



## **MK Gallery Project Space 2020 Call for exhibition proposals**

Throughout 2020 MK Gallery's Project Space will present the next series of monthly exhibitions of contemporary practice created by, and with, individuals and groups based in Milton Keynes and the surrounding region. Programmed by MK Gallery's Learning Team, its purpose is to encourage collaborations between sectors, educators, artists, groups and local communities.

MK Gallery's Learning Team is currently inviting proposals for exhibitions of new or existing work for 2020. Of particular interest are exhibitions which connect with themes drawn from the Gallery's main exhibitions programme. [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org)

Proposals can be submitted at any time, although please note that programming decisions are often made 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
- Guidelines on how to make an application
- Project Monitoring Form

This 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](mailto:learning@mkgallery.org) or 01908 676 900

Yours faithfully,

The Learning Team



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



900 Midsummer Boulevard  
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# Background Information

## MK Gallery

The new MK Gallery, designed by 6a architects, in close collaboration with artists Gareth Jones and Nils Norman, opened in March 2019. The design captures the original spirit of Milton Keynes, reflecting the natural world in its polished stainless-steel exterior surfaces inspired by the city's original grid and the geometries of the adjacent Campbell Park. It provides Gallery spaces for major exhibitions, both contemporary and historical, films, music, performance, family events, workshops, and social spaces.

The new MK Gallery opened with [The Lie of the Land](#), an ambitious exhibition spread across all five galleries exploring themes of leisure and land ownership. It featured work by 85 artists, including Thomas Gainsborough, J.M.W Turner and Capability Brown, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Jeremy Deller and Bridget Riley.

The public spaces surrounding the expanded MK Gallery form part of City Club, a wide-ranging project by Gareth Jones and Nils Norman animating the top end of Midsummer Boulevard, and inspiring the interior designs and colour schemes throughout the building.

MK Gallery originally opened its doors in 1999, nearly 30 years after the radical creation of Milton Keynes itself as Britain's largest New Town. Sited prominently at the apex of Midsummer Boulevard in central Milton Keynes, the new MK Gallery is a dramatic extension of the old building, which is subtly updated and incorporated into the new one.

"In the spirit that created Milton Keynes, the new MK Gallery, on its twentieth anniversary, aims to reinvent the idea of the art centre for our own time. Both radical and inviting, serious and playful, it is fully accessible and the kind of building where I hope everyone will feel welcome." Anthony Spira, Director of MK Gallery

For further information please visit [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org)

## Learning at MK Gallery

MK Gallery delivers a successful Learning Programme encouraging curiosity, enquiry and exchange through a direct contact with artists and their practice. The programme, shaped by a team of 50+ Associate Artists, encourages the playful and experimental whilst grounded in a strong understanding of how children experience the world. In particular we seek to nurture children and young people's creative potential, offering a substantial programme from early childhood to young adults devised with a strong belief that every individual has the right to experience and enjoy the arts.

As an active member of MAKE: MK's Cultural Education Partnership we seek to bridge the gap between cultural organisations and schools by supporting sector CPD and networking opportunities for teachers, educators and artists.

For further information please visit [www.mkgallery.org/about](http://www.mkgallery.org/about)

## MK Gallery 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 seeks to host exhibitions that engage with, or are culturally relevant to, Milton Keynes, connecting with social history themes, future ambitions and more importantly the needs and interests of local communities. For past Project Space exhibitions please visit <https://www.mkgallery.org/whats-on/archive/?tag=project-space>

## Guidelines for submitting a proposal

### About the space

The Project Space is 53 square metres of exhibition space located 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. The space remains unstaffed when accessible to the public.

### Selection criteria

Exhibitions are considered through a combination of open call proposals, direct invitations and collaborative partnerships. All proposals submitted must be based on a collaborative, learning based process. Proposals for solo/group artist exhibitions which do not demonstrate socially engaged practice(s) will not be considered. There is no age limit for applicants and proposals are invited from individuals and groups based in, or connected to Milton Keynes and the surrounding region only (within a 20 mile radius of MK Gallery).



