

## **£8,000 Community Creative Commission for Young People: Deptford Town Hall and its Statues**

Goldsmiths, University of London is seeking to commission a community organisation or practitioner that works with young people, with links to the London Borough of Lewisham, to produce a creative response to the issues raised by Deptford Town Hall and its statues.

Working in collaboration with an academic at Goldsmiths, proposals must demonstrate how they will meaningfully and ethically involve local young people from communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice.

The commissioned creative response can be in any medium and we welcome proposals for new artworks, performance, music, writing, film, events, interactive experiences, and digital work, among others.

### **Background**

Based in New Cross in the borough of Lewisham, Goldsmiths is a Higher Education Institution founded in 1892 that offers undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees in the arts, humanities and social sciences, with a particular focus on creativity and social justice.

Following a 137-day student-led occupation by GARA (Goldsmiths anti-racist action) in 2019, Goldsmiths has been critically re-evaluating the statues on the front of its Deptford Town Hall Building, which it purchased from Lewisham Council for a nominal fee in the late 1990s. The statues represent a colonial history that links to slavery and racial injustice.

Following a series of consultation exercises in 2022, the decision was taken by Goldsmiths to retain the statues and commit to further interpretation and engagement around the issues that they represent. This commission is one part of fulfilling those commitments.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for this commission, you must:

- Be a community organisation or practitioner that works with young people based in the borough of Lewisham
- Demonstrate how you will meaningfully involve young people from communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice

- Collaborate with an academic member of staff at Goldsmiths, exchanging knowledge and skills
- Meaningfully engage with and respond specifically to Deptford Town Hall and its statues

As a commission rooted in knowledge exchange with academic research at Goldsmiths as well as community collaboration, we anticipate that this commission may build on previous work and existing relationships.

### **Scope of the work**

We welcome bold, creative responses to this brief. However, there are some parameters that the commissioned response must follow in addition to those outlined in the eligibility criteria.

The commissioned creative response must:

- Result in a creative output that the public can experience and can be documented and more widely shared
- Be accessible to its intended audiences
- Be co-branded with Goldsmiths
- The project should include an output (whether physical, digital, etc) that can be displayed and or/ archived by Goldsmiths and used as part of its ongoing engagement work around the Deptford Town Hall building.
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### **What do we mean by ‘equitable co-production’?**

We want this commission to lead to creative responses that are meaningfully shaped by local young people from communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice.

Your proposal should demonstrate how you will create a collaborative approach and specific opportunities that empower young people to shape your proposed creative response.

In addition, we want to understand how this approach will give young people the resources and opportunities they need to meaningfully contribute.

## **Awarding the commission**

To develop this commission, Goldsmiths established a working group including academics with relevant expertise and lived experience and appropriate support staff. In addition, a number of community stakeholders with relevant expertise and lived experience fed into the development process.

This group will meet to consider responses to the commission, making a recommendation to Goldsmiths' Race Justice Board, who will ratify it.

The group is co-chaired by Lara Paquete Pereira, Lecturer in Community Studies, Social Work, and Michael Eades, Head of Civic Engagement.

## **Assessment criteria**

- A. Knowledge exchange** - The proposed project includes realistic and meaningful opportunities for in-depth collaboration with at least one member of Goldsmiths academic staff
- B. Community informed** – The proposed project includes a named local partner organisation and opportunities for co-production with local global majority communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice
- C. Thematic relevance** - The proposed project meaningfully engages with the history and context of Deptford Town Hall and its statues, while building on and responding to existing scholarship and activism centred on it
- D. Originality and impact** - The proposed project is bold and creative, constituting a powerful and original artistic intervention with the potential to shape discourses on responses to the memorialisation of colonial histories
- E. Ethical and equitable** - The proposed project minimises the potential for harm to be caused as a result of its conduct, empowering participants based on their needs and ambitions
- F. Achievable** – The proposed project must be realistically scoped to be delivered within the specified timeframe and budget, demonstrating that due consideration has been given to the commission's practical constraints

## **Budget**

This commission is for the total value of £8,000, which must cover all costs. In your proposal, you must demonstrate how you will budget for all the costs you will incur,

including co-production with young people from communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice.

Payments will be made across the project based on agreed milestones.

### **Timeline**

December 2024	Commission brief launched
9am, 10 February 2025	Deadline for proposals
March 2025	Decisions communicated to applicants
April 2025	First payment made
21 July 2025	Finished creative output submitted and second payment processed
October 2025	Commissioned launched in Deptford Town Hall and on the Goldsmiths website

## **Deptford Town Hall creative commission for young people application form**

A completed version of this form should be submitted to [engage@gold.ac.uk](mailto:engage@gold.ac.uk) by 9am on 10 February 2025.

