

ARTIST CALL OUT

2024 Sky Works Installation Commission

West Midlands Artists

The Brief

Urban Wilderness CIC will commission an Artist to create a new artwork for our Sky Works canopy installation space in the Longton Exchange Shopping Centre.

Public artworks are often contentious and can cause controversy both on the street and on social media. The commissioned work will support culture-led regeneration in Longton Town, Stoke on Trent and will work with existing community groups to create it.

The Artist will design a canopy installation that meets the physical parameters of the installation space, with particular attention to light weight, weather resistant materials and bright, colourful, bold visual impact. It will be sympathetic to local aesthetics, values and cultures.

The artworks will be created by the Artist and include crafted elements that can be made with our team of Community Makers who meet on Wednesdays. We are looking for an Artist who has participatory art experience and enjoys working with learning and physically disabled adults.

Urban Wilderness CIC will support the Artist by ordering and storing materials, facilitating the creative makers group and undertaking the installation process, including risk assessments.

We will invite all eligible applicants who are under-represented in the public arts sector to interview. This includes but is not limited to artists who are: d/Deaf or disabled; Black or brown, working class, under 25, identify as women, LGBTQ+

About Urban Wilderness CIC

We are founding co-directors Laurel Gallagher, Isla Telford and Jenny Harper, brought together by a shared belief that place based creative interventions can make significant changes personally, environmentally and economically.

We apply a methodology that is co-creative, socially engaged and follows a collaborative process of action, reflection and adaption. Our embedded community work builds meaningful relationships between people and places while developing capacity in underserved communities.

As a collective of creatives, we offer unexpected solutions, taking risks while remaining authentic to ourselves, the people and organisations we work with.

Urban Wilderness CIC is the Arts Organisation leading Longton's Cultural Action Zone. Find out more about this new Arts Council initiative here

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/creative-matters/news/new-arts-opportunities-cascade-across-stoke-trent-thanks-ps850000-investment> Find out about our Place Transformation strategies here

<https://urbanwildernesscic.com/place-transformation>.

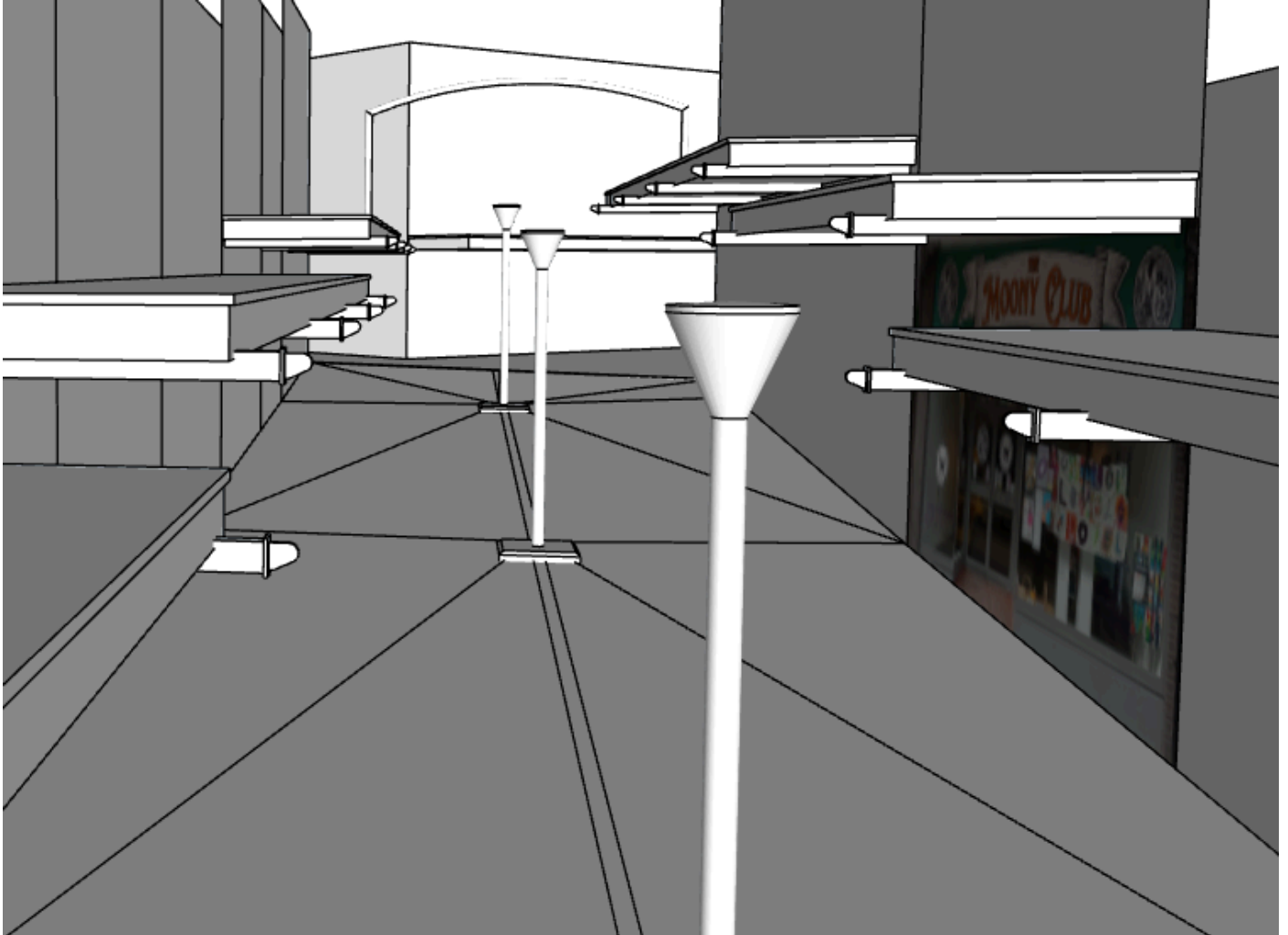
Urban Wilderness CIC runs Longton's Creative Community Hub 'The Moony Club'. Find out more here

