

## Open Call Transforming Falcon Road Bridge



Image: Falcon Road Bridge (South) © Kes Eccleston

### The commission

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) has partnered with Wandsworth Council on an exciting new competition, inviting design proposals that will permanently transform the area underneath Falcon Road Bridge. Designs will need to consider the challenges of the underpass environment and its use as a key connection route for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to create an artistic intervention which improves the public realm, wayfinding and celebrates the local area's character.

This is a unique opportunity for a design team to address a 100m-long tunnel with large-scale artistic interventions that significantly improve public experience and feelings of safety within the space. Architects, designers, and artists are invited to submit their ideas for how they would approach transforming this space for the future by 12 September 2024.

The winning proposal will reimagine the area underneath Falcon Road Bridge in a way that creates a more welcoming safer route for the residents and the wider

public travelling around the borough, connecting communities in and around Clapham Junction Station.

Up to 6 teams will be shortlisted and awarded an honorarium of £1,500 + VAT to then develop their design proposal. A temporary exhibition of shortlisted entries will be on public display in early November, giving the local community an opportunity to have their say with a public vote. A winning team will be confirmed in December 2024 and, subject to procurement and governance procedures, will be awarded a design fee to consult on and develop a fully costed, feasible design, to be installed by the end of 2025.

The installation of the winning design will be an integral part of the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture in 2025. The borough will deliver a year of cultural programming that reflects Wandsworth's unique heritage, and celebrates the people, community groups and local talent that exist in the area.

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## Context



Image: Falcon Road Bridge © Kes Eccleston

The Falcon Road Bridge is a key route that connects Battersea and the river in the north to Balham and Tooting to the south. The bridge allows pedestrians and traffic to flow beneath Clapham Junction Station, one of London's busiest stations with over 200 trains passing through each hour. Although the route is a



primary thoroughfare for pedestrians, cyclists and traffic travelling to and from the station each day, the bridge is not a welcoming space.

The area surrounding the station developed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with opening of the local railways. Its unique character unites historic Victorian and Edwardian architecture with a bustling community feel and many independent shops and cafes. Despite its central role in the area's development, the area immediately surrounding the station fragments the feel of the area with the Falcon Road Bridge being a local eyesore whose intimidating presence bisects the neighbourhood.

The council's [Clapham Junction Area Strategy](#) outlines the need to increase the presence of nature and greening in the area, as well as create an environment that allows people to travel more sustainably – on foot or by bicycle – in a way that is both safe and efficient. The route has also been identified as a key priority in the [Wandsworth Night-Time Strategy](#), with a vision to improve cleanliness, appearance and lighting under the bridge, with a focus on improving the experience for pedestrians.

Arts and culture play a vital role in making Wandsworth a prosperous, healthy and attractive place to live, bringing people together to provide a sense of vitality and belonging. The council's [Arts and Culture Strategy](#) outlines Wandsworth Council's commitment to a long-term creative vision for the Borough. We aim to be bold and ambitious, and to embed arts and culture at the heart of the council's work.



The competition follows on from successful schemes such as [Happy Street by Yinka Ilori](#) which transformed the Thessaly Road Bridge in Battersea into a bright and approachable public realm and route.

Wandsworth will be the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture for a year starting in April 2025. It will be an amazing opportunity to bring our residents together to spark joy and demonstrate that culture and heritage have the power to transform people's health, happiness and equality of opportunity. Alongside delivering an exciting programme of arts and culture we believe it will have a long-term legacy, opening doors for our young people, building a strong and resilient cultural sector and putting the borough on the map.

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## Site

The Falcon Road Bridge is a 100m long route that – although well-used by buses, cyclists and pedestrians alike – is an unattractive piece of public infrastructure that requires wayfinding and cleanliness improvements to reintegrate the area around Clapham Junction Station with the bustling and diverse town centre.



