

Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Garden, Sensory Garden and unveiling of The Arch sculpture by Henry Moore

Frequently asked questions

Is the Henry Moore sculpture free to visit?

Yes, everyone is welcome to visit the commemorative gardens, to reflect and enjoy the space and view *The Arch*, which has accompanying text to provide more information on the work.

Why did you choose *The Arch* by artist Henry Moore?

Elizabeth II was Queen of the United Kingdom and Head of State of 15 Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her death in 2022. Henry Moore (1898-1986) is one of Britain's most important artists producing work during this time, *The Arch* was conceived during the early period of her reign.

Why didn't the Council choose a local artist?

A commission for a piece of new public art commemorating the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was issued in early 2023. The council reviewed 9 submissions, with one from Waltham Forest, from a Leyton-based organisation. All others were from London and across the UK. However, none of the designs were sufficiently well developed and costed, or not in keeping with the vision for the garden and therefore, a different approach was needed.

Why did you choose an existing piece of art rather than commissioning an original?

There is an increasing number of public artworks existing in storage, we have decided to show existing sculptures on a rotational basis, rather than commissioning a new piece. Following the unsuccessful call out for a new artwork, and to respond to the climate crisis, we refocused on looking at existing pieces which would be suitable for the new gardens. We are planning to have a continuous programme of changing works, and suitable works by local artists will of course be considered.

Is the sculpture a permanent addition to the Queen Elizabeth II Garden?

No, *The Arch* is a temporary loan from the Henry Moore Foundation until 2028.

Why is it only staying for four years?

The temporary nature of the loan enables us to consider a changing programme of works by different artists who produced work during the reign of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, enhancing the public art experience for residents and visitors to Fellowship Square in the years ahead.

Why is the artwork a replica rather than the original?

First made in bronze in 1963, this version is a fibreglass cast made in 1971 for installation on the terraces of the Forte Belvedere in Florence, Italy. The positioning in Florence brought into relief the artwork's relationship to architecture while also highlighting its organic form.

Since then, *The Arch* has often been put in dialogue with architecture in cities as far flung as Columbus, Indiana and Hiroshima, Japan

How will the artwork be protected from vandalism or graffiti?

Fellowship Square, including the newly opened North site featuring the commemorative gardens and sculpture, is patrolled by security for the safety and wellbeing of our visitors and to protect the spaces too. There is CCTV cameras in operation 24/7.

Why didn't you commission an artwork from a local artist for the garden?

We originally put out a commission inviting artists to design a new piece of public art, with a focus on locally based artists and those with a connection to the area. However, we did not receive any suitable responses and rescoped our approach to look at existing public art which would be meaningful in this new public space.

How much has this cost?

The total costs of the installation, for a four-year period is £120,000. This includes all fees, planning application costs, installation, insurance and loan costs from the Henry Moore Foundation.

Where did the funding come from to support the first artwork at Fellowship Square?

The Arch is on loan from the Henry Moore Foundation enabled by funding secured from our town hall Development Partner, Countryside, via the Civic fund which forms part of their commitment to the development programme.

Will there be information panels?

Yes, there will be a full set of information on panels throughout the gardens, including Braille translations.