

MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN SITE SUPERGRAPHICS

ARTIST BRIEF

INTRODUCTION

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) is delighted to invite artists with a connection to, or understanding of, the local area to collaborate on the transformation of Marlborough Sports Garden.

Owned by Southwark Council and managed by BOST, Marlborough Sports Garden has provided opportunities for children, young people and local residents to play sport in the heart of central London for more than a century. Today, the site welcomes thousands of visitors each year through free community programmes, school sport, informal recreation and organised events. The redevelopment represents the next chapter in its history, creating a welcoming civic space where sport, culture and community come together.

This project aims to create an engaging and visually dynamic environment that celebrates movement, play and community. As part of the wider redevelopment, BOST is seeking to commission an artist to develop a site-specific visual identity that brings both the exterior and interior of the site to life, creating vibrant, welcoming and distinctive artwork that resonates with visitors and passers-by.



PROJECT CONTEXT AND VISION

As an environmental charity, BOST is committed to sustainability and the responsible use of resources. The wider redevelopment has been developed with circular economy principles in mind, including the reuse, adaptation and careful specification of materials wherever possible. The artist commission should respond positively to this approach and consider how the artwork can support the long-term environmental ambitions of the site.

Working in partnership with BOST, the project design team and local stakeholders, the selected artist will lead a co-creative design process to develop a unified artistic vision across a number of key features within the site.

The wider redevelopment will be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 will focus on landscape, sports and public realm improvements, while Phase 2 will deliver the new building shown in the overall project vision.

The commission will encompass four principal elements within Phase 1:

- Hoardings
- Sports courts, running track and site surfacing
- Shipping containers
- Flags

Together, these elements should create a cohesive visual identity across the site, celebrating sport, creativity and community and making art an integral part of the everyday experience of Marlborough Sports Garden.



Marlborough Sports Garden – Completed Scheme Vision
Architectural vision by Cullinan Studio

ARTISTIC SCOPE

The appointed artist will develop a unified visual identity across:

- Hoardings surrounding the redevelopment works
- Basketball courts, running track, Wall Ball area and adjacent vehicle ramp
- The site's four shipping containers
- Site flags

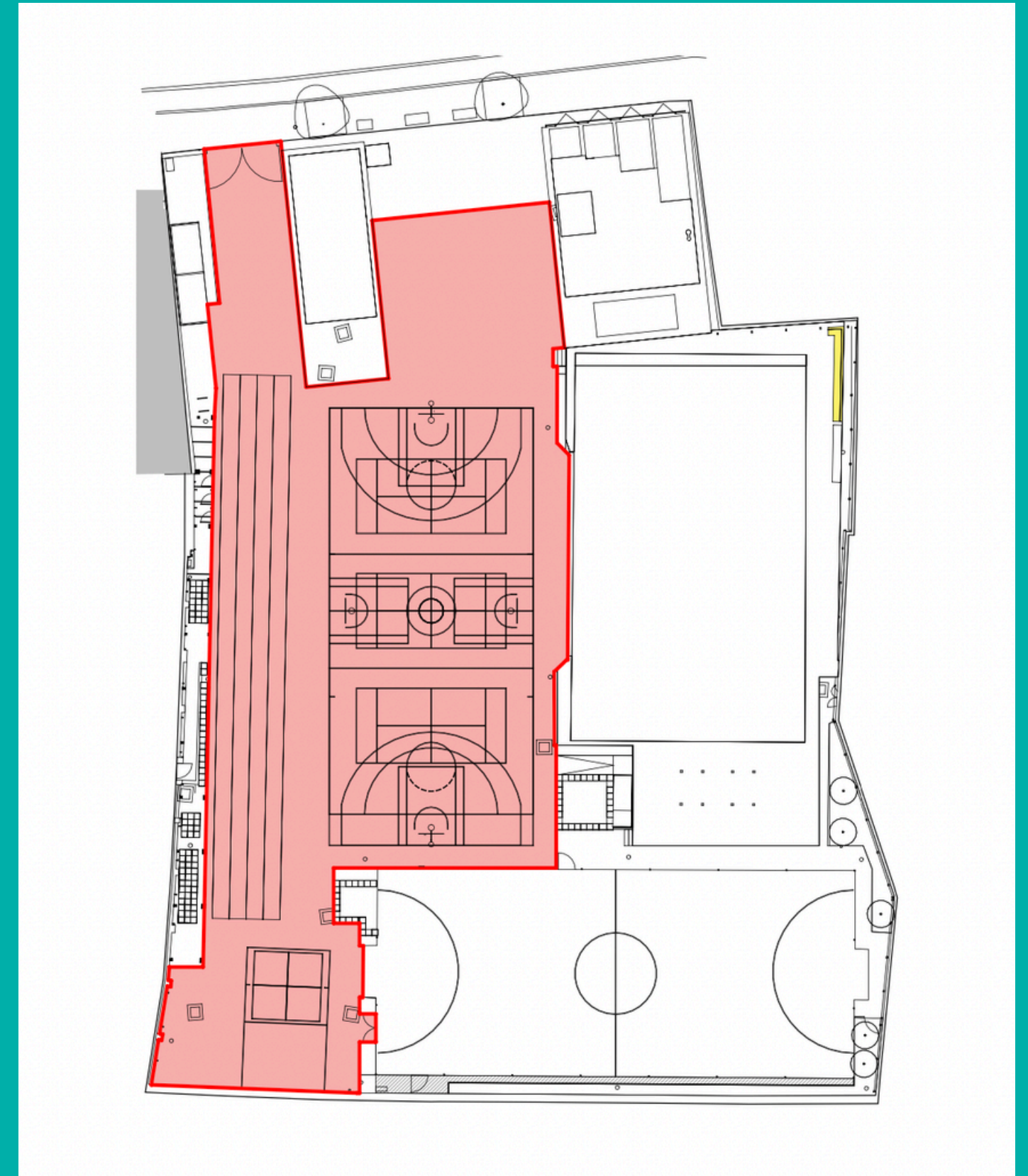
The areas for artistic intervention are shown on the accompanying site plan. Court artwork will be applied to the existing macadam using durable, non-slip acrylic paint, typically by spray application. Artists may also consider extending artwork onto the vertical face of the existing climbing wall.

