

DEPTFORD X

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Artist Open Call

Deptford X, in partnership with Lewisham Borough of Culture, The Migration Museum and The Walk are delighted to announce an opportunity for an ambitious commission by a London-based visual artist/artist collaboration with lived experience of migration.



DEPTFORD X



MIGRATION
MUSEUM



LEWISHAM



GOOD
CHANCE



The Commission

The commission is for an artist or artist collaboration to create a temporary art work in the public realm that will serve as both stage and prompt for the performances and arrival of The Walk to Deptford, Lewisham, on 22nd October 2021. There will be additional live activities programmed for The Walk's arrival by the project partners.

The Walk is a collaboration between Good Chance in association with Handspring Puppet Company - world-famous creators of War Horse - with Artistic Direction from Amir Nizar Zuabi. At the heart of The Walk is 'Little Amal', a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a 9 year old refugee girl, representing all displaced children, many separated from their families. Little Amal will travel over 8,000km from Turkey to the UK embodying the urgent message "Don't forget about us". The commissioned artwork will be central to the welcome provided to Little Amal in her arrival in the London Borough of Lewisham. The selected artist will work closely with the Artistic Director of The Walk, who sets the broader artistic vision of the project as a whole, to develop this commission for the Lewisham stage of the project.

When developing your proposal, you are invited to consider the impact your installation/art work will have on 9 year old Little Amal when she encounters it. As a child, she may well be at once curious, enchanted, bewildered and delighted by the sights, smells and people of Deptford. There will be people to greet and welcome her but how will she interact with your proposed art work? What impression will it leave on her? Amal will have previously arrived in the UK via Folkestone, Dover and Canterbury before stepping foot in London. She will first arrive in Deptford, Lewisham, one of the city's most diverse and lively neighbourhoods. Her first impression of London will be Deptford on market day, and your artwork.

The selected artist will be supported to develop and create a work that is responsive to the context, histories and lived experiences of migration in the London Borough of Lewisham. The artist(s) will devise workshops with recent migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are resident in the borough to support the development of their commission. We are open as to how the research and conversations feed into the resulting art work but are keen that the project serves to elevate the voices and stories of migrants and refugees.

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Details

The total artist fee for the project, including workshop delivery, is £4000.

The production budget for the work and its installation will be in addition to this, and agreed with the selected artist as the project progresses.

Timeline:

The project will run from June 2021 until 22nd October 2021

Midnight 16th May 2021:	Deadline for applications
June - July:	Research: Context, partnerships and narrative
July - August:	Collaborative workshops with local groups
August - September:	Artwork developed and confirmed
October:	Logistics planning
October 22nd 2021	Build / Installation / Rehearsals (depending on medium) Project delivery

Applicants will need a flexible and collaborative approach to the creative process.

This opportunity is for artists with lived experience of migration who are resident in London. Applications by artists who live in, are connected to, or able to demonstrate connections to, Lewisham will also be prioritised



Deptford High Street on market day



The Walk, Little Amal, Image: Nick Wall (c)

Criteria

- >> Applicants will need a flexible and collaborative approach to the creative process.
- >> This opportunity is for artists with lived experience of migration.
- >> Applicants must be resident in London.
- >> Applications by artists who live in, are connected to, or able to demonstrate connections to, Lewisham will also be prioritised.
- >> Proposals must demonstrate how the artwork is relevant to the context and people of Lewisham.
- >> Applicants must explain how they will use research and workshops to develop the work in the context of Lewisham.
- >> Applicants must explain how the finished artwork can be engaged or interacted with by both Little Amal / The Walk **and** residents of Lewisham.

How to Apply

We welcome applications from those with different language backgrounds and different access needs. We also welcome applications by video or audio recording. If you need this application pack in a different format, or would like to discuss any access needs, please get in touch with Deptford X to discuss any application or access needs. We will be happy to accommodate. admin@deptfordx.org

Otherwise, to apply for this opportunity please complete [this Google Form](#).

You will be asked to answer the following questions and supply the information listed below:

- >> Name, email address and telephone number.
- >> Submit up to 5 artworks - documentation or full works if digital.
- >> Summarise your proposal in 50 words or less.
- >> A proposal of up to 500 words describing the work you would like to make.
- >> Up to 300 words explaining how both residents of Lewisham and Little Amal / The Walk will interact with your artwork.
- >> Up to 300 words explaining how you will use research and workshops to develop your work in the context of Lewisham.
- >> Link to your website or social media where we can see examples of your work.
- >> A CV (up to two sides of A4) *OR* a short biography telling us about your past artistic and engagement experience and artistic practice (no more than 300 words).

Please note that we do not expect applicants to have attended formal arts education but do need to see evidence of past artistic projects and practice.

- >> A completed monitoring form. This will be processed separately from your application and will not affect your eligibility for the opportunity.

DEPTFORD X

About the partners

Deptford X

[Deptford X](#) is a visual arts charity based in Deptford, South East London. We foster artistic talent and nurture community within the borough of Lewisham and beyond. We achieve this through a free annual festival in Deptford, artist studio provision and ongoing activity supporting artists and our local communities throughout the year.

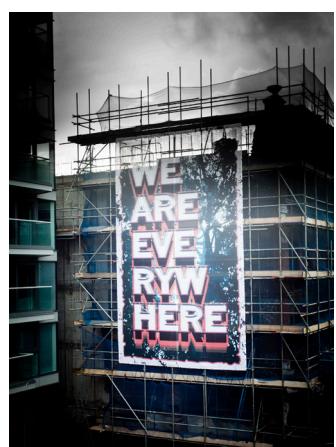
Founded in 1998, Deptford X is London's longest-running visual arts festival. Each year we work with hundreds of artists to locate art at the centre of everyday life for all of the area's communities and to engage large & diverse audiences.

