Art for Tolworth – Artist Q&A

Thursday 8th October, 2pm

Find out more & apply here: https://www.thecommunitybrain.org/artfortolworth

the community brain

NHS
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Better Communities
Transforming our care and environments

General Overview

A Kingston-based CIC and lead for Art for Tolworth. We believe in giving people ‘permission’ to be brilliant because everyone can be brilliant if they are given the support and encouragement. This permission enables people to create the futures they want to see for themselves and that of their communities, on their own terms.



About the NHS Trust

South West London and St George’s Mental Health NHS Trust is developing the new Tolworth Hospital and, alongside The Community Brain, is supporting Art for Tolworth as the main funder of these commissions.

About Art for Tolworth

A creative programme for the new Tolworth Hospital, bringing artists, patients, staff and the local community together through art, collaboration and co-creation. These commissions form the first round of Art for Tolworth activity.

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The Opportunities

The Community Brain, in partnership with South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, is inviting artists to help shape the identity, atmosphere and experience of the new Tolworth Hospital.

Art for Tolworth offers a connected programme of creative opportunities across the hospital, responding to different spaces, experiences, people and stories.

First Commissioning Round

- **Primary Arrival** — £18,000
  Main Entrance and adjacent spaces

- **Secondary Arrival** — £13,500
  Secondary Entrance and adjacent spaces

- **The Narrator: Storytelling & Co-design** — £7,200
  Central Art Space / Programme-wide

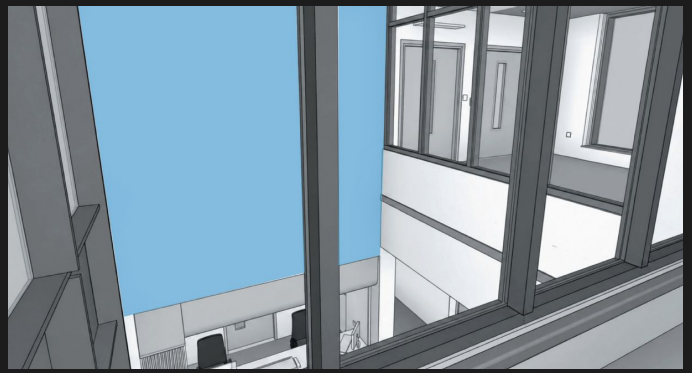


Ground floor plan highlighting the current Creative Opportunities.

All Commissions will be delivered between December 2026 - August 2027

Brief 1 – Primary Arrival

- **Commission:** £18,000 (incl. VAT)
- **Opportunity:** Principal permanent artwork
- **Location:** Main Entrance, new Tolworth Hospital
    - The site is the threshold between the outside world, wider community and the hospital, offering an opportunity for artwork to create a welcome that supports arrival, transition and onward movement while responding sensitively to the experiences of everyone stepping through the Hospital doors.



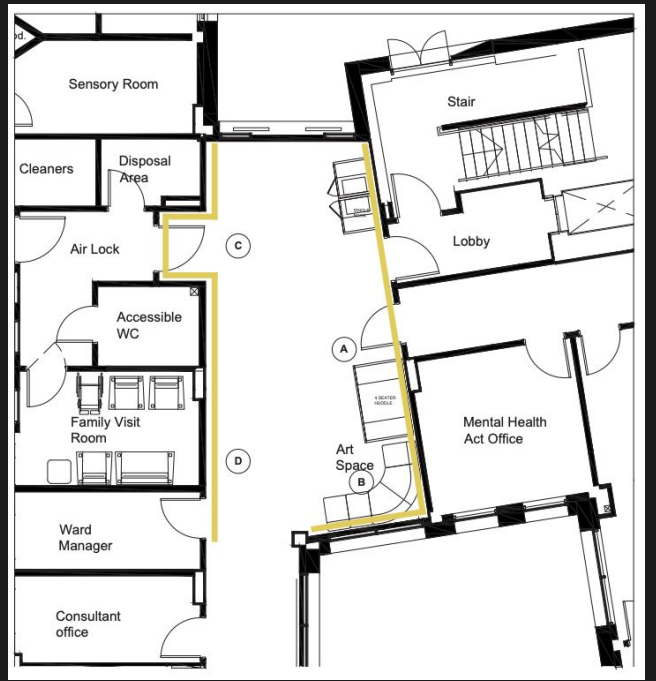




Brief 2 – Secondary Arrival

- **Commission**: £13,500 (incl. VAT)
- **Opportunity**: Major permanent artwork
- **Location**: Secondary Entrance, new Tolworth Hospital
    - The site links the hospital's secondary entrance to the central spine, offers a prominent double-height setting for artwork that can act as a recognisable visual anchor while supporting wayfinding and a sensitive sense of welcome.





