

Unheard Voices of the City

Engagement Strategy and Installation Proposal

2025

This project is a commission by POoR Collective in partnership with London Museum and Culture Mile Business Improvement District (BID) for London Festival of Architecture 2025. Supported with a grant from the City of London's CIL Neighbourhood Fund and with public funding by Arts Council England.

London Museum and POoR Collective

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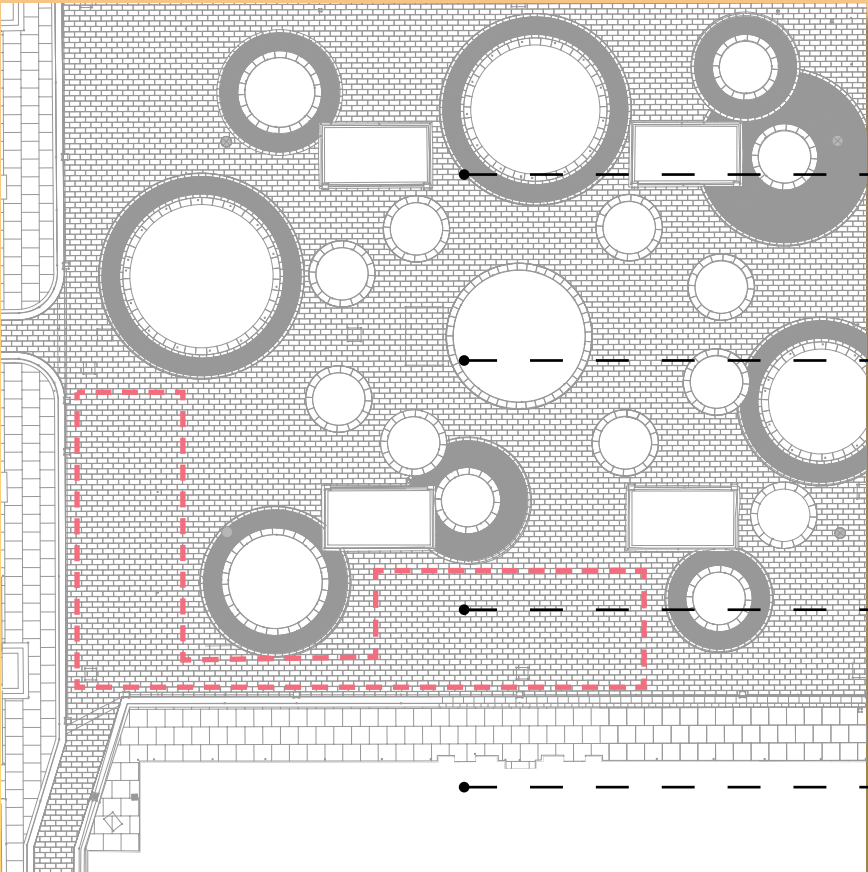
Introduction to Project

St Bartholomew's Hospital Courtyard

POoR Collective, a socially conscious design practice, has been commissioned to lead a community engagement and co-design initiative in the historic courtyard of St Bartholomew's Hospital. Supported by London Museum and the Culture Mile Business Improvement District (BID), this project will culminate in a site-specific pavilion and public programme tied with the London Festival of Architecture throughout the month of June. The temporary installation will spotlight the often-unheard voices of the City at night—market traders, hospital staff, shift workers, club-goers, and those who bring life to 24-hour cafés. Through collaborative workshops, artworks on the installation will be co-designed and created in partnership with members of Smithfield's vibrant late-night communities, offering a powerful visual celebration of their stories and experiences. Artwork elements will be retained and re-displayed as part of an ongoing local commissioning programme by London Museum.

Key dates

mid April - early May	Engagement and Co-design
May - beginning June	Technical Design completed for display structure, artwork co-production completed
June	Offsite fabrication, installation on site 10-13 June. Display period 14-29 June. Deinstall 30th June.



Existing Landscaping

St Bart's fountain

Allocated Preferred Site

West Wing Building

Engagement + Co-Design

Unheard Voices of the City

POoR Collective proposes to use the opportunity of working with London Museum to celebrate the often-overlooked communities who work in the City during the evening and night shifts by using engagement and artwork development as a means of recognition.

While night workers play a vital role in the city's functioning, there is limited data on their needs and experiences. By creating an inclusive space, our team seeks to gain valuable insights into the lives of individuals whose contributions often go unnoticed. Through thoughtful dialogue and research, we hope to uncover the aspirations, stories, and experiences of these communities, while also discovering more about the hidden nightlife that shapes the city.

