

MK Gallery



MK Gallery Project Space 2018 Call for exhibitions

From January 2018 MK Gallery's Project Space will present the next series of twelve monthly exhibitions of contemporary visual art created by individuals and groups based in Milton Keynes. Facilitated by MK Gallery's Learning Team, the purpose of the programme is to encourage collaborations between educators, artists, groups and local communities. MK Gallery's Learning Team invites proposals for exhibitions of new or existing work that connect with the themes of *City Club* - MK Gallery's site redevelopment and public realm programme. There are a number of exhibition slots made available for individuals or groups wishing to submit a proposal for 2018. Proposals can be submitted at any time, although please note that programming decisions are often made 6-8 months in advance, therefore we encourage applications to be made as soon as you are ready to do so.

Enclosed you will find:

- Background Information
- City Club – Background and Themes
- Guidelines on how to make an application
- Project Monitoring Form

The information pack should include everything needed to make an informed application. If, after reading the attached and considering the opportunity, you have unanswered questions please do get in touch. All enquiries should be directed to MK Gallery's Learning Team at learning@mkgallery.org or 01908 676 900

Yours faithfully,

The Learning Team



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



900 Midsummer Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
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info@mkgallery.org
www.mkgallery.org

MK Gallery

Background Information

MK Gallery

MK Gallery is a registered charity receiving revenue funding from Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council. We seek to inspire and enable people to experience, learn, participate in, and enjoy the arts, and have become well established as a locally rooted community resource. MK Gallery's exhibitions programme sits alongside a growing engagement and multi-disciplinary events programme including opportunities for early years, children and young people, families, communities, schools, artists and adults.

MK Gallery is currently undertaking a significant capital expansion and site redevelopment with the delivery of a substantial 'interim programme'. Running in parallel to the Gallery expansion is a major artists' commission addressing the public realm immediately surrounding the gallery. Entitled *City Club*, the concept is 'borrowed' from an ambitious unrealised project from the original MK Masterplan (c.1970) – which informed the design and development of Milton Keynes. Artists Nils Norman and Gareth Jones revisit and reinterpret the *City Club* vision in order to bring to life a new type of social space. *City Club* will result in three main elements being developed around the gallery site; a garden, playspace and a piazza. These elements, and their associated themes, form the inspiration for the interim Learning Programme, and provide rich opportunities to further examine the process of audience participation and ownership of public spaces.

For further information please see the latest editions of the City Club newspaper:

www.cityclubmk.org/newspaper/

Learning at MK Gallery

MK Gallery's Learning Programme encourages interaction and learning through direct contact with artists and their practice. Collaborating with local, regional and national partners, MK Gallery delivers an integrated programme of formal and informal creative learning for over 10,000 participants annually, with a strong track record of inspiring a wide range of audiences, ages and abilities. In particular we seek to nurture children and young people's creative potential, offering a substantial programme for early years, childhood learning, families and young people. As active members of MK's Cultural Education Partnership we seek to bridge the gap between cultural organisations and schools by supporting increased opportunities for networking, research, exchange, debate and delivery.

Project Space

The Project Space aims are to inspire, excite and challenge people to collaborate, and explore different forms of creative learning. Created for, and by, members of the local community, this programme is intended to contribute to the cultural growth of Milton Keynes, encouraging collaboration between educators, artists, groups and local residents. The Learning Team is looking to host exhibitions that engage with Milton Keynes and the themes related to *City Club*. In turn such proposals should reflect Milton Keynes - its design, social history, future ambitions and more importantly its communities.



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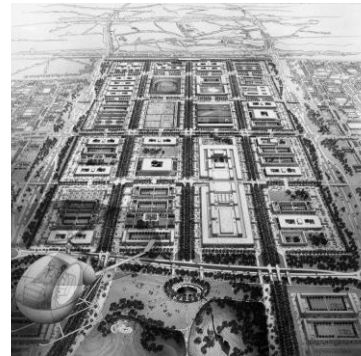


Welcome to *The City Club*

MK Gallery celebrates our unique city through an ambitious programme of new art, performances, family activities and talks inspired by the original cultural plans for MK. The project takes its name from the national leisure complex planned by the MK Development Corporation for Central MK. Conceived as a novel combination of futuristic spaces for physical recreation and entertainment - where the new citizens could meet, relax and play - it remained an unrealised concept as the free thinking of the late 1960s and early '70's segued into the harsh realities of Thatcherism and cuts to public funding. Lead artists Gareth Jones and Nils Norman have reimagined *City Club* for the 21st century to create a framework for a new kind of public artwork that looks at the whole environment and invites us to consider the role art can play in our everyday lives. *City Club* culminates in the creation of a new permanent public art work around the Gallery incorporating three different environments: the garden; piazza; and playscape - offering a new social space for everyone to enjoy.