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 our 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

Please email [learning@mkgallery.org](mailto:learning@mkgallery.org) with a short statement (2 sides A4 max) or film outlining your proposal. Please state if you would like your proposal considered for a particular month - we will try to accommodate where possible. Please include links to relevant images, supporting documentation or existing work. We invite applications at any time but please note that programmes are developed 3-6 months in advance.

### Selection process

Please submit your proposal as soon as you are ready. Shortlisting of proposals is undertaken quarterly. 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 your proposal in more depth. Where possible, final decisions will be made approximately 1 month later.

## Successful proposal – What happens next?

Should your proposal be accepted, you will be asked to:

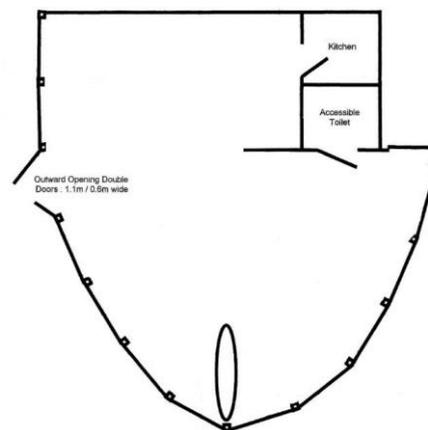
- Complete an agreement for the exhibition. This agreement will include details such as your commitment to exhibition quality, installation, promotion and evaluation. Please note that there is no budget available to support the making of the work. However, the Learning Team is available to offer guidance and support in preparing for exhibition and we encourage exhibitors to be actively involved in the exhibition layout and installation.
- Supply copy for a press release, an exhibition summary, room guide and any visual material required for our Learning and Communication 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 read any text with / for our Learning and/or Communication Teams
- Accept responsibility for any copyright permission required for visual or written material.

### Please note:

We recommend that you visit the space during 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 accessible unisex toilet                       |



### Exhibition dates

Exhibitions open on the first Friday and close on the last Saturday of a given month. Exact dates will be agreed with the Learning Team following notification of a successful proposal. Please advise if you are considering hosting an exhibition preview or additional events alongside. Please note that the space is unstaffed when open to the public.



Project Space exterior



## 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 Equality 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 selection process. All successful applicants will be asked to complete an additional Exhibition Agreement Form to provide data in more detail. Please return this form with your exhibition proposal to [learning@mkgallery.org](mailto:learning@mkgallery.org)

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Opportunity</b> | <b>Project Space 2020</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|

|                     |  |             |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Name / Group</b> |  | <b>Date</b> |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------|--|

|  |                          |                          |                                    |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Disability</b>  |                          |                          |                                    |                          |                          |
| The Equality Act of 2010 defines disability as: “a physical or mental impairment with long term, substantial adverse effects on ability to perform day to day activities.” |                          |                          |                                    |                          |                          |
| <b>Do you or the applicant group have a disability?</b>  |                          |                          |                                    |                          |                          |
| Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> | No                       | <input type="checkbox"/>           | Prefer not to say        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes do you have:  | Visual Impairment        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cognitive or Learning Disability   | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |
|  | Hearing Impairment/Deaf  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mental Health Condition            | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |
|  | Physical Disabilities    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other long term/chronic conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |

### Gender

|  |  |                          |  |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Gender Identity</b><br>(please tick in relation to the communities which your proposal engages or reflects) | Male (including female to male trans. men) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Female (including male to female trans. women) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Non-Binary (e.g. androgyne)                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Other (please specify)<br>.....            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

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 the communities represented**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Ethnicity:</b> UK citizens can belong to any of the following categories as this question does <b>not</b> relate to nationality. These are the official UK Census 2011 categories. <b>Please tick all that apply.</b></p>   |  |
| <p>Asian or Asian British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian background (please specify) .....</p>                |  |
| <p>Black or Black British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> African</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Black background (please specify) .....</p>   |  |
| <p>Mixed or multiple ethnic groups</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other mixed/multiple background (please specify) .....</p> |  |
| <p>Other Ethnic Group</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Arab</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group (please specify) .....</p>  |  |
| <p>White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other White background (please specify ) .....</p>  |  |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say</p>   |  |

**Exhibition Themes: Your exhibition proposal may directly respond to themes of social diversity or inequality. If so, please tick those that 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"/> |