

## Constellations ° Residency

Open call



Image: Courtesy of UP Projects

## Introduction

The Royal Parks are partnering with leading public art organisation UP Projects to offer a new, 6-month residency opportunity for an artist to be based at Greenwich Park, starting in January 2026.

The selected artist will receive free studio space at St Mary's Lodge located within Greenwich Park as well as a fee of £22,000. The residency has been designed to support an artist to develop their socially engaged practice through creative community engagement.

Developed as part of UP Projects' [Constellations](#) learning and development programme and forming part of the legacy of the [Greenwich Park Revealed](#) project, this *Constellations* ° Residency aims to foster meaningful connections between the park and its visitors through artistic exploration and collaboration.

The residency will suit an early to mid-career artist with a socially engaged practice, an understanding of and sensitivity to the barriers faced by the park's underserved communities, and an understanding of the social and cultural value of urban green spaces.

We are welcoming expressions of interest through a six-week open call, launching on Tuesday 23 September 2025 and closing at midnight on **Sunday 2 November 2025**.

Please read on for further information about the residency and details of how to apply.

## Background

### About The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks is responsible for managing and preserving over 5,000 acres of historic parkland across London, including valuable conservation areas and important biodiverse habitats for wildlife. We are a charity, created in March 2017. Our parks are among the most visited attractions in the UK, and can mean different things to different people at different times. They are free and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

The Royal Parks cares for London's eight Royal Parks: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St. James's Park. We are also responsible for a number of other important green spaces in London, including Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens. They are listed landscapes, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and include a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are comprised of:

- 5,000 acres of open green spaces
- wooded areas
- re-wilded areas and areas of horticultural excellence
- lakes and waterways
- footpaths, cycle paths, horse riding routes and roadways
- children's play areas
- a range of leisure and sporting areas

77 million visitors a year visit the Royal Parks, a diverse demographic made up of:

- local residents
- local schools and businesses
- commuters
- national and international tourists

[www.royalparks.org.uk](http://www.royalparks.org.uk)

## About Greenwich Park Revealed

*Greenwich Park Revealed* was a four-year project funded by The Royal Parks and The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Community Fund through the 'Parks for People' programme. The project invested £12 million into Greenwich Park to reveal, restore, protect and share its unique heritage - now, and for future generations.

Over the course of the project, work was undertaken to restore the historic landscape, provide new visitor facilities, enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. The project also delivered new community facilities, training and learning opportunities, and a programme of free cultural events.

A new Learning Centre was created as a space for learning and discovery for visitors of all ages and abilities, and to serve as a hub for ongoing community engagement at the park. A programme of events and activities are being delivered this year as part of the project's legacy to further its positive outcomes for communities, with a specific focus on engaging the park's underserved communities. This Artist in Residence project forms a key part of the Greenwich Park Revealed project legacy.

For more information, please visit: [www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/greenwich-park/greenwich-park-revealed](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/greenwich-park/greenwich-park-revealed)



The Grand Ascent and Royal Observatory Greenwich, Greenwich Park - © The Royal Parks

## About UP Projects and Constellations

UP Projects is the UK's leading public art organisation specialising in socially engaged public art commissioning. We bring world class artists out of the gallery and into public spaces to create new work with communities across the UK and beyond. Our work is always responsive to context often activating unexpected corners of the public realm. Our 20 years' experience champions a bold yet sensitive approach that values time and takes care to bring about social change.

*Constellations* is a learning and development programme led by UP Projects working in partnership with a range of organisations including Flat Time House, Liverpool Biennial, John Hansard Gallery and The Royal Parks. It has been devised for artists, curators, producers, commissioners and all those who are active and/or interested in the expanded field of public art. The programme explores issues and best practice relevant to the public art sector via *Constellations* ° *Assemblies*, an online events programme, open to all, involving a range of UK and international speakers, the *Constellations* ° *Cohort* and this *Constellations* ° *Residency*.