Our team will carry out late night engagement sessions focusing on the following groups:

- market traders
- hospital staff
- cab drivers and shift workers
- 24-hour cafés

Engagement will take place through two separate formats:

1. Drop-in sessions & 2. Creative co-design workshops



Drop-in Sessions

Drop-in session is an informal conversations and interactions held on-site within the community, allowing for spontaneous participation and storytelling.

Our team will connect with individuals across key sites during night hours, focusing on gathering personal reflections, quotes, and lived experiences. Through open-ended questions centred on aspirations, hopes, and dreams, the engagement aims to foster emotionally meaningful exchanges—offering not just insights for the design, but a platform for workers' voices to be acknowledged and valued.

Key Dates:

2 sessions between last week of April, first week of May

Material/Resources:

- Leaflets showcasing the programme with pavilion installation dates for the community to visit upon install.

Engagement Locations:

- Smithfield Market
- Smithfield Café & Ferraris
- Cab driver rest stops
- Fabric night club
- The Guild Church of St Katherine Cree



Smithfield Market at Night

Creative co-design

Structured late night session based at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where hospital staff will collaborate on the design of artwork and other elements for the final installation.

This workshop is designed not only to generate a creative output but also to offer workers a moment of wellness and self-connection. It highlights the deep interconnection between body, mind, and spirit—recognising the body as a vital tool for accessing emotional and relational expression. Participants will engage in gentle movement while drawing, including activities like drawing on the floor, collaborative mark-making, or even drawing with eyes closed to heighten other senses and give the eyes a moment of rest. Pair-based exercises may involve tracing or drawing each other's silhouettes, or building on each other's lines in a shared creative flow.

The session invites stretching, laughter, and embodied engagement—positioning the body as a key contributor to the final installation, both in form and intention.

Key Dates:

1 session first week of May with two week's notice to the St Bartholomew's Hospital management

Materials/Resources:

- Leaflets showcasing the programme with pavilion installation dates for the community to visit upon install.

Engagement Locations:

- St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Main Atrium



The Main Atrium

Pavillion Design Intent

01. Temporary Structure

The project seeks to incorporate an existing structure to prioritise sustainability. This structure will be carefully sited to ensure full DDA compliance and to preserve the natural flow of pedestrian movement within the courtyard. Designed to be lightweight and no more than one storey in height, it will sit discreetly within the existing architectural context, maintaining visual harmony with the surrounding hospital buildings.

02. Artworks Informed by Co-Design and Engagement

Artworks developed through the co-design and community engagement process will be integrated throughout the temporary structure. The design will consider weather resilience, accessibility, and the visual integrity of the hospital site, ensuring the installation enhances its context without creating visual disruption.

03. Integration of Light

Lighting will form a central component of the installation, enriching the courtyard's ambience after dark and offering an interactive, sensory experience along with promotion of safety.

04. Integration of Quotes from Co-Design and Engagement

To create a meaningful and personal connection to the installation, selected quotes from participants will be embedded within the design. These contributions will highlight the lived experiences and reflections gathered during engagement, celebrating the often-unheard voices of the City at night.

