

The Commission

Southwark Council are seeking to commission a creative design team to include a lighting designer to prepare a public art and lighting scheme for the Old Kent Road Railway Bridge, located at the southern end of Old Kent Road. While the bridge is in reasonable physical condition, its appearance is drab and uninspiring. The railway bridge sits on the borough boundary between Southwark and Lewisham, which provides a great opportunity to define the space as a gateway to Old Kent Road and New Cross.

The council has undertaken a number of bridge improvement projects around the borough. The vision is to create an inspiring piece of art that local people and businesses can feel proud of, which is grounded in the idea that it is representative of the communities living and working around the Old Kent Road.

Refurbishment of the bridge is a key part of the council's plan to revitalise the Old Kent Road as a high street and is one of several projects funded through the Government's Future High Street Fund. The council has identified some repairs that will be required to the bridge (de-vegetation, cleaning, repointing, rust removal etc.), which has been budgeted separately from the public art and lighting scheme commission. The repairs will be carried out at the same time that the public artwork is installed.

The council intend to select a design team through a two stage judging process and will announce the winning team in July 2023. The design will be prepared between July and September and following a procurement process, it will be delivered between December and March 2024 (which is the deadline for spending Future High Street Fund grants).



Railway Bridge from New Cross side looking towards Southwark side

Site and Context



The railway bridge is located at the southern end of Old Kent Road. It is split between the London Borough of Southwark and the London Borough of Lewisham.

<https://goo.gl/maps/pn5aiSHCwebZxngG7> (Google map link).

A railway station entrance used to exist along the bridge in a viaduct, with services running to East London from 1866 to 1917.

The railway bridge improvements will support a wider programme of public realm improvements, including improvements to the adjacent Brimington Park and TfL's Healthy Streets Scheme, which will see wider pavements and segregated cycle lanes being integrated into the street.

The bridge is owned by Network Rail. The land alongside is owned by Arch Co. The council has undertaken a condition survey of the bridge and obtained an indicative cost for the repair works that are required. These are repointing the brickwork, cleaning the bridge, painting a base colour and removing weeds. The council will carry out the repair works at the same time as delivering the public art project. Because the project is located on the A2 and a TfL red route, a traffic management plan (TMP) will be put in place, with relevant permits sought from Network Rail and TfL. The TMP has been costed by the council as part of the repair works.

Network Rail's management requirement is that anything fixed to the bridge will need to be taken down at regular intervals as part of their maintenance regime. Because of the costs associated with this the council envisages that the public art intervention will comprise a painted scheme, as well as lighting. Both the public art intervention and the bridge repairs will be undertaken by a contractor to be appointed by the council.

'Under the Bridge'

As a prelude to carrying out permanent improvements to the bridge, the council has installed temporary exhibition boards under the bridge to display a rotating programme of artworks. The 'Under the Bridge' Project will be ongoing until the delivery of the permanent improvements. The aim is create/ identify communities of interest and build relationships with these communities to help inform the final works. A series of artworks have been commissioned with the aim to be developed by the community over a period of time:

1. Artwork by local resident Nicola Hussain (April – July 2022)
A painting was selected from an expression of interest through the Southwark Newsletter. This is the first time Nicola, self-taught artist, has displayed her work to the public, Southwark awarded her £150 honorary fee to reproduce her work for the billboards.
2. Food, poetry, photography and collage with Y4 Kender Primary school (July 2022 -)
Black Blossoms School of Art and Culture was commissioned to curate the billboards through leading 3 workshops over 4 weeks with 60 Kender Y4 Primary School pupils to co-create artwork for the billboards . Black Blossoms also commissioned poet, Amanda Holiday, and photographer, Bernice Mulenga to run the co-creating workshops and produce an original artwork each for the boards.
3. Food and climate change with Harry Lambourn House (Upcoming)
BAFALW has been commissioned to curate and run a series of workshops with residents from Harry Lambourn House. Through their work over the last couple of weeks, they have been planning a final workshop with the participants, which will be a big meal that will encapsulate all the conversations that have been had.
4. TBC

Please refer to Appendix 1 for images of the ongoing billboard project.

Design Requirements

The bridge is a gateway to the Old Kent Road from New Cross, which highlights it as an opportunity to create a local landmark, and to improve the pedestrian experience along the high street. The public art intervention along with the accompanying lighting scheme will help establish a more positive identity for the area and serve as an introduction to what the Old Kent Road already has to offer.

The council envisages that the public art will comprise a design to be painted on the bridge. Alongside this the council would also like to introduce a lighting scheme.