For more information, please visit: [www.upprojects.com/projects/learning-and-development-programmes](http://www.upprojects.com/projects/learning-and-development-programmes)





Constellations 2020-21 Final Event - Umbra, Penumbra, Antumbra, 'Radical Cocktails' by Constellations ° Cohort 2020-21, Flat Time House. Image: UP Projects



Constellations ° Cohort 2022 seminar led by Taey Iohe and facilitated by Harun Morrison. Image courtesy of UP Projects

## Project Overview

### Aims

Building on the community engagement work already undertaken as part of Greenwich Park Revealed, the key aims of this *Constellations* ° Residency are:

- To create an opportunity for an artist to develop their socially engaged practice through a live project that involves meaningful engagement with local residents.
- To embed the residency within Greenwich Park through the provision of onsite studio space; making the artist's practice visible to the park's visitors and encouraging a site and context specific response to the park.
- To build new and strengthen existing connections with Greenwich Park's underserved audiences, enabling The Royal Parks to understand their specific needs, experiences and connections with the park.
- To deliver (with support from the project team) a creative output/s that evolve in response to the park context and a process of community engagement and/or collaboration.

### Current Situation

A programme of free activities and events was delivered at Greenwich Park between 2022 and 2024 as part of *Greenwich Park Revealed*, including arts performances, creative sessions, family festival activities, open air theatre, live music, community archaeology, welcome days, learning sessions and a 2-week showcase, with reflections and engagement from local communities invited throughout.

The project successfully increased the numbers of people engaging with Greenwich Park's nature and heritage and welcomed a broader range of visitors through the diverse range of activities on offer. As part of the project's legacy, the Community Engagement Officer role has been made permanent at the park to develop further partnerships with organisations and groups delivering for local communities, with a key aim to support more people to feel welcome at the park and form more meaningful connections through learning, exploration and new experiences.

## Target Audience

The boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets represent a hugely diverse population of people living in London, from a range of culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, and with wide-ranging lived experiences and perspectives. However, due to a number of factors many local residents may face additional barriers to accessing and feeling welcome in urban green spaces, and we are interested in how we can reduce potential barriers for local people to visit and engage with Greenwich Park.

For example, Greenwich has the highest number of Nepalese speakers across all London boroughs (with 5,057 speakers, based on 2011 census data), as well as the largest number of Igbo speakers and the second largest number of Yoruba speakers. Also amongst the most commonly spoken languages outside of English in the Royal Borough, 5,848 residents were recorded to speak an Eastern European language and other Indo-Chinese languages (not including Nepalese) are spoken by 5,891 residents.

There is also great variation in levels of deprivation in all three boroughs, and huge inequality. Tower Hamlets has one of the highest rates of poverty of all London Boroughs (and England as a whole) and Lewisham, Greenwich and Tower Hamlets are all among the Boroughs with significantly higher levels of poverty compared to England as a whole (according to recent data from Trust for London).

For the purposes of this project, we define 'local' residents as people living within one of the three neighbouring boroughs to the park: Greenwich, Lewisham or Tower Hamlets.

Based on audience research by the Royal Parks and analysis of participant data undertaken as part of *Greenwich Park Revealed*, the park's underserved audiences are defined as:

1. People from under-represented visitor groups in Greenwich, Tower Hamlets and Lewisham - particularly the wards of Evelyn, Greenwich West, New Cross, and Blackwall & Cubitt where there are high indices of deprivation.
2. Local people from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, particularly where English is not their first language.
3. Young people, aged 18 - 30, from Greenwich, Tower Hamlets and Lewisham.
4. People who identify as Disabled, D/deaf and/or neurodivergent, who live locally.





Children enjoying a 'Welcome Day' event at the Greenwich Park Learning Centre - © The Royal Parks

## Art in the Park

There is a rich tapestry of existing artistic and creative communities local to the Park, and of public art and monuments previously commissioned for the park's landscape. Key public art and monuments in the park include:

- Knife Edge, by Henry Moore
- General Wolfe Statue, by Robert Tait McKenzie
- The Millennium Sundial, by Chrisopher Daniel
- Carved wooden sculptures on the Greenwich Park Learning Centre nature trail, by Daniel Cordell
- The Rose Garden pergolas and Queen's Orchard Gate, by Heather Burrell
- The Herb Garden fountain, by Kate Malone



Pergola in the Rose Garden by Heather Burrell - © The Royal Parks

## The Residency

### Anticipated Outputs

As part of the *Constellations* ° Residency at Greenwich Park, the successful applicant will:

- Identify community groups from the park's underserved audiences (listed on page 8) and develop a framework for welcoming them to collaborate and participate in their creative practice.
- Work with the park's Community Engagement Officer to plan and deliver a series of at least 6 workshops or participatory sessions.
- Develop a creative output or outputs as a result of the residency and the community participation. There is no prescriptive brief for these outputs at this stage, which could include permanent or temporary interventions or ephemeral work. However, there is an expectation that there will be tangible legacy of the residency that future park visitors can engage with. The nature of this output will be agreed with the Royal Parks and UP Projects over the course of the residency.
- Support the creation of a celebration of the residency at the end of the project sharing its creative output/s with the wider community.
- Consider how this project can have a meaningful legacy for engaging underserved communities at the park beyond summer 2026, suggesting further avenues for interpretation and exploration that emerge through the community engagement processes.
- Contribute to evaluating the success of the project, in collaboration with key staff on the project.