Image: Falcon Road Bridge (South) © Kes Eccleston



## Design requirements

This competition is seeking a creative design solution that responds to the key challenges of the bridge and tunnel and will transform the experience of using this key connection route. The intervention will have a powerful placemaking role that will help animate the environment to create a welcoming public urban realm and sense of place.

Overall, the key objectives of the project are to deliver a scheme which:

- Creates a pleasant space that sparks joy for people, significantly improving the environment for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles
- Is impactful both during the day and at night
- Is bold and visually striking
- Improves accessibility and connectivity through enhanced wayfinding
- Reflects the diversity and unique character of the neighbourhood and instils a sense of local pride
- Promotes diversity in the design and delivery of the proposed scheme

The winning scheme may include – but is by no means limited to – the following elements:

- Re-cladding
- Lighting
- Public art and murals
- Wayfinding
- Greening
- Footpath treatments

Key issues and challenges:

- The area under the bridge is busy, dirty and feels unsafe
- The route lacks sufficient space for both vehicles and cycles
- Narrow pavements mean pedestrians – including children and families – have to walk very close to traffic
- Air quality

Further consideration:

- Designs should consider the location of the underpass in close proximity to Clapham Junction – a major transport hub and interchange
- Community engagement is a core value for all Wandsworth Council Arts and Culture Commissions and will be key to the success of the work. Teams must consult with local community groups throughout the process to inform thinking, particularly within the Winstanley Estate. Shortlisted applicants will have the opportunity to meet with residents and other stakeholders and findings from consultations with the community can be shared.
- Designs must be practical and realistic, whilst responding to the project objectives – evidence should be given that it is buildable within the budget, is sustainable in its use of materials and construction methods. Teams are encouraged to refer to the [Wandsworth Sustainability Checklist](#)

- Any winning design will need to be robust enough to withstand all weather conditions
- Can be easily maintained
- The work will be subject to local planning permission(s)
- The design should be accessible to the broadest possible audience
- The site is a crucial piece of public infrastructure and a key route for many buses, cars and other commuters. There will therefore need to be sufficient thought given to short to medium-term design and wayfinding interventions that provide clarity and promote the works to passers-by in the construction period
- As a key project coming forward during Mayor of London's Borough of Culture, designs should consider and creatively respond to key themes and its enduring legacy

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## Budget

The indicative budget for delivery of this project is circa £2,000,000 + VAT.

The winning team will be responsible for leading on the fabrication and installation of the design, whilst working closely with Wandsworth internal teams to facilitate the installation.

The budget outlined above includes an indicative amount of 12.5% of total budget to cover on-going design fees and other management costs required to deliver the winning concept.

The winning team will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- To develop a fully costed, feasible design that can be installed in Autumn 2025
- Undertake community engagement
- Design team will be expected to fulfil the role of Principle Designer for the delivery of the project

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## Submissions requirements

This competition has a two-stage submission.

This first stage submission should be single PDF submission of no more than 10 pages and maximum 5MB and include the information below. Alternatively, you can submit your applicant in another format (e.g. video) but the content should not exceed the equivalent of a '10-page limit'.

Your submission should include the following:

### Your experience:

- Brief biographies of all the project team
- A c(200-word) description about your practice along with any relevant technical and consultation experience acquired through previous projects.



- A selection of relevant previous work, including images, highlight why this experience is relevant to this brief

**Your response to the brief.** Please provide reflections on the following prompts:

- The overall design brief - why you are interested in being involved in the project?
- Your initial vision for the project
- Your approach to working with the local community and stakeholders to inform and deliver your proposal if selected.
- Any other response to the brief

You can submit your response to these prompts in any format. For guidance this should (equivalent to) a short paragraph of max. 300 words per prompt or 90 second video per prompt.

**No design work is required for the first stage.**

These submissions will be shortlisted by the judging panel. Up to six shortlisted practices will then be invited to develop a design concept based on the information laid out in this open call and will be awarded an honorarium of £1,500 each. The work required for the second phase of the project will be reflective of the honorarium sum.