The Council's objectives for the project are to:

- Comprise an inspiring and high quality piece of design which uplifts the bridge and area around it
- There is a potential that the artwork developed will be asked to be translated into a graphic identity to be used for Old Kent Road publications.
- Ensure that the local communities are significantly engaged in the preparation to the development/delivery of the design.
- Build on the engagement undertaken to date with Kender Primary School and Harry Lambourn House
- Create a design which is representative of the communities around the Old Kent Road, artistically embedding cultural history of the site, local area and its residents into the design of this project
- Integrate the principles of Southwark Stands Together (see below).
- Create a design of which local people can feel proud of
- Brightens the environment around the bridge and makes the area look and feel safer and which encourages walking and cycling.
- Uses robust and sustainable materials which weather well and which minimize the risk of graffiti.

The development of the project will integrate Southwark Stands Together (SST) principles:

- Reviewing policy and funding to involve the community in developing successful public spaces and reinventing the public realm, including the need for trust in communities to make decisions regarding the public realm and creating community ownership;
- Exploring and understanding the factors that contribute to making a good public space, including how spaces are used by different groups;
- The importance of effective engagement with young people and the community as a whole in designing and creating good public spaces;
- The importance of empowering different groups so that spaces can be used effectively by all and as spaces to bring people together;
Exploring the types of public art and statuary that people would like

Budget and Deliverables

The total budget available for this project is **up to £40,000 + VAT**. This is to cover the design fees and does not include the cost of materials or implementation.

In executing the project Southwark will also carry out repairs to the bridge. The cost of the repair has been estimated and budgeted for separately from the artwork commission.

The winning team will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- To work with the Southwark Council Project Lead to develop a fully costed, feasible design that can be delivered between December 2023 and March 2024.
- The design should comprise both a painted art work and also a lighting scheme.
- Provide a specification to form part of the tender package for the works to enable the council to seek a fee quotation to deliver the project.
- Undertake community engagement with, including but not limited to: Kender primary school, Harry Lambourn House and the residents of the neighbouring council estate. Consultation will also be required with London Borough of Lewisham and the adjacent landowner Arch Co.
- Consult with the council's contractor on the design of the artwork and lighting to help ensure deliverability.

The council will supply surveys and CAD drawings to the shortlisted teams.

Both the public art scheme and the bridge repairs will be delivered by a contractor procured by the council. The council and its contractor will be responsible for obtaining relevant permits and the traffic management plan to deliver the project.

Submission

This competition has a **two stage submission process**:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)
2. Shortlisted entrants will be awarded an honorarium fee and will develop a proposal.

Stage 1

Submission will be an Expression of Interest (EOI), submissions can be in a text and image format. If bidders do not feel comfortable in providing a written submission bidders may submit an audio recording / video (max 4.5 minutes) instead.

Submissions must address:

1. Full name and contact details including postal address, contact number and email of project lead.
2. Brief biographies and CVs of all the project team.
3. A 200-word description about your practice along with any relevant technical experience acquired through previous experience; please include images of relevant previous work.
4. A short paragraph of max. 500 words on why you are interested in being involved in the project and, how are you going to work with the local community to deliver your proposal if selected. Please include some thoughts about your vision including any initial written reactions you may have to the brief.
5. Summary of what you or your company currently does and will continue to do to address equality, diversity and inclusion and how this will be reflected in the proposal (no more than 1 p of A4).

No design work is required for the first stage.

These submissions will be shortlisted by the judging panel. The criteria and weighting for assessing proposals will be as follows:

40%	Artist/Team profile	Does the team have skilled professionals for delivering the proposal in line with eligibility outlined in the Open Call? Are the previous work experiences and/or their work methodologies and wider design aspirations relevant to the competition? Previous experience at the scale of the bridge is not a requirement.
25%	Initial vision	Does the proposal's initial written reflection to the brief suggest innovation, surprise and creativity?
25%	Feasibility	Does it propose an approach which seems feasible and deliverable.
10%	Equalities and diversity	What you or your company currently does and will continue to do to address equality, diversity and inclusion and how this will be reflected in the proposal?

Stage 2

Up to 4 shortlisted practices will then be invited to develop a design concept based on the information laid out in this open call and will be **awarded an honorarium of £1000 + VAT each**. The work required for the second phase of the project will be reflective of the honorarium sum. The proposals developed will be presented to the public through an exhibition under the bridge and posted on social media and other digital mediums.

Shortlisted candidates will be expected to provide the following at Stage 2, although this will be confirmed in due course. At stage 2 proposals will be assessed against a weighted criteria of 30% cost (design fees) and 70% quality.

We will be expecting:

- Confirmation of design fees.
- 2x A2 landscape boards or a short 3-minute video explaining your proposal. This can come in the form your practice feels will most effectively communicate your design to the judging panel.
- PowerPoint presentation for the purposes of judging.
- The submission should but is not limited to including hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation, key construction details drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted, an outline all materials and budget.

