

Windrush 75 Commission – Waltham Forest

The London Borough of Waltham Forest are seeking proposals for a project to celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of Windrush Day in June 2023

Background

Waltham Forest is a borough in north-east London with a diverse population of over 270,000 residents covering Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow, Higham's Park and Chingford. More information about the borough can be found [here](#).

Waltham Forest became London's first Borough of Culture in 2019, recognising our thriving local cultural sector; some of the highlights from year's programme can be seen [here](#). In 2021 Blackhorse Lane was announced as the Mayor of London's newest [Creative Enterprise Zone](#), and the Council has long-term ambitions to designate Walthamstow as a Cultural Quarter over the coming years (building upon venues such as William Morris Gallery and next year's opening of the refurbished Soho Theatre Walthamstow).

In 2022 the Windrush Day festivities in Waltham Forest saw a programme of community-led events taking place across the borough in honour of the Windrush generation and the Afro-Caribbean community, including the first ever Waltham Forest Windrush Festival hosted at Fellowship Square. The Windrush 75 Commissions will form part of our Borough-wide Culture Programme and support our mission to celebrate the diverse communities of Waltham Forest.

A Waltham Forest Windrush Partners group with over 30 local community groups, schools, libraries and museums was formed to lead on the programme of celebrations, placing our diverse communities at the heart of the operations. The project awarded will be able to engage with the partners group in the development of the project.



Althea McNish "Colour is Mine" at the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow

802 West Indian migrants stepped off the HMT Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury on 22 June 1948, the first of what became known as the Windrush Generation in Britain and the birth of the UK's modern multi-cultural society.

Fuelled in part by British government campaigns to address domestic labour shortages, almost 500,000 people moved from the Caribbean to Britain in the following two decades. Nonetheless, issues stemming from societal racism including systemic disadvantages in employment, housing and education – leading up to the 2018 Windrush scandal – remain key factors in the legacy of Windrush.

Today, Waltham Forest's 25,000 strong Afro-Caribbean community make up a vibrant and valuable part of our cultural fabric. As Windrush's 75th anniversary nears in 2023, we look to the legacy of the Windrush Generation which will surely loom large in Waltham Forest for many years to come.

Brief

We are looking to deliver an artist commission that commemorates and celebrates the 75th Windrush anniversary in Waltham Forest. We are open to a range of proposals, however examples could include the following:

- **A film or photography project** exploring the history of Windrush communities in Waltham Forest
- **A heritage project** commemorating the local Windrush community and leaving a legacy
- **An exhibition, event or live performance**, taking place in a public space or local venue in Waltham Forest

The commission will form part of a wider programme of Windrush 75 events being delivered by the Council: this will include a flag raising ceremony on June 22nd and day of celebrations at the Town Hall on June 24th, alongside events taking place across the Borough in schools and community venues.

Our overarching objectives for the commission are as follows:

- To highlight how Windrush communities have shaped and influenced the cultural identity of Waltham Forest
- To create greater understanding of the histories of local Windrush communities over the past 75 years
- To celebrate the contribution that Windrush communities have made to our Borough and commemorate their legacy, ensuring it is preserved for future generations

Budget and Eligibility

The maximum budget for the Windrush 75 commission is **£20k**; If you have a proposal that will cost over £20k we encourage you to show evidence of match-funding before you apply.

You can apply as an individual artist or with an organisation and will need to have a bank account with two signatories alongside up to date bank statements for audit purposes.

Your proposal must take place within the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Local cultural activity is often concentrated in Walthamstow, and we are therefore especially interested in projects that take place in Chingford, Higham's Park, Leyton and Leytonstone.

Preference will be given to Black-led organisations or individuals with strong links to local communities. You do not have to live in the Borough to apply, however priority will be given to those with a proven track record of delivering arts and heritage projects in East London and Waltham Forest in particular.



Workshops in schools with the Waltham Forest Antigua, Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association (left); book launch for “Rice & Peas and Fish & Chips” by Pauline Campbell (right)

Making an application

In order to apply you will need to outline your proposal in full, answering the following questions:

- What is your idea? An overview of your proposal and how you plan to deliver it
- Demonstrate your links to local residents and the Windrush community in Waltham Forest. How will you work together with the local community to deliver the project?
- Outline your past experience in delivering similar projects, using case studies where necessary
- An overview of your budget and how you propose to spend the £20k award; please see the “pricing schedule” section of the application

In order to comply with the Council’s procurement regulations **all proposals must be submitted via the London Tenders Portal** - <https://www.londontenders.org/>. If you are not yet registered it is very easy to sign up by filling in your details here <https://procontract.due-north.com/register>.

You may also attach other relevant documents if you feel these will strengthen your submission: artist portfolios or CVs, letters of support, proof of match-funding for example.

Timeline

Applications open	February 8th
Applications close	March 5 th
Contract awarded	March 10 th
Projects complete	June 22 nd

Contact

For any queries regarding the Windrush 75 Commissions please speak with Christine Lai (christine.lai@walthamforest.gov.uk) or Sid Patrick (sid.patrick@walthamforest.gov.uk).

[Visit our website](#) for more info on our year-round culture programme in Waltham Forest.