At shortlisting, the second stage submission should include:

- 2 x A3 Boards which present your design to a public audience for consultation. Templates to be provided by the organiser if shortlisted.
- Maximum 10-page document explaining your proposal to be shared with the jury for review, prior to interview. Your submission should include:
  - Detailed design drawings (we accept a variety of formats including hand or computer drawn 3D design visualisation)
  - Key construction details drawn to scale, with key dimensions noted
  - Outline budget\*
  - Draft Risk Assessment and Method Statement
  - Maintenance plan
- PowerPoint presentation for the purposes of judging

\*If your practice is not VAT registered, you will need to consider this when preparing your budget.

### **Submission information**

For any questions about the competition or submission process, please email:  
[info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](mailto:info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)

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## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to architects, landscape architects, designers and artists. We welcome collaborations; however, the project team must include a qualified architect or landscape architect and community engagement specialist.

We are inviting larger architecture or design practices to team up with smaller studios or other creatives for this project. If you are interested in forming a team or collaboration for this submission but don't already have the connections you need, please get in touch.

The judges encourage entries from, or collaborations with groups who are underrepresented in architecture and design and are particularly keen to hear from artists and collectives who identify as Black, Asian and minority ethnic, disabled and/or people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The jury are interested in seeing applicants from local organisations or those who are collaborating with local groups.

## Access

Accessibility, diversity and inclusion are core values of the LFA and Wandsworth Council at all levels of our organisations, and we are committed to delivering projects that are representative of the whole city and can be enjoyed by everyone.

We will support with any resources and adjustments for anyone who needs it, to make applying for this role easier e.g. alternative document formats, interpreters, hybrid meetings. In the application form you will be asked how we can support you throughout the process; this will not influence your application.

[www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/access/](http://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/access/)

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## Deadline and submission details

- Deadline for first submission is Midday, 12 September 2024. Submissions received after time this will not be considered.
- For competition enquires please contact: [info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](mailto:info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)
- We are using [zealous.co](https://zealous.co) to administrate our application process. To submit your expression of interest for this competition, you will need to set up a free login on zealous which will enable you to begin your submission as a Draft and save it as you go. You can find information about [how to submit via zealous here](#).
- To submit your entry please go here [Submit Via Zealous](#)

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## Schedule outline

Submissions open: 1<sup>st</sup> August

Online Q&A for interested applicants: 14 August, 12.30pm [Register here](#)

Submissions closed: midday, 12 September 2024

Successful shortlisted teams notified: by 27 September

Site visit with shortlisted teams: w/c 30 September

Round 2 submission deadline: 5 November

Public Exhibition of shortlisted designs: w/c 11 November

Final judging / interviews: w/c 18 November



Winner notified: December 2024

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## Judging panel

The judging panel will be made up of a number of experts and representatives, and will be announced on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

NLA Chair – Rosa Rogina, London Festival of Architecture, Director

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## Evaluation – Judging Criteria

Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity and relevance to the brief.

### Round 1

*At round one expressions of interests will be given two scores, totaling a mark out of 10.*

- **Practice/ team profile - score /6 (60%)**

Does the team have skilled professionals for delivering the proposal in line with eligibility outlined in the Open Call? Does the team have a diverse set of skills and experience? Are the previous work experiences and/or their work methodologies and wider design aspirations relevant to the competition? Does the team proposed align with the eligibility criteria stated in the brief?

- **Initial vision/ response to the brief score /4 (40%)**

Does the proposal's initial written reflection to the brief suggest innovation, surprise and creativity? Does it explore a new and original way to use and engage with the area? Is the team thinking beyond possible barriers or restrictions, and pondering how they might be broken down? Is the vision something which could be developed into an appropriate and achievable scheme for the area, in line with the brief? Does the proposal respond to the long-term creative vision for London Borough of Wandsworth, Mayor of London's Borough of Culture and its legacy? Does the proposal seek to engage with the local community in relevant and innovative ways?