Final designs should be supplied as scalable vector artwork and/or CAD drawings suitable for fabrication and installation.

There is no prescribed colour palette or visual style. Bold use of colour, pattern and graphic forms is encouraged, while designs should remain legible across large public surfaces.

The artist will work collaboratively with BOST, Cullinan Studio and local participants through the co-design process outlined later in this brief.

BOST also welcomes alternative materials or delivery methods where these improve the quality, durability or impact of the commission, subject to agreement with the project team.



Red areas denote the possible extent of the Surfacing Supergraphics

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Artists should approach the commission with an awareness of both aesthetics and functionality. Marlborough Sports Garden is a multi-use community space that welcomes people of all ages and abilities. The artwork should enrich the experience of the site while supporting its practical use for sport, recreation and informal gathering.

Key considerations include:

- **Clarity & Legibility** – The graphics should be visually striking while ensuring that the various pitch markings remain clear and easily distinguishable. This is particularly important where basketball, netball and mini tennis line markings are overlaid on the same court.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion** – The design should consider the needs of the wide range of people who use the site, including children and young people, neurodivergent users, people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), older adults and those with visual or cognitive impairments.
- **Contrast & Visibility** – Appropriate contrast will help ensure the artwork remains effective under varying lighting and weather conditions. Colour selection may also contribute to reducing heat absorption on surfaces exposed to direct sunlight.
- **Durability & Maintenance** – Artists are encouraged to consider designs that can be efficiently refreshed over time, favouring bold graphic forms and patterns where appropriate.
- **Circular Economy** - Designs should consider material use, maintenance, adaptability and opportunities to minimise waste throughout fabrication and installation.

The accompanying image highlights the sports areas where a clear distinction between line markings and artistic interventions is required, as summarised on the next page.

The accompanying image highlights sports areas where a clear distinction in linemarkings / design is required, summarised below:

KEY

Four lane running track

3x3 Basketball / netball court with dual line markings

Pickleball courts

Basketball half courts

Wall Ball court

Four Square games area

3x3 Basketball standalone markings

An architectural site plan of Marlborough Sports Garden. The plan shows a large rectangular area with various sports facilities. A long, narrow green rectangle on the left side represents a four-lane running track. In the center, there are two basketball courts with dual line markings, each outlined in blue. Between these courts are two pickleball courts, outlined in light blue. Below the pickleball courts are two basketball half courts, outlined in pink. To the right of the basketball courts is a large rectangular area outlined in yellow, representing a four-square games area. At the bottom left, there is a red rectangle representing a wall ball court. At the bottom right, there is a yellow rectangle representing 3x3 basketball standalone markings. The plan also shows surrounding buildings, parking areas, and other site details.