### **1. Lead applicant**

1.1 First name:

1.2 Last name:

1.3 Email address:

1.4 Contact telephone number:

### **2. Organisation**

2.1 Organisation name:

2.2 Role of lead applicant within organisation:

2.3 Organisation address:

2.4 Organisation purpose / mission (100 words max):

2.5 Does your organisation hold charitable status?

Yes

No

2.6 Is the organisation global majority led?

Yes

No

2.7 Does the organisation hold public liability insurance?

Yes

No

2.8 Link to organisation website:

**3. Academic collaboration (Assessment criteria A)**

3.1 Name of Goldsmiths academic you will collaborate with:

3.2 Do you have an existing relationship with the named academic?

Yes

No

3.3 If so, please outline the nature of your relationship (100 words max):

3.4 What expertise will the named academic bring to the project? (100 words max):

**4. Involving communities (Assessment criteria B / E)**

4.1 Please outline how you intend to meaningfully involve local young people from communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice in the production of your film (150 words max):

4.2 How will you ensure those communities are ethically empowered to participate based on their needs and ambitions? (150 words max)



4.3 Do you or relevant people in your organisation hold an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check?

Yes

No

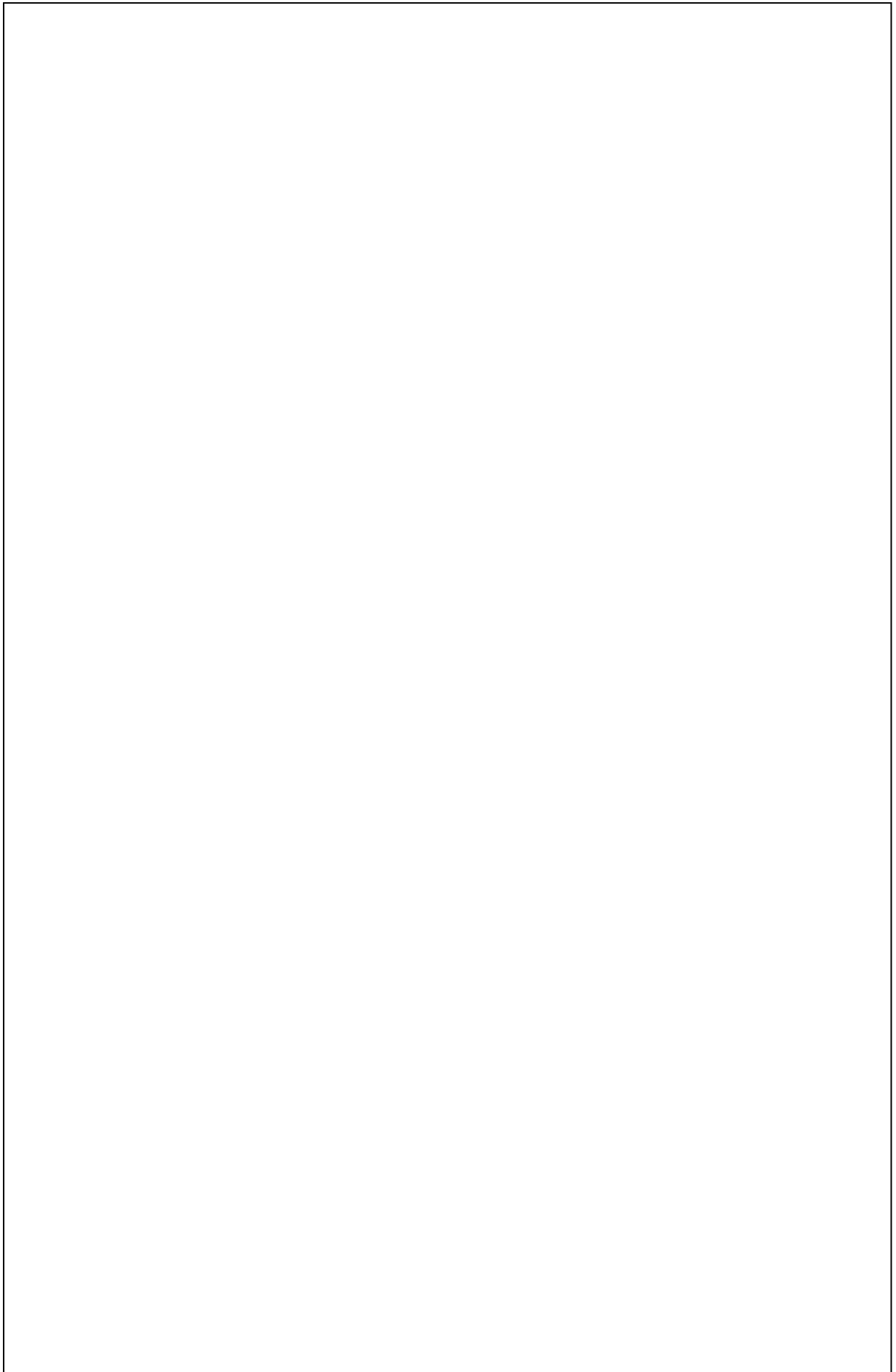
**5. About your creative response (Assessment criteria C / D)**