<https://www.themoonyclub.com/>.

Urban Wilderness CIC have a substantial back-catalog of commissioning new artworks across Stoke on Trent since 2019. Find out more about previous commissions here <https://www.wastelands.online/> <https://www.thehappenings.org/2021>. We have previously explored the [Situationists New Rules of Public Art](#) in the context of Stoke-on-Trent. This continues to inform our approach to working in public spaces. [Watch our Symposium](#) from 2021.

About the Installation Space

The Sky Works canopy installation space is a curtain/ or net of catenary wires connected to the shop front canopies above a pedestrian walkway in the area of the precinct referred to as the 'Cultural Quarter'.



The Arts Council funded Sky Works canopy was installed by Urban Wilderness CIC in Nov 2023 to animate the Cultural Quarter with a program of public artworks:

Nov 2023: We are Stardust: Illuminated Stars designed by Urban Wilderness and made with the Creative Makers group facilitated by support staff.



March 2024: Colour Binding: Fabric Chandeliers designed by Urban Wilderness CIC and made with the Creative Makers group facilitated by support staff.



Visiting the Installation Space

The Sky Works canopy installation is clearly visible above the pedestrian walkway from The Moony Club to The Block in the Longton Exchange Shopping Centre. The walkway is sloped and the shopfronts are at different heights so measurements vary. The highest point of the canopy is approx 3m and the lowest point is approx 2 m off the ground with a width of approx 4m.

We recommend viewing the space by eye if possible but a visit to the space will be included in the interview process.

The Offer

- £2,000 artist fee (approx £200 a day) to include participatory workshops, planning and making time
- Mentor support to co-create the installation design, work with communities and on-site health and safety
- Press release and professional photography

Who can Apply?

- We welcome proposals from artists who work in all types of materials. Materials used will need to be suitable for an overhead installation
- We seek applications from artists who can evidence previous relevant works or have an established practice that relates to this commission
- This opportunity is open to undergraduate students
- Applicants must be over 18
- You must demonstrate an existing arts practice in a discipline recognised by Arts Council England.
- You do not have to be resident in Stoke on Trent but you must be able to travel to Longton for a minimum of 4 days work and travel costs will not be covered
- We will invite all eligible applicants who are under-represented in the public arts sector to interview. This includes but is not limited to artists who are: d/Deaf or disabled; Black or brown, working class, under 25, identify as women, LGBTQ+
- Please include your 'Access Rider' or ways that we can support you to attend interview in your application. All interviews will provide the opportunity to discuss your access needs and ways that we can work together to make this commission a positive experience for both Artist and commissioner

If you want to talk about how the application process can be more accessible for you please contact laurel@urbanwildernesscic.com

How to apply

Stage 1: complete a short online form on our website

Opens Fri 26th April: Closes Fri 24th May

You will need to demonstrate an existing art practice with online links to examples of your previous work and tell us why you want to work with Community Makers to create an installation for Longton's Sky Works installation space. We will be doing a rolling review of applications. If you are not eligible for this opportunity we will let you know as soon as possible.

Stage 2: invitation to interview

Interviews will take place on Wed 12th June

We will wait until all applications have been interviewed before making our final decision. We will favour those who are currently under represented within the public arts sector.

Timetable

Fri 14th June The Artist will be commissioned to create installations for the Sky Works installation space in Longton Exchange Shopping Centre.

This commission is based on 10 working days.

Installations will be in place with a Press Release by August