in public realm. We will be working with Highways and Public Realm teams to refine the final arrangement and obtain all requested permissions including hoarding license, and any other permits if required. We will also be discussing next steps with the Public Realm team and organising a site visit with City Highways shortly.</u></p>

<p>Brief description of the artistic merits of the proposal</p> <p><i>Please refer to any supporting documentation as needed</i></p>	<p>The design concept centers around a simple question: how do we make a table equal?</p> <p>There are many contexts where we find ourselves sitting around a table - to share a meal, to work, to participate in conversation and debate – but do we ever consider what that experience is like for somebody else?</p> <p>This project’s ambition is to explore how we can make a table a space where all people from all walks of life with all types of ability can easily access and feel welcome to come and sit and join the conversation. Through co-designing chairs with mainstream and SEN school children, the resulting designs will embody a variety of experiences which celebrate difference and allow for the opportunity to experience the world in someone else’s seat.</p> <p>Through a clear concept the design will weave in challenges we currently face in our built environment like ‘who and what gets valued in design?’ and ‘how can we protect and use the world’s resources sustainably?’ into an interactive installation that sparks conversation.</p> <p>The design team will be exploring two options for the installation; either the pieces will be designed to be safe and appropriate to remain in the public realm for the month of June, or the installation will be moved in and out for daytime events. An update on the design can be provided for the information of the City Arts Initiative following the completed co-design process, on the 20 April.</p>
<p>Does the proposal have funding and/or sponsorship?</p> <p><i>Please give details, including how funding will be sought if not yet in place</i></p>	<p>Funding has been confirmed with the City of London Corporation, Foundation for Future London and Culture Mile for the delivery of the programme and installations.</p> <p>Re-fabricate and DisOrdinary have also submitted an application for additional Arts Council funding to support with additional costs for workshops, however delivery of the project is not dependant on this.</p>
<p>When is the proposal for and how long will it be on site?</p>	<p>To coincide with London Festival of Architecture, we are proposing the installation to be in place from 1 June and remain on site for up a maximum of 28 days.</p>

<p>Where is the proposal to be sited and why was this location chosen?</p>	<p>The first part of the programme to be delivered by Re-fabricate and DisOrdinary is a series of site- exploration workshops, taking place January – February, to identify the final site for the installation. The aim of this initial exploratory workshops is to ensure true public realm accessibility; bringing together expertise from across architecture, urban design, accessibility, sustainability and disability arts to co-explore possible sites for the table.</p> <p>Three sites are being explored during these workshops (Rotunda Gardens, Postman’s Park and Barbican Public realm) which are being analysed for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of routes to site • Availability of local amenities (public toilets/disabled parking/associated indoor public spaces) • Ease of navigation across site • Already existing supportive elements (e.g. places to rest/escape from sensory overload/quality of light) • Specific barriers to accessibility • Possible location for the table and chairs <p>By recording barriers and opportunities for each site, the team will consider including creating temporary access improvements as part of the <i>Seats at the Table</i> installation on the chosen site.</p> <p>Following the outcome of these workshops, we will be arranging a site visit with City Highways to gain their approval.</p>
<p>What are the dimensions of the piece, including its weight if applicable? Are there any structural requirements?</p>	<p>This installation will be made up of a number of co-designed chairs around a central table. The table and chairs will be designed to be free-standing without the need for ground fixings.</p> <p>The design will also take into account of the site conditions, analysed in detail during the site excavation stage. The drawings and the risk assessment documents will be checked by City Highways. On delivery, each installation will be checked to ensure it is safe for public use.</p> <p>The deinstallation will be undertaken by Re-fabricate and DisOrdinary and is to be included in part of their programme, engaging public participants to learn about supplier practice and Recycle, Re-Use, Reused principles.</p> <p>At the point of deinstallation the installations will become the property of Re-fabricate and DisOrdinary.</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 will be a part of a wider set of activities and events across the City of London as the City will be one of seven London Festival of Architecture (LFA) destinations this June.</p>
<p>What are the maintenance requirements for the proposal and how are these to be funded?</p>	<p>Maintenance of the installation will be the responsibility of Re-fabricate and DisOrdinary, while on site.</p>

Does the proposal have any special requirements?	No
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Please provide any other comments that you think might be useful:

The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as a global hub of architectural experimentation, practice and debate. The festival returns to the capital from 1-30 June 2023 with a lively and diverse programme of public events across London exploring the theme 'In Common'. The London Festival of Architecture began in 2004 and has since grown to become Europe's biggest annual architecture festival. The festival attracts a vast public audience – 800,000 people in 2019 – and a global media audience of millions. The vast majority of events are free and are staged by a core festival programming team working alongside architecture and design practices and practitioners, leading cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others. In 2017 the London Festival of Architecture was named by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan as one of his design advocate organisations and is working alongside the Mayor's team to champion architecture, provide expertise and guidance, and help to make London a better city.

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 prior to approval or rejection of the application. **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 prior to the committee meeting. The report is then discussed in public session which may or may not be attended by the media.**

Please email the completed form to publicart@cityoflondon.gov.uk along with any supporting documentation.