Brief 3 – The Narrator

- **Core commission:** £7,200 (incl. VAT)
- **Opportunity:** Programme-wide creative commission
- **Location:** Across Art for Tolworth, with the Central Art Space as a focal point
    - The Central space offers a potential focal point for The Narrator, but the commission can extend across the wider hospital. The Narrator will connect people, stories, artists, commissions and spaces responding to the programme as a whole.

      Creative elements could appear across corridors, circulation and everyday spaces, creating moments of connection and discovery throughout the hospital.







Application Process

PRIMARY ARRIVAL & SECONDARY ARRIVAL

Your application should include:

- **Artist information**: Short practice statement, CV (max. 2 A4 pages) and portfolio/website link.
- **Proposal**: Max. 4 A4 pages + 2 pages of images. Focus on your approach, practice, co-creation and response to the hospital and local context.
- **Budget**: Completed Artist Budget Template, up to £18,000 inclusive of VAT.
- **Alternative Format:** Submit a 6-minute audio/video response.

THE NARRATOR

Your Expression of Interest should include:

- **Artist information:** CV (max. 2 A4 pages) and portfolio/website link.
- **Application Questions:** There are four application questions (200 - 300 word counts) for applicants to respond to.
- **Supporting material:** Up to 2 A4 pages of images, drawings, previous work or references
- **Alternative Format:** Submit a 6-minute audio/video response.

All Applications are due Sunday 1 November 2026, 11:59pm UK time

The Narrator – Application Process (cont.)

The Narrator is an Expression of Interest rather than a full proposal, as the final commission budget is still being confirmed.

We will seek Arts Council England funding to potentially expand the scale and reach of the commission. Once confirmed, we will either:

- Appoint one or more practitioners within the £7,200 budget; or
- Expand the scope and budget, with shortlisted applicants potentially invited to develop proposals further.

Any further proposal development, scope and associated fee will be agreed in advance.

APPLICATION TIMELINE:

- **Nov 2026:** Shortlisting and informal conversations
- **Dec 2026:** Funding decision and next steps
- **Dec–Jan 2027:** Further development with shortlisted applicants, where required
- **Jan 2027:** Final selection and contracting

Primary & Secondary Arrival - The Budget

Item	Cost	Notes
Artist Fees	£12,090.00	£403 per day based on AUE rates of pay x 30 days
Materials	£1,000.00	£1000 for artist materials including sketching materials, paints, brushes, digital design software.
Specialist Equipment	£350.00	1m Vinyl Cutter - either to hire in a studio or purchase depending on final project design
Installation	£1,250.00	Scaffolding Tower - 1 Week Hire (£100), Printing Labels, Panels and Didactic Wall Display Boards (£300), Printing of Final Artwork (£850)
Community & Co-Creation	£1,375.00	5x Workshops with Community Groups including Community Room Hire (£50 per session), Participant Refreshments (£50 per session) and Participant Travel Costs (£100 per session), Workshop Materials (£75 per session)
Other Costs	£1,015.00	Artist Public Liability Insurance & Zone 1-6 Travel Card for 3 Months (£940)
Contingency (capped at 10%)	£900.00	5% Contingency Applied
TOTAL BUDGET		£17,980.00

Example Budget Template including itemised costs - to be used for reference only.

Ways of Working

1. Co-Creation
Work meaningfully with patients, people with lived experience, staff, carers and the wider Kingston community, allowing their ideas to shape the work.

2. Healthcare Setting
Consider accessibility, safety, sensory experience, durability and clinical requirements, creating work that feels calm, inclusive and welcoming.

3. Project Principles
Art for Tolworth aims to be collaborative, compassionate, sustainable, locally rooted, inclusive and therapeutic, balancing artistic ambition with the realities of a healthcare environment.





FAQs

1. What is the nature of this role?
This is a freelance, self-employed artist commission, not an offer of employment. The appointed artist will work under a contract for services and be responsible for managing their own work, tax, National Insurance and other applicable statutory obligations.

2. What is the time commitment?
There is no fixed allocation of hours. Artists will manage their own time within the project timeline and should propose a schedule they feel is appropriate. The final schedule will be agreed with the project team.

3. I'm an international artist. Can I apply? Can you help with visa applications?
We welcome applications from artists around the world. Artists will need to spend meaningful time in Tolworth to support community co-creation and must already have the right to work in the UK. We cannot provide visa sponsorship or support in obtaining the right to work.

4. Do you accept applications from all ages?
Applicants must be 18 or over at the time of application.

5. How will payments for the commission be structured?
The commission will be paid in four equal instalments of 25%, with specific deliverables and milestones agreed during the commissioning process.

6. Will The Community Brain handle fabrication, suppliers and installation?
The artist is responsible for fabrication, production and installation within the total commission fee. Applicants should include these costs in their proposed budget. The Community Brain will provide support and advice where possible.

7. Are applications from digital artists welcome?
Yes. We welcome all artistic disciplines and mediums, but the commission requires a finished physical artwork installed by the artist at Tolworth Hospital.