We further invite the selected artist to consider the myriad histories, stories and perspectives of audiences who visit and engage with the park (and those who may not yet visit) and propose how St Mary's Lodge (and the surrounding outdoor space) might serve as a location for engagement sessions. There are also other areas within the park that could be used for community connection and activation, as follows:

- The Herb Garden
- The Greenwich Park Learning Centre
- The Wolfe Statue piazza and surrounding landscape
- The Ignatius Sancho Café and Kitchen Garden (and Changing Places toilet)
- The Queen's Orchard
- The Playground
- One Tree Hill
- The Rose Garden
- The Bandstand

Further information about each of these areas can be found on The Royal Parks website: [www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/greenwich-park/map](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/greenwich-park/map).

## Studio and Engagement Spaces

The main location for the residency will be St Mary's Lodge, which will be made exclusively available for the selected artist to use as a workshop and studio space throughout the duration of the project (Monday to Friday, and selected weekends to be defined and agreed upon appointment), until the end of June 2026. The downstairs area of the lodge will be exclusively available to the artist and any materials or equipment can be left in the space securely throughout the duration of the residency. Please note the upstairs areas of the lodge will be closed off for use during the duration of the residency and will not be accessible to the artist or any external parties.

Built in the early 1800's to designs by John Nash, St Mary's Lodge is a small, Grade II listed building in cottage orné style and has a white stucco exterior, hexagonal frontage, feature windows and a slate roof. The lodge is in the north-west corner of the park close to St Mary's Gate and the centre of Greenwich.

The building has level flooring throughout and is wheelchair accessible, with a ramp leading to a courtyard space at the back and an accessible toilet. The main room is approximately 4.6m x 3.7m in size and features large windows and wooden flooring. If you are interested in visiting the lodge before applying we will be running an open morning. Please see **page 22** for further details.

The Greenwich Park Learning Centre will also offer an additional space for community workshops or engagement sessions, as well as a celebration event towards the end of the project in June 2026.