5.1 Working title:

5.2 Medium:

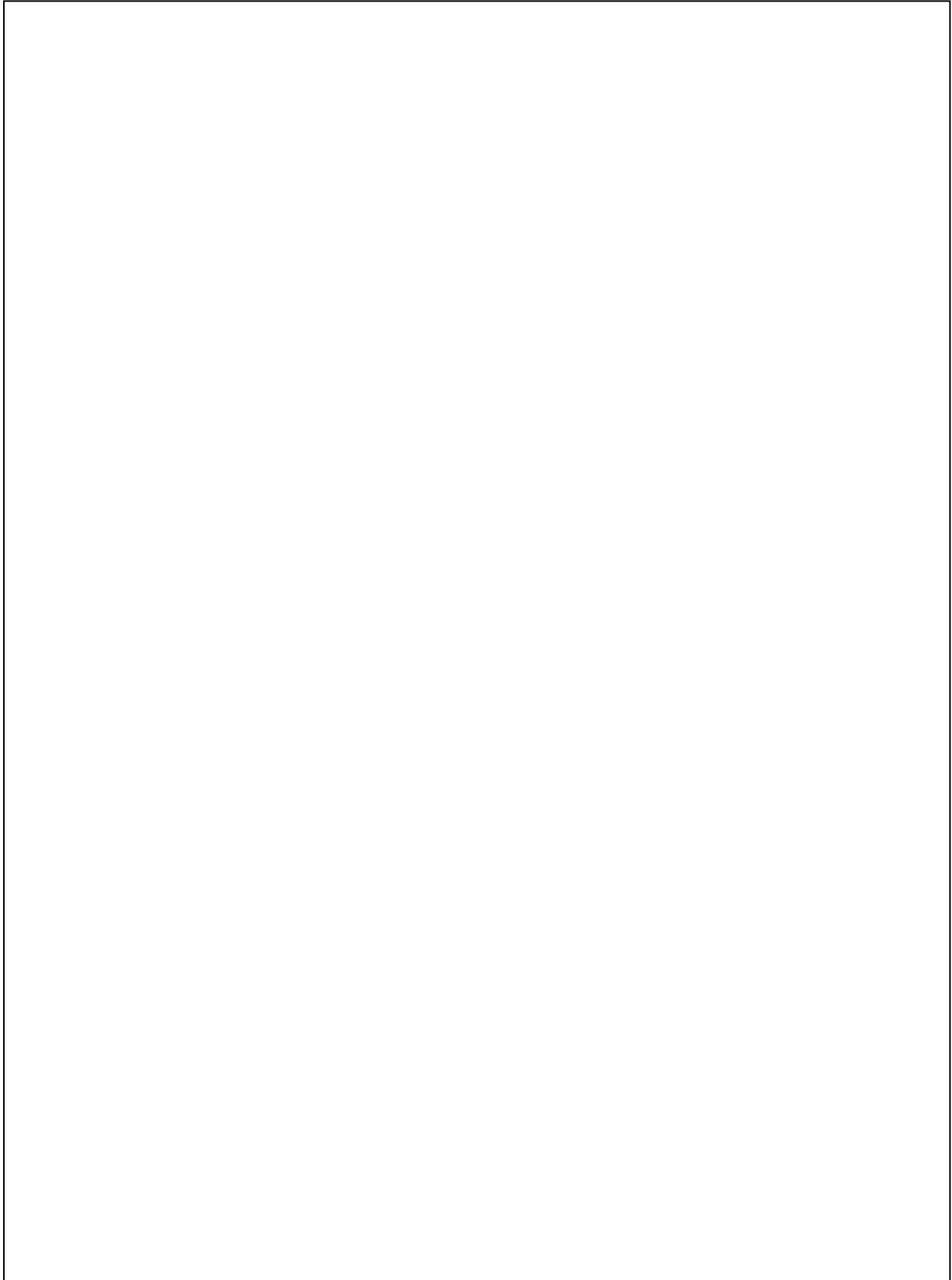
5.3 Summary

Please provide a few paragraphs describing your proposed creative response, including its themes and relevance to Deptford Town Hall and its statues. (500 words max)



**6. Team and track record (Assessment criteria F)**

Tell us about who will be involved in the production of your creative response and a brief description of their track records. (300 words max)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their response to the question above. The box occupies most of the page below the text.

## **7. Budget (Assessment criteria F)**

Please outline how you will spend your commission, covering all production costs and costs associated with co-production with relevant communities, etc.