Deptford X:

- >> Is led by local artistic ambition, interests and practice.
- >> Brings art into informal contexts and public spaces for all to access.
- >> Seeks to make a positive contribution to our locality, communities, and to art, and to lead by example.
- >> Places equity, accessibility and care at the heart of the organisation.
- >> Holds space and advocates for difference, creativity, experimentation and learning within art.

Fundamentally we support artists and creative practice, as well as those who do not yet identify as artists.

<https://deptfordx.org>



Clockwise from top left:
'A Parade of Friendly Monsters',
Deptford X + Phoenix Fry, 2019,
Image: Tim Bowditch; 'Scape
Boat', Patrick Hackett, 2009;
Mark
Titchner, 'We Are Everywhere',
2011; Hew Locke, 'Gold Standard',
2012; Arnaud Dejardin, 'Deptford
Gold', 2015, Image: Leo Hughes

DEPTFORD X

Lewisham Borough of Culture, led by Lewisham Council

In 2022, Lewisham will be London Borough of Culture. A year-long programme will put critical issues at its heart and harness the creativity of the cultural sector to deliver lasting change. From a call to action on the climate emergency to a celebration of our migrant communities, it will platform less heard voices and create a lasting legacy.

From venues to parks and street corners, hundreds of thousands of people will participate across the year, celebrating Lewisham's rich history of cultural activism through music, dance, public art and more. Our manifesto:

- >> We will protect this place we love – a call to action on climate change.
- >> We are strengthened by our diversity – a celebration of our borough of sanctuary.
- >> We will be happy here – a commitment to building an inclusive society.
- >> We are Lewisham – working together to deliver change.

Lewisham has a proud history of welcoming people from across the world and of standing up to intolerance. We are committed to becoming a Sanctuary Borough and our target of welcoming 100 refugee families makes us London's leading borough in refugee resettlement.

Lewisham's welcome to Little Amal is a chance to raise our voices about the situation and needs of unaccompanied minors and of children in families with no recourse to public funds. As Amal travels through our Borough of Sanctuary and onto central London and Westminster, there is an opportunity for her to carry messages about the changes we need to see locally, nationally and globally.

Amal's visit is also a chance for Lewisham to share the Borough of Culture programme and to build connections with local, national and international communities.

www.iamlewisham.uk/



Deptford High Street on market day



Deptford New Market Yard

Migration Museum

The Migration Museum is shining a light on the many ways that the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. We are currently based in a great space in the heart of busy Lewisham Shopping Centre where we have exhibitions, events and a far-reaching education programme for primary schools, secondary schools and university groups.

Our exhibitions and events have been attended by over 180,000 visitors, and more than 12,000 school and university students have participated in our education workshops. We had nearly 13,000 visitors visit us in our first month alone in Lewisham Shopping Centre in 2020. We are really looking forward to opening again soon and welcoming people back, and meeting new folk.

Our education workshops are guided by our strapline: All Our Stories; and what connects us all. Working with you (the artist/s) will be a great opportunity to develop our workshop offer and share it with people locally, and get geared up to welcome Amal to Lewisham.

We are looking forward to coming together with other local organisations, to raise awareness of the history of welcome and sanctuary in the borough, and to all gear up together for plans for Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022.

<https://www.migrationmuseum.org>



Migration Museum in Lewisham Shopping Centre

The Walk

One little girl. One big hope

Little Amal, a young refugee, embarks on a remarkable journey – an epic voyage that will take her across Turkey, across Europe. To find her mother. To get back to school. To start a new life. Will the world let her? Can she achieve what now seems more impossible than ever?

Following the phenomenal international success of The Jungle, Good Chance, in association with Handspring Puppet Company, will present its most extraordinary work yet: The Walk – a travelling festival of art and hope in support of refugees, with Artistic Direction from Amir Nizar Zuabi.

In 2021, from the Syria-Turkey border all the way to the UK, The Walk will bring together celebrated artists, major cultural institutions, community groups and humanitarian organisations to create one of the most innovative and adventurous public artworks ever attempted.

At the heart of The Walk is Little Amal, a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, created by Handspring, acclaimed creators of War Horse. Representing all displaced children, many separated from their families, Little Amal will travel over 8,000km embodying the urgent message “Don’t forget about us”.

At this time of unprecedented global change, The Walk is an extraordinary artistic response: a cultural odyssey transcending borders, politics and language to tell a new story of shared humanity – and to ensure the world doesn’t forget the millions of displaced children, each with their own story, who are more vulnerable than ever during the global pandemic.

<https://www.walkwithamal.org>



The Walk, Little Amal, Image: Bevan Roos (c)



The Walk, Route map

About Lewisham

Lewisham is the 13th largest borough in London by population and the fifth largest in inner London, with a population of over 300,000. Straddling inner and outer London, Lewisham is young (31% aged 0-24) and diverse. 170 languages are spoken and 47% of residents are from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, rising to 76% in schools.

However, alongside a wealth of opportunity exist stubborn inequalities, with high levels of deprivation and poor health outcomes. Deptford is amongst the most deprived areas in the country, with 90% of LSOAs (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in the bottom 20%. The area has the highest percentage of residents with no qualifications and high numbers claiming ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) and Incapacity Benefit.

Lewisham has a powerful cultural infrastructure. It is home to an array of artists and creatives, plus cultural institutions with national and international reputations for excellence including Goldsmiths University and Centre for Contemporary Art, the Albany, Horniman Museum and Trinity Laban. We also have organisations deeply embedded locally that have earned the trust of our communities.