Marlborough Sports Garden | Artist Brief

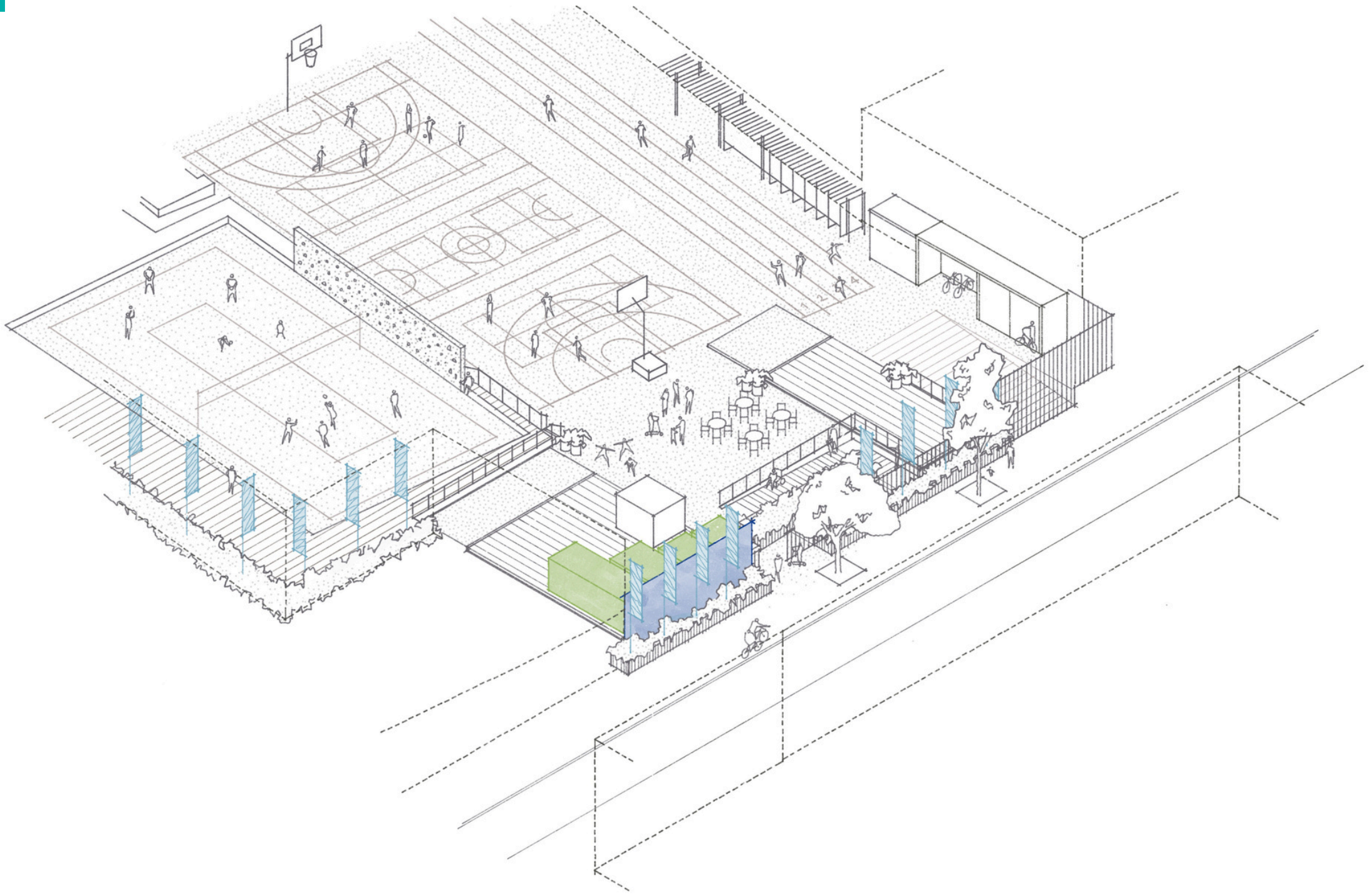
The accompanying image highlights the Union Street entrance where containers, hoardings and flags will form part of the visual language of the site

KEY

Containers

Hoardings

Flags



EXISTING AND PROPOSED ARTWORK

Artists should consider both the existing artwork at Marlborough Sports Garden and Cullinan Studio's architectural proposals. The new work should complement the site's evolving visual identity without replicating the existing artwork or architectural language. Proposals should respond to the landscape, architecture, sporting activity and community use of the site, while bringing a fresh and original perspective.