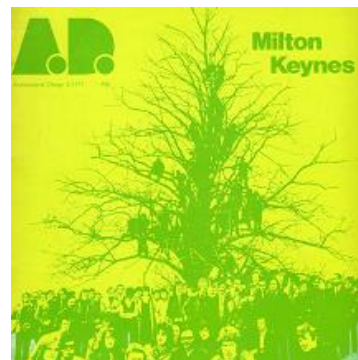
Piazza: Architecture and Urban Design

Public space is the flooring beneath our feet, the layout of roads, the planting of trees, the design of lampposts, the disposition of signs, benches and litterbins. Inspiration comes from the architecture of MK: the city skyline, citizenship, materials, lines and textures of the buildings and spaces around you, street furniture, maps, social engagement with space, animation and ownership of public space, urbanism. Be inspired by architecture, urban design, public spaces, structure, grid systems, city structures, construction, town planning, place-making.



Garden: The Green City

City Club proposes a garden without walls. A new garden, connecting parks with the city, gifting trees to the city and planting that reflects the cosmopolitan character of the *City Club*. Inspiration comes from exploring Milton Keynes planting schemes, MK as a 'City Of Trees', urban spaces and garden design, cultural park-keeping, public commissioning in green spaces, sports and recreation. Be inspired by landscape architecture, green spaces, gardening, sculpture, environment, the organic, natural, parks, open spaces, planting, and recreation.



Playground: The Art of Play

Both art and play will be at the heart of *City Club*, each activity enhancing the development of the other. Inspiration comes from your local playground, play throughout the ages, playful interactions with space, permissible play, street furniture and play, changing and interrupting space through play or the power of play. Be inspired by play, leisure, role play, imaginative play, social interaction, games, toys and play equipment, playscapes, play theory, colours, shapes, playground architecture.



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Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal

About the Space

The Project Space is 53 square metres of exhibition space located in Margaret Powell Square opposite the main entrance to MK Gallery. Overlooking Midsummer Boulevard, the building is notable for its curved glass frontage, a distinctive feature that provides a permanently visible window onto the exhibition space inside.

Selection Criteria

The Project Space exhibitions programme is considered through a combination of selected proposals, invitations and collaborations. All exhibition proposals submitted by both individuals and groups must be based on a collaborative, learning based process. Proposals for solo artist exhibitions will not be considered. All proposals will be assessed individually against current themes and exhibiting criteria. There is no age limit for applicants and proposals are invited from individuals and groups based in or linked to Milton Keynes and the surrounding region only. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Level of collaborative endeavour
- The quality of the project and the work to be exhibited
- The quality of the supporting information/material supplied
- How the proposal engages and promotes methods of cultural learning or participation
- How well it complements particular prioritised themes

The Learning Team will give priority to proposals that sit most comfortably with the Project Space programme's aims and objectives:

- To present creative, experimental, challenging and accessible new or existing work
- To approach new methods of collaboration and partnership working
- To connect with, and extend different styles of learning and participation
- To expose interesting work to new audiences increasing diversity of practice and people

How to Make an Application

After reading the enclosed information please email learning@mkgallery.org with a short statement (two sides of A4 max) or short film outlining your proposal for a Project Space exhibition. Please state if there is a preference for a particular month but please note that we are unable to meet all such requests. Please include links to any relevant images or existing exhibition content. We invite applications made at any time and will consider shortlisting quarterly alongside forward programme planning.

When necessary shortlisting will be followed by informal interviews with potential exhibitors and, where possible, final decisions approximately 1 month later. For reasons of economy, MK Gallery will only contact those shortlisted and are unable to provide feedback with regards to unsuccessful proposals.

