

£8,000 Film Commission: Deptford Town Hall and its Statues

Goldsmiths, University of London is seeking to commission a global majority artist, filmmaker or global majority-led organisation with links to the London Borough of Lewisham to produce a short film responding to 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 communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice.

The commissioned film will be used by Goldsmiths as an educational tool exploring and communicating the histories embodied by the town hall and its statues.

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 in the late 1990s. The statues represent a colonial maritime history that links to slavery, extraction 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 global a global majority artist, filmmaker or global majority-led organisation with links to the London Borough of Lewisham and relevant professional experience
- Demonstrate how you will meaningfully involve communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice in the production of your film

- 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.

In other words, this project might build on previous work undertaken collaboratively between Goldsmiths researchers and community/ cultural partners.

Scope of the work

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

The commissioned film must:

- Be under 15mins long
- Include closed captions for accessibility purposes
- Be co-branded with Goldsmiths

What do we mean by ‘equitable co-production’?

We want this commission to produce a film that is meaningfully shaped by local 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 them to shape your film.

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

Awarding the film 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 production costs. In your proposal, you must demonstrate how you will budget for all the costs you will incur, including equitable co-production with communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice.

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

While guarantees cannot be made due to existing pressures on resources, Goldsmiths will explore the provision of in-kind support to enable the project (e.g. space, advice and other support).

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 film submitted and second payment processed
October 2025	Commissioned film launched

Deptford Town Hall film commission application form

A completed version of this form should be submitted to 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 communities most impacted by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and racial injustice in the production of your film (150 words max):

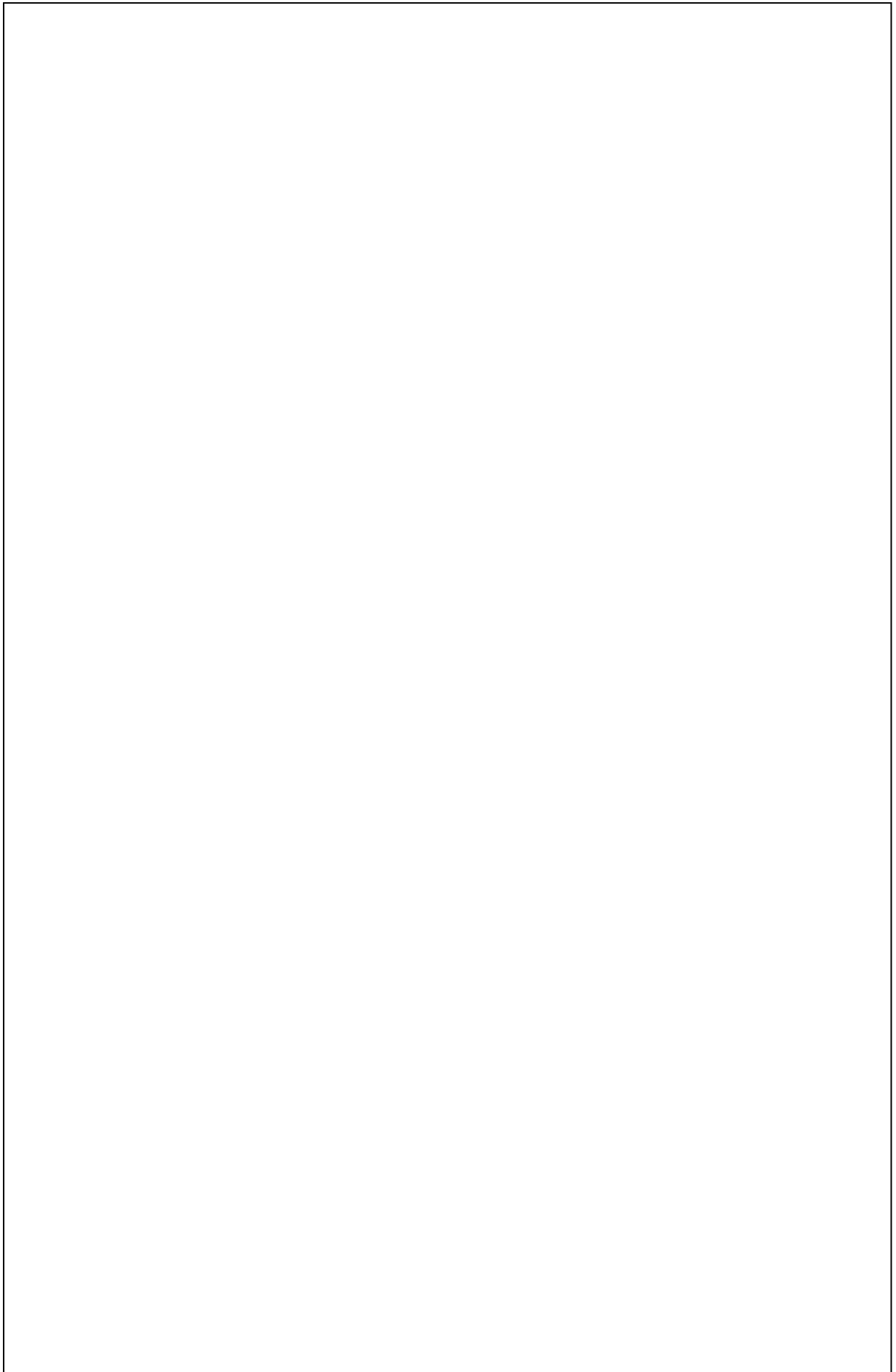
4.2 How will you ensure those communities are empowered to participate based on their needs and ambitions? (150 words max):

5. About your film (Assessment criteria C / D)

5.1 Working title:

5.2 Summary

Please provide a few paragraphs explaining the proposed film's core elements including structure, contributors, locations, themes and relevance to Deptford Town Hall and its statues. (500 words max – two text boxes)



6. Team and track record (Assessment criteria F)

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

7. Budget (Assessment criteria F)

Please outline how you will spend your commission, covering all production costs (including pre and post), equitable co-production with relevant communities, etc.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the applicant to write their budget details. The box is currently blank.