St Mary's Lodge (exterior) - © The Royal Parks

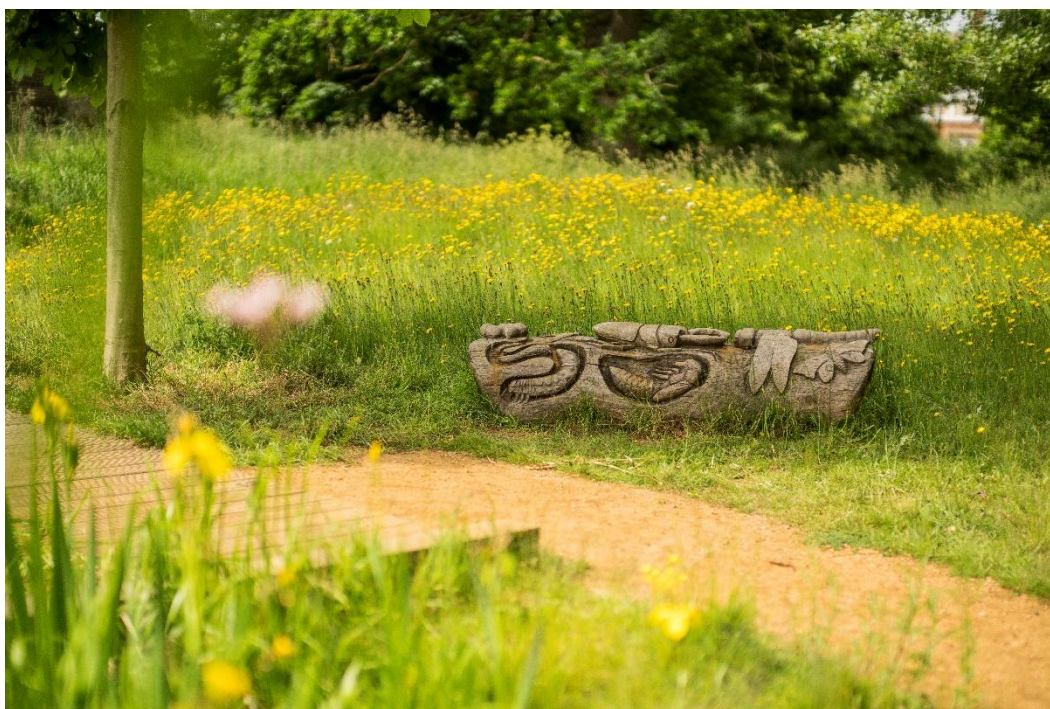


St Mary's Lodge and the Herb Garden - © The Royal Parks





Greenwich Park Learning Centre: classroom entrance - © The Royal Parks



Greenwich Park Learning Centre: outdoor space - © The Royal Parks





St Mary's Lodge (interior) - © The Royal Parks



St Mary's Lodge (interior) - © The Royal Parks





St Mary's Lodge (courtyard) - © The Royal Parks

## Mentoring

As part of the residency, learning and development support will be offered to the artist in the form of three mentoring sessions. Mentoring sessions will be tailored to the needs of the chosen artist and will be designed to support their practice through peer learning and exchange. At least one session will be led by UP Projects with two being led by experts in the field as agreed with the artist. Upon appointment, UP Projects will work closely with the selected artist to organise these sessions to best suit their needs and practice.

## Further Support

The artist's primary contact throughout the project will be the Community Engagement Officer at Greenwich Park, who will support them through fortnightly catch ups, to connect with local groups and parks visitors, to research the park and access key information and resources, and to acquire and secure materials.

The project team will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that the selected artist is able to work effectively, should additional support be required.

## Expectations

The duration of this residency is 6 months, from January to July 2026. Specific start and end dates in January and July respectively will be agreed with the selected artist.

Throughout the residency period, the artist is expected to spend at least 2 days per week on site at the park, to facilitate their socially engaged practice and meet with key members of staff and community groups involved in the project. However, the studio space will be available to the artist to use from Monday to Friday (and selected weekends, to be agreed with the park team) at their discretion.

Working days and hours for the residency are to be set flexibly, through discussion with Royal Parks staff. The core opening hours for the Greenwich Park Office are between 8.30am and 4.30pm (Monday to Friday), and access to the studio or workshop space will vary depending on daylight hours and the set opening and closing times of the park, which vary seasonally.

As previously mentioned, the selected artist will be expected to run a minimum of six workshops or engagement sessions with local communities as well as produce a relevant output as a result of their residency to be defined and agreed together with the Royal Parks and UP Projects through the course of the residency.

The selected artist will also be expected to enable a number of open studio sessions, with dates and frequency to be agreed upon appointment.

## Copyright

It is anticipated that the Intellectual Property Rights and copyright of any artwork produced by the artist during this residency will remain with the artist. Any physical artwork that is produced during the residency will remain at Greenwich Park under the care and ownership of The Royal Parks for a period of time agreed between the artist and The Royal Parks. The selected artist would also grant The Royal Parks licence to reproduce and communicate to the public any work created by the artist during the residency, to help promote the project and its legacy.

## Budget

The artist fee for this residency will be **£22,000 + VAT** (if applicable), plus an additional **£5,000 + VAT** offered for the purchasing of equipment and materials required to deliver the outputs.

The artist's fee will be paid monthly, via invoice (or as agreed with the artist) and costs to cover equipment and materials are to be invoiced separately up to the value of £5,000 by a set date ahead of the close of the project.

Alongside this, The Royal Parks will offer the following at no additional cost to the artist:

- The use of St Mary's Lodge in the park as a workspace or studio to the selected artist, as agreed.
- A small area of secure storage space for materials, as appropriate.

The Royal Parks will hold an additional budget of **£750** to support the practical delivery of workshops or engagement sessions, if needed. Use of this budget is to be arranged between the artist and the Community Engagement Officer.

## Timeline

### Applications

23 September 2025	Open call launched
14 October 2025 (9.30am - 11.30am)	Open morning at St Mary's Lodge
2 November 2025 (midnight)	Deadline for responses
24 November 2025 (1pm - 5pm)	Interviews take place (in person)
December 2025	Residency contract signed

### Artist Residency (6 months)

January 2026	Residency begins (precise start date to be agreed)
February - May 2026	Engagement and Development
June 2026	Celebratory event
July 2026	Contract end (precise end date to be agreed)



## Who Can Apply?

This unique opportunity is aimed at a socially engaged artist with a close connection to and an understanding of Greenwich Park, its local audiences and context. The residency will suit artists with a passion for urban green spaces (and addressing barriers to accessing them), accessible public art and fostering meaningful relationships with communities.