01. Temporary Structure (reference: Wiggle Wonderland)



03. Integration of Quotes (reference: Vittorio Corsini)



03. Integration of Light (reference: Darat al Funun)



02. Artwork Informed by Co-Design and Engagement (reference: Petrit Halilaj)

Pavillion Design Intent

Temporary Installation

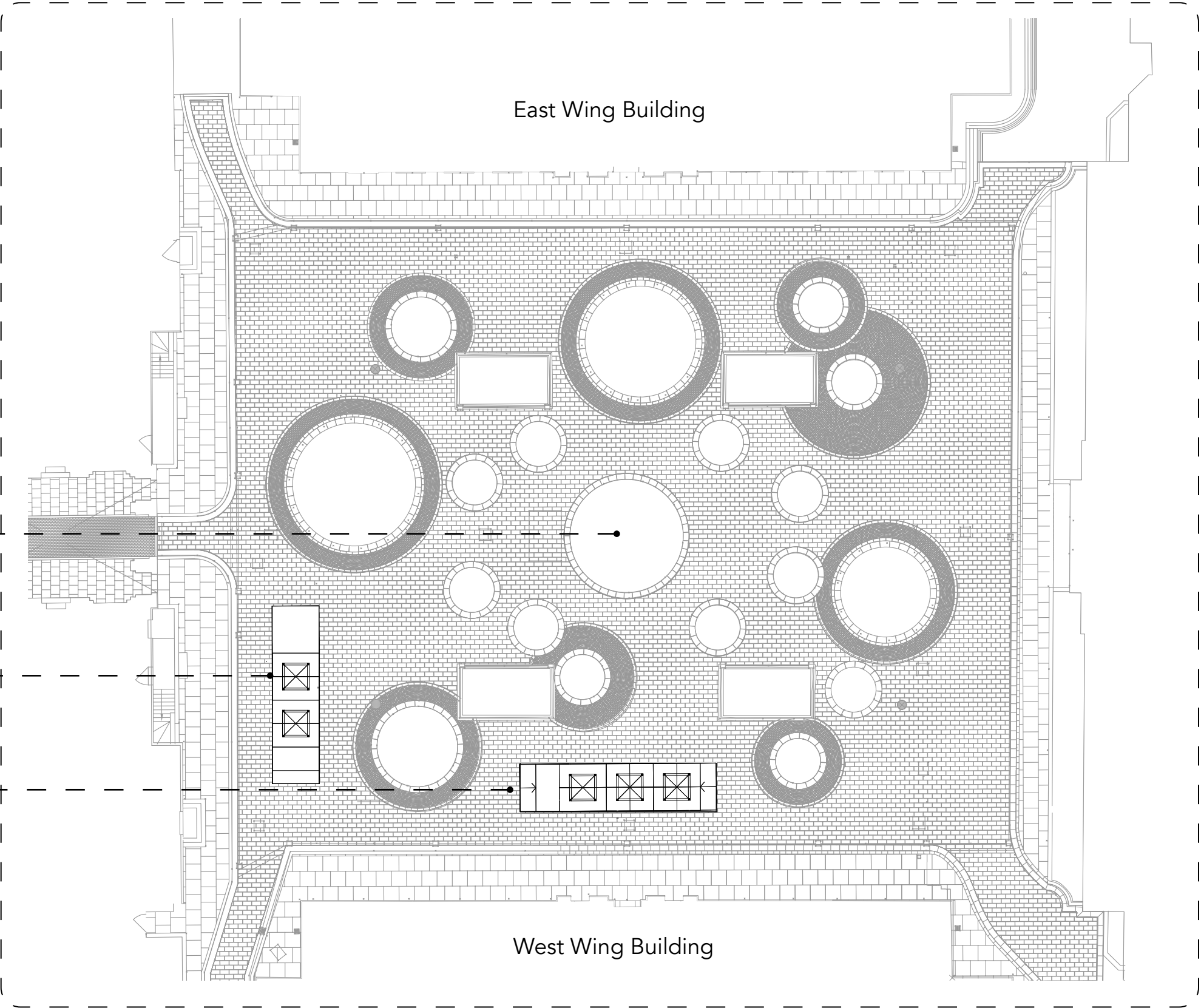
The temporary structure will be divided into two pavilions on the side of the West Wing Building. The site location was chosen to minimize disruption to hospital visitors, patients, and staff, while ensuring accessibility and maintaining the hospital’s operations and safety. The location is optimized to increase the chances of people interacting with the pavilions.

Since the East Wing contains patient beds and the West Wing offers more space, the two pavilions will provide a pleasant area for visitors to interact with.

St Bart’s fountain — — — — —

Pavilion 01 — — — — —

Pavilion 02 — — — — —



Public Programme

As the pavilion site is set within visitor friendly area, it is perfectly positioned to draw in a steady flow of passersby and create moments of spontaneous interaction. Therefore, the installation will be supported by a carefully curated programme of public activations, designed to invite participation from a wide range of stakeholders and communities. In partnership with the London Museum and our extended network, we plan to host 2–3 events per week — including one evening activation — that bring the pavilion to life through talks, workshops, and interactive experiences.

Key Potential Event Partners:

- **Culture Mile Business Improvement District (BID)**
Business Improvement District supports the area's transformation into a leading cultural and commercial destination through investment in public realm, sustainability, community engagement, and place-making initiatives.
- **Vital Arts**
Arts organisation for Barts Health NHS Trust, established in 1996 to enhance the hospital environment through contemporary art.
- **Liminal Space**
The Liminal Space is a City-based creative consultancy that drives positive social and strategic change, focusing on health, climate, and the future of work.
- **Publica**
London-based urban design and public realm consultancy dedicated to enhancing the functionality, beauty, and inclusivity of cities.



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This document is prepared by POoR Collective Ltd.

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