### Round 2

*At round two design proposals, budgets and supporting documentation will be assessed on five criteria.*

- **Overall Design score (30%)**

- **Costs and feasibility score (25%)**
- **Safety and Wellbeing (15%)**
- **Sustainability and longevity (15%)**
- **Contextual design and public engagement score (15%)**

Our evaluation criteria are alignment with [New London Agenda](#) – NLA's framework for best practice in city-making. The jury will be assessing submissions on the criteria above as well as the six pillars of placemaking set out in the agenda.

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## Further information

- Submissions will be judged on originality, demonstration of creativity, relevance to the brief as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site
  - To process entries to this competition we will share your application and any associated personal data provided on the application with our jury and competition partners
  - All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, but due to the volume of submissions we may not be able to provide feedback to entrants individually
  - Applicants may not be assisted in any way in their submission by members of the judging panel, the client body, organisers, members of their family, close business associates or employees
  - The ownership of Copyright of the design will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, that is Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design
  - All designs remain the intellectual property of the designer however the winning design will itself when built will be the property of the Council
  - Please bear in mind the project requires a fast turn around and may have peak moments when your practice will need to dedicate sufficient staff to deliver the project on time, to budget and to the high standard expected by all stakeholders
  - If your practice/collaboration is appointed to deliver the project it will need to have the following insurance: Employers Liability (£10m), Professional Indemnity (£5m), Public Liability (£5m). If your practice does not hold this level of insurance, part of the project budget can be used to uplift your policy. Please allow for this in the budget prepared at Round 2
  - Significant efforts are made by all stakeholders of the project to ensure wide media coverage
  - LFA reserve the right to use images from the submissions for promotional purposes in press, social media and publications. All endeavours will be made to ensure accurate accreditation
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## Useful links



London Festival of Architecture:  
[www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](http://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)

Wandsworth Council  
[www.wandsworth.gov.uk](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk)

New London Agenda  
[www.nla.london/new-london-agenda](http://www.nla.london/new-london-agenda)

Wandsworth Arts and Culture Strategy  
[Wandsworth Arts and Culture Strategy 2021-2031 - Wandsworth Borough Council](#)

Wandsworth Sustainability Checklist  
[wandsworth\\_sustainability\\_checklist\\_2023.pdf](#)

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## Contact

To submit your entry please go here [Submit via Zealous](#)

For general enquires please contact: [info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](mailto:info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)

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## Disclaimer

The competition organisers are not liable for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgments and all decisions are final. While it is the intent to construct the winning scheme, the organisers reserve the right to not proceed with construction for any reason. Material submitted by you shall be your sole responsibility, shall not infringe or violate the rights of any other party or violate any laws, contribute to or encourage infringing or otherwise unlawful conduct, or otherwise be obscene, objectionable, or in poor taste. By submitting such material, you are representing that you are the owner of such material and/or have all necessary rights, licenses, and authorization to distribute it.

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## Commissioning organisations



## London Borough of Wandsworth

Wandsworth London Borough Council, also known as Wandsworth Council, is the local authority for the London Borough of Wandsworth in Greater London, England. It is a London borough council, one of 32 in London. The council has been under Labour majority control since 2022. It is based at Wandsworth Town Hall in the centre of Wandsworth.

[wandsworth.gov.uk](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk)

Facebook: [@WandsworthCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WandsworthCouncil)

X: [@wandbc](https://twitter.com/wandbc)

Instagram: [@wandsworth\\_council](https://www.instagram.com/wandsworth_council)

LinkedIn: [@WandsworthBoroughCouncil](https://www.linkedin.com/company/WandsworthBoroughCouncil)

## **LFA** London Festival of Architecture

**The London Festival of Architecture (LFA)** is a month-long celebration of architecture and city-making, taking place every June across London. Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, LFA's mission is to open up discussions around architecture, test new ideas and promote emerging talent. LFA brings together the public and built environment professionals for the whole month of June and seeks to inspire and engage our audience with a programme that showcases London as a global architecture hub. LFA is run by NLA, London's built environment community.

[www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)

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