We welcome applications from early to mid-career artists (see definition below) who are looking to develop and expand their work through mentorship and forming new connections with people and place. We especially encourage expressions of interest from artists from one of the park's underserved communities (see [page 8](#)), with an understanding of the barriers to feeling welcome in urban green spaces.

Please consider the following before applying:

Are you based within, or do you have a close connection to, the borough of Greenwich, Lewisham or Tower Hamlets?  <i>[This could mean living, working, being raised in or carrying out existing work within one of the aforementioned boroughs]</i>	Yes	No
Are you an early to mid-career artist? [This we define as having been out of formal accredited education for at least two years]  <i>[This means you will have completed your course during or before 2023. You are not required to have undergone formal art school training and no further education qualifications are required. However, you should be able to demonstrate at least two years of experience of working at the intersection of contemporary art, social practice and public realm]</i>	Yes	No
Can you commit to being in residence in Greenwich Park from January 2026 - July 2026?	Yes	No

If you have answered "yes" to all the above questions, please proceed to the below section on How to Apply. If you have answered "no" to any of the above questions, unfortunately you are not eligible to apply.

## How to Apply

We are welcoming expressions of interest over 6 weeks, through an open call from Tuesday 23 September 2025.

If you would like to respond to this open call, please send an expression of interest by **midnight 2 November 2025**. This should be no longer than 800 words (approx 2 sides of A4) plus a further two sides for space to highlight of relevant past project examples, with an outline of how you would respond to this brief, detailing why you would be an ideal candidate for the residency and how you meet the specific selection criteria (set out below). Alternatively you may send a video recording (max 10Mb - max 5 mins).

In your expression of interest, please include reference to:

1. Your relevant experience in community engagement, with reference to specific projects you have delivered recently (within the past 5 years).
2. How this residency opportunity will help support and develop your socially engaged practice and why this is important to you at this stage in your career.
3. Which specific community group/s (from the identified underserved audiences for Greenwich Park, as set out above on **page 10**) you would be most interested in connecting with to deliver the residency's set outcomes.
4. What you would hope to gain from this residency, identifying key areas of your practice that you hope to build on through work with The Royal Parks and UP Projects.
5. What other commitments you have during the residency timeframe and how you would manage these alongside the residency if you are selected.

Please submit your expression of interest along with a completed [Equity and Diversity Monitoring Form](#) by email to [dbriscoe-peaple@royalparks.org.uk](mailto:dbriscoe-peaple@royalparks.org.uk).

Please note that any applications received after the closing date (midnight on **Sunday 2 November 2025**) will not be accepted.

## Selection Criteria

In order to be successful in your application, you are required to meet the following criteria:

- You have an established professional practice and have been out of formal accredited education for at least two years.
- You either live or work within, or have a strong connection to, the local area (defined as either the London boroughs of Greenwich, Tower Hamlets, or Lewisham).
- You understand participatory ways of working and have demonstrable experience of socially engaged practice, and community engagement and participation.

## Further Considerations

- You must have an up-to-date enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or will be willing to complete a check and must provide a copy of your certificate upon starting this project.
- You will be required to undertake practical facilitation and risk assessment for workshops for a range of audiences and will follow the health and safety of participants in line with The Royal Parks policies and procedures.

## Next Steps: Interviews and Selection

All expressions of interest received during the six-week open call will be reviewed by the project steering panel consisting of key representatives from UP Projects and the Royal Parks in early November. Through this process, three to five artists will be shortlisted and invited to attend an interview at the park on the afternoon of **Monday 24 November 2025**.

Following interviews, a successful artist will be notified within two weeks of the above date and contract signing will take place in December 2025.

## Open Morning - 14 October 2025

We will be hosting an open morning to enable interested artists to visit St Mary's Lodge and ask us any questions in person. The open morning will take place on **Tuesday 14 October 2025** between **9.30am** and **11.30am**.

If you would like to attend this open morning, please sign up here: [bit.ly/constellations-residency-open-morning](https://bit.ly/constellations-residency-open-morning).

The answers to any questions raised during the open morning will be published on the aforementioned project pages.

## Further Questions

Should you have any questions relating to this residency opportunity please address them via email to [constellations@upprojects.com](mailto:constellations@upprojects.com).

Answers to all questions will be shared on the UP Projects project pages that can be found here: <https://upprojects.com/projects/constellations-residency>

We look forward to receiving your application.