



CALL FOR ARTISTS: SAXTON GARDENS MURAL PROJECT

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Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Contents

Overview	1
About The Location	1
Who Should Apply?	2
What We're Looking For	3
Artist Support	3
How To Apply	4
Selection Process	4



Overview

East Street Arts, Vital Energi and Leeds City Council, are inviting applications from visual artists to design and deliver a **large-scale public mural** on the Energy Centre in Saxton Gardens, Leeds.

This commission is part of a wider creative programme that uses public art to:

- **Celebrate sustainable energy** and highlight its role in shaping the city's future
- **Reflect local identity** by engaging with residents and communities

This is a **paid opportunity** for an experienced mural artist. We welcome applications from both UK-based and international artists with working VISAS and especially encourage applications from those from underrepresented and marginalised backgrounds.

About the Location

Saxton Gardens is a residential neighbourhood located at the edge of Leeds city centre. It is home to a diverse mix of long-standing residents and newer communities, contributing to a rich social and cultural identity.

The mural site is the **Energy Centre**, a contemporary building central to the local low-carbon heat network.

Approx sizing - 30m long and approx 6m high





Who Should Apply?

We are looking for visual artists who can demonstrate:

- **Proven experience** in delivering high-quality murals or public artworks at scale
- **A distinctive visual style**, which may be abstract, figurative, typographic, illustrative, or otherwise innovative
- **An ability to work with communities**—through co-design, consultation, workshops, or socially engaged practice
- **Sensitivity to place and context**, particularly to cultural diversity, sustainability, and environmental themes

You may have previously:

- Produced murals in housing estates, city centres, or community hubs
- Collaborated with schools, youth groups, or residents' associations
- Worked with themes of climate change, sustainability, or local storytelling
- Created bold, contemporary interventions that enliven public spaces

We are open to applications from both **emerging and established artists**, including those who have not previously worked in Leeds.

What We're Looking For

The selected artist will:

Design and paint a mural that responds to themes of:

- Climate, sustainability, and the environment
- Local community identity and pride
- Energy transition and positive change
- **Engage with local residents**—either through direct workshops, informal conversations, or by embedding their stories and perspectives in the work
- **Produce a visually impactful design** that transforms the wall into a focal point of interest

The mural will be coated with **anti-graffiti varnish** to support its long-term preservation.

Artist Support

The successful artist will receive:

- **Fee:** £4,000 for artistic services
- **Expenses:** £1,000 for additional expenses
- **Timeframe:** Up to 14 days of work, with detailed structure and scheduling to be developed with Lead Producer Shazia Bibi and Artistic Director Jon Wakeman
- **Accommodation:** Provided at an artist residency space in Leeds (if required)
- **Resources:** All materials and equipment will be supplied
- **Support:** Dedicated project coordination, community engagement facilitation, and production assistance

How To Apply

To apply, please send the following by Thursday 25 September 5 pm to Shazia Bibi - saxton.gardens@esamail.org.uk

1. A short statement (up to 500 words) including:

- Why you are interested in this commission
- How your work relates to the key themes
- Any experience of working with communities and/or in public spaces

2. A CV or artist biography outlining relevant experience

3. A portfolio or link to 5–10 examples of previous relevant work (murals or large-scale public art preferred)

Please also submit an equal opportunities monitoring form via this link:

<https://eastst.art/Equal-Opportunities>.

This is an anonymous submission and will not be viewed alongside your application.

Selection Process

Shortlisting will be carried out by a panel including the Lead Producer, Artistic Director, and community representatives.

Interviews (online or in-person) may be held with shortlisted artists to discuss approach, experience, and ideas.

The **final selection** will balance artistic quality, relevance to the themes, and the ability to deliver within the timeframe.