Existing Wall Ball Artwork



Proposed Architectural Detailing

PRECEDENT PROJECTS

These reference projects demonstrate different approaches to large-scale graphics in sports and public spaces. They are intended to inspire rather than prescribe. Artists should develop an original response to Marlborough Sports Garden, considering how courts, hoardings, containers and flags can work together as a cohesive visual language.



Running track / climbing wall supergraphics; Solvallsparken, Uppsala, Sweden



H.A.N.D.S basketball court; Tuen Mun, Hong Kong



Tennis Court supergraphics; Bostall Garden, Greenwich



Yink Ilori supergraphics; Bank Street Park / Flamboyance of Flamingo Playground, London

Ball court, running track supergraphics, Boxhill Gardens, Melbourne

Project backboard, USA

ARTIST SELECTION AND CO-DESIGN PROCESS

BOST intends to use this brief as the basis for an open call for artists, from which a shortlist of three artists will be selected. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop their approach for presentation to the selection panel. BOST is not seeking finished artwork at this stage. One artist will subsequently be appointed to develop and deliver the supergraphics in collaboration with BOST, Cullinan Studio and local participants.

Following appointment the selected artist will work through a collaborative design process, expected to include:

1. Site visit with the artist, Cullinan Studio (architect) and BOST team
2. Preparation for co-design workshops, including development of an appropriate approach and materials
3. Co-design Session 1
4. Co-design Session 2
5. Artist design development and initial sketches
6. Iteration 1 – BOST feedback
7. Co-design Session 3, responding to and developing the emerging designs
8. Further artist design development
9. Final round of feedback from BOST
10. Final artist design development and artwork preparation
11. Final artwork delivered and approved for production
12. Fabrication
13. Installation on site

The process is intended to be genuinely collaborative. Co-design sessions will help shape the visual language, themes and character of the artwork, while the appointed artist will retain responsibility for translating this input into a coherent, high-quality and site-specific response.

BOST and Cullinan Studio will provide feedback at key stages to ensure compatibility with the wider design, fabrication requirements, budget and programme

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Stage	Date
Artist brief finalised and open call launched	w/c 26 October 2026
Open call period	26 October – 13 November
Review submissions and shortlist three artists	16–20 November
Shortlisted artists develop proposals	23 November – 4 December
Artist presentations / interviews and selection	w/c 7 December
Artist appointed	by 11 December 2026
Site visit with artist, architect and BOST team	w/c 14 December
Preparation for co-design workshops	14 December 2026 – 8 January 2027
Co-design Session 1	w/c 11 January 2027
Co-design Session 2	w/c 18 January
Artist design development and initial sketches	18 January – 5 February
Iteration 1 – feedback from BOST	w/c 8 February
Co-design Session 3 – responding to emerging designs	w/c 15 February
Further artist design development	15 February – 5 March
Final round of feedback from BOST	w/c 8 March
Final artist design development and artwork preparation	8–19 March
Final artwork delivered and approved for production	by 19 March
Fabrication	22 March – 9 April
Installation on site	12–16 April 2027
Contingency / snagging	19–23 April

FEE

BOST has allocated a budget of **£10,000** for the artist commission, excluding fabrication and installation, which will be procured separately. Please provide a fixed fee proposal for delivering the commission. Your fee should include all artist time associated with:

- site visit and project meetings
- preparation and delivery of co-design workshops
- design development and revisions
- liaison with BOST, Cullinan Studio and the wider project team
- preparation of production-ready artwork
- involvement during fabrication and installation

Please identify any anticipated expenses or additional costs not included within your fee. Fabrication and installation costs will be procured separately by BOST.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Initial submissions will be assessed against the quality criteria to select a shortlist of three artists. Final proposals from shortlisted artists will be evaluated 60% quality / 40% cost. Your proposal should include:

- a short statement outlining your interest in the commission
- examples of relevant previous work
- your proposed approach to the project
- your approach to co-design and community engagement
- an outline of how you would respond to the different supergraphic elements across the site
- your proposed fixed fee
- confirmation of your availability to meet the project programme
- contact details for one or two referees, if appropriate

We are particularly interested in artists with experience of creating bold, site-specific work for public spaces and working collaboratively with communities.

CONTACT AND SUBMISSION

Questions about the brief or commission should be directed to:

Jack Harrison
Head of Sport and Development
Bankside Open Spaces Trust
jack@bost.org.uk

Site visits can also be arranged by contacting Jack.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Jack by **13 November 2026**.

Shortlisted artists will be contacted regarding the next stage of the selection process.

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