Please submit your proposal as soon as you are ready. We encourage sooner rather than later as when considering a number of strong applications, at the discretion of the team, unsuccessful proposals may be carried forward to later quarterly meetings to consider for future exhibition opportunities. In this instance applicants will be advised. This does not however guarantee that a proposal will be successful on subsequent occasions.



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Selection Process

The selection panel includes representatives from MK Gallery in liaison with external partners as and when appropriate. If your proposal is shortlisted you may be invited to an informal discussion with the Learning Team to discuss the proposal in more depth. Should your application be successful, you will be asked to:

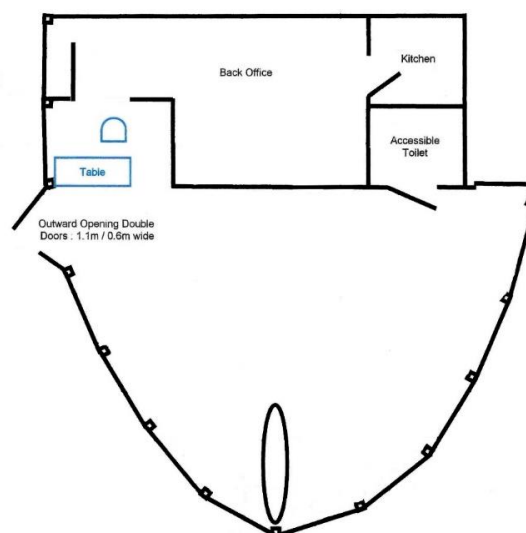
- Complete an agreement for the exhibition. This agreement will include details such as your commitment to exhibition quality, installation, promotion and evaluation. Please note that there is no budget available to support the making of the work. However the Learning Team is available to offer guidance and support in preparing for exhibition and will oversee the preparation and exhibition hang. We encourage exhibitors to be actively involved in the exhibition installation and can support your needs by offering one days install and one days de-install with a qualified Gallery technician.
- Supply copy for a press release, an exhibition summary, room guide and any visual material required for our Learning and Communications Teams
- Supply contextual exhibition information relating to participatory detail and data. This information assists us to report on the community impact of the programme.
- Proof any text with our Learning and/or Communications Team
- Accept responsibility for any copyright permission required for visual or written material.

Please note:

We recommend that you visit the space during current weekend opening hours and make yourself familiar with its restrictions before submitting a proposal. Individuals and groups are responsible for ensuring that the work meets MK Gallery's policies on health and safety and installation. It will be at the discretion of MK Gallery staff to see that policies are adhered to.

Technical Details

Walls:	MDF board
Floor:	Rubber on concrete
Roof:	Plasterboard
Power:	Five 13 amp sockets distributed throughout
Access:	Via main Project Space door on Margaret Powell Square
Heating:	Six electric heaters powered by 13 amp sockets
Dimensions:	53 square metres
Storage:	No storage on site
Toilet:	Single unisex toilet located within the space.



Exhibition Dates

Generally all exhibitions open on the first Friday of a given month and run for the duration of that month, closing on the last Saturday. Please advise if you are considering hosting an exhibition preview or additional events as part of your proposed exhibition. Exact exhibition dates will be agreed with the Learning Team following notification of a successful proposal.



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MK Gallery Project Monitoring Form

The data on this form is used for statistical purposes to provide MK Gallery with information for its annual statistical returns to Arts Council England and to monitor the performance of its Equal Opportunities Policy. Any reports produced using this information are anonymised. Any information given on the form is treated in the strictest confidence and is not used in any part of the Project Space selection process.

Opportunity applied for	Project Space Exhibition 2018
Date of proposal	
Lead Applicant	

Gender (Lead applicant / artist)

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Gender (please tick in relation to communities which your proposal engages or reflects)

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
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Age(s) If a proposal includes multiple ages please tick all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 70
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Age(s) For schools / CYP groups only (If a proposal includes multiple ages please tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> 0-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 19+
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Ethnic Origin

(Please tick all that apply to the diversity of your project and those communities represented)

<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> White British
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Black British
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
Black other (please specify)		
White other (please specify)		
Other ethnic background (please specify)		

Exhibition Themes

Please tick themes of diversity or inequality which you consider your proposal addresses

Disability	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic Diversity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
LGBT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Socio Economic barriers	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>