Help with Applying

On **Monday 22nd May 2023 at 12pm** Southwark Council will host a Teams meeting to discuss how to put together a successful competition submission. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions specific to this competition process. If you would like to join please email the Project Lead at: quyen.phan@southwark.gov.uk.

If you need assistance with applying please contact the Project Lead and a call can be arranged.

Eligibility

The competition is open to artists, designers, lighting designers/ engineers and architects (among other creative professionals). The judges encourage entries from, or collaborations with groups who are underrepresented in the creative industry.

Representation within this project is a crucial factor we wish to capture in order to achieve spaces that are purpose built for local residents and reflective of who they are. Selecting a practice or collaboration that operate as a Small, Medium-sized Enterprises or are Minority Ethnic led are a priority to Southwark Council in light of their borough-wide initiative Southwark Stands Together (SST).

Deadline and Submission Details

- Deadline for first submission is **Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 5pm**. Submissions received after time this will not be considered.
- For competition enquiries, please contact: guyen.phan@southwark.gov.uk
- Please send expressions of interest in a PDF format to Quyen.phan@southwark.gov.uk
- The PDF should be no more than 5MB and 10 A4 pages.
- As noted in submission requirements, an audio file/ video (mp3/mp4) can be submitted as an alternative to text and image submission, maximum of 4.5 minutes.
- You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your submission.

Schedule Outline

Wednesday 10 th May 2023	Open call for Expression of Interest (EOIs) Submissions commence
Monday 22 nd May 2023	Help with applying online session
Wednesday 7 th June 2023	Submissions deadline at 5pm
Thursday 15 th June 2023	Successful shortlisted practices notified
w/c 19 th June 2023	Shortlisted practice join for site visit / Stage 2 Q&A with Council
Friday 7 th July 2023	Stage 2 Submission Deadline for shortlisted
w/c 10 th July 2023	Shortlisted entries published on the council's website Old Kent Road Regeneration - Home
Wednesday 12 th July 2023	Final judging / interviews
17 th July 2023	Winner notified

Judging Panel

Tara Gbolade (Architect, Co-founding Director of Gbolade, Mayor's Design Advocate)
Maria Guy (Creative Producer, BUILDHOLLYWOOD)
Nicola McCaffrey (Head of Art, Kender Primary School)
Golddust (Southwark Young Advisor)
Colin Wilson (Head of Strategic Development and Old Kent Road Growth, Southwark Council)
Quyên Phan (Project lead, Planning Projects Officer, Southwark Council)
Tim Cutts (Senior Regeneration Manager, Southwark Council)

Further Information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity, relevance to the brief as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.
- To process entries to this competition we will share your application and any associated personal data provided on the application with our jury and competition partners.
- The ownership of Copyright of the design will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, that is Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.
- All designs remain the intellectual property of the designer however the winning design will itself when built will be the property of Southwark Council.
- Please bear in mind the project requires a fast turn around and may have peak moments when your practice will need to dedicate sufficient staff to deliver the project on time, to budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders.
- If your practice/collaboration is appointed to deliver the project it will need to have the following insurance: Employers Liability, Professional Indemnity, and Public Liability.
- Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage.
- Southwark Council reserves the right to use images from the submissions for promotional purposes in press, social media and publications. All endeavours will be made to ensure accurate accreditation.

Useful Links

Old Kent Road Regeneration - <https://oldkentroad.org.uk>

News item on the bridge - [Under the Bridge - Old Kent Road](#)

Draft Old Kent Road area action plan - https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/31613/210111_OKRAAP_Addendum_Reduced.pdf

Contact

Project Lead: Quyên Phan
quyen.phan@southwark.gov.uk

Disclaimer

Southwark Council is not liable for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgments and all decisions are final. While it is the intent to construct the winning scheme, the organisers reserve the right to not proceed with construction for any reason. Material submitted by you shall be your sole responsibility, shall not infringe or violate the rights of any other party or violate any laws, contribute to or encourage infringing or otherwise unlawful conduct, or otherwise be obscene, objectionable, or in poor taste. By submitting such material, you are representing that you are the owner of such material and/or have all necessary rights, licenses, and authorization to distribute it.

Appendix 1



Nicola Hussain and her family standing in front of artwork



Nicola Hussain, 'Swim' painting reproduced for billboards, 2022



Amanada Holiday and Bernice Mulenga with Y4 Kender Primary School Pupils, 2022



Artworks by Amanada Holiday and Bernice Mulenga made with Y4 Kender Primary School Pupils, 2022 and curated by Black Blossoms School of Art and Culture