8. Do I need to have a personal connection to Tolworth?
No, a local connection is not required. We welcome applications from artists based anywhere, provided they have the right to work in the UK and can demonstrate a genuine commitment to co-creating with Tolworth's local community. If you are, or have been, based in Kingston, we'd particularly love to hear from you.

9. What support will be provided around participant consent and clinical induction?
Artists will be supported by The Community Brain and NHS staff, with clinical induction and participant consent managed case-by-case according to the needs of the artist, participants and hospital setting.

10. I have an artist website, social media or other documents that provide some of the information you are requesting. Can I submit these instead?
Please follow the Art for Tolworth application process exactly as set out. This ensures the panel receives the information most relevant to the commission and can assess applications consistently.

11. Can I apply for multiple roles?
Yes, artists can submit to one, two or all of the briefs. It is unlikely someone would be selected for more than one commission. It is up to the artist to decide the relationship between their commission proposals, including how different, or similar, each proposal may be.






12. Can collectives / creative groups apply for any of the briefs?
All three briefs can be applied for by collectives.

13. What's the maximum amount of people in a collective who can apply for this?
There is no maximum number of people in a collective. The size of the group should be appropriate to the scope of the brief and the work proposed.

14. What are the highlighted walls made of? Who approves the fixings if the artist wants to attach things to them? Is that possible or are you expecting a 2D artwork?
Artwork does not have to be 2D: the references section on the website shows a range of approaches suitable for a hospital setting, and we welcome artists' ideas, provided the finished work can be securely and permanently fixed. The Community Brain and NHS team will support technical development, including agreeing suitable fixing methods, as the project progresses.

15. Is it okay to only have 2d work in the proposals? Or are you also looking for installations?
Yes, 2D artwork is absolutely welcome. We also welcome proposals for installations and three-dimensional work, provided they are suitable for the hospital setting and can be securely and permanently fixed.

16. Given the scale of the project, do artists need to be thinking about Public Liability Insurance?
Yes, appointed artists will be expected to have Public Liability Insurance in place. If you do not already have this cover, please include the cost in your proposed budget.

17. Can we come and look inside the building?
The hospital is currently a construction site, so visits are not available at the application stage. Selected artists will have the opportunity to see the spaces, and visits may also be arranged for shortlisted artists who are invited to develop their proposals further.

18. Who decides how things are fixed in safely?
Fixing methods will need to be agreed with the NHS Trust, and The Community Brain will draw on its experience to support artists in finding suitable solutions as the project develops. At the application stage, we ask artists to demonstrate that their proposed work can feasibly be installed safely; a fully developed technical proposal is not required.

19. Are full future hospital floorplans available to download? and also more images of the spaces?
The full set of latest plans, visuals and drawings is not publicly available. If you need further information about the spaces, please contact us at artfortolworth@thecommunitybrain.org and we will share what we can.

20. For the narrator expression of interest, and forgive me I've not seen the Google form questions yet, should we submit thinking / ideas that would work for the confirmed budget, or not be constrained yet and once the available budget is confirmed if shortlisted we would work with CB to narrow down the scope of what's doable?
We welcome ambitious ideas, but please make clear what could be achieved within the confirmed £7,200 budget. Suggestions for how your idea could grow or evolve with additional funding are also welcome.

21. At the application stage, how developed should the idea be—an initial concept or a detailed design?
An initial concept is welcome at this stage, provided it clearly explains your idea and helps us understand how it could take shape. We do not expect a fully developed technical design, and proposals should leave room for development, growth and adaptation through the co-creation process.

22. Is the hospital for adults and children or just adults? Just thinking about community engagement and if you would be looking to include all ages.
The hospital primarily serves adults, but we welcome community engagement that is inclusive of all ages. Alongside patients, people with lived experience and staff, engaging children and a diverse range of local audiences can help raise awareness of the hospital, challenge stigma around mental health and strengthen its connection with the local community.

23. Having never done a submission like this would any feedback be possible?
As a small organisation expecting a high number of applications, we are unable to provide individual feedback automatically. If you would like feedback, please email artfortolworth@thecommunitybrain.org and we will be happy to respond as soon as we can.

24. When is the hospital is planned to be open?
The hospital is currently planned to open in August 2027.

25. If contractors are needed does the hospital or community brain have trusted contractors they work with? Or for the budget should we put a cost even if that contractor changes?
Please allow for any anticipated contractor and installation costs in your proposed budget, but detailed installation quotes are not required at this stage. The NHS and The Community Brain can provide support and recommendations, and we recognise that costs may change as the work develops through co-creation.

26. How many weeks are there for actual onsite installation?
Installation is currently expected to take place during July and August 2027. The specific timing and duration for each commission will be agreed as the project develops.

Thank You

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Please raise your hand or put questions in the chat.

Any further questions can be sent to: artfortolworth@thecommunitybrain.org

Find out more & apply here: https://www.thecommunitybrain.org/artfortolworth