



ARTIST COMMISSION RECRUITMENT PACK

December 2025



Oxford House seen from Weavers Fields, Bethnal Green

Artist Brief – freelance contract

Organisation: Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 6HG

Project: *Made in the East End* – Community Banner Making

Reports to: Arts & Heritage Producer / Community Heritage Coordinator

Fee: £1,500 per artist (materials budget provided separately)

About the Project

Made in the East End is an ambitious initiative which seeks to bring our Bethnal Green community together to learn, exchange ideas and create new public artworks, performances and writing. Once home to generations of upholsterers, weavers, braid makers and silk winders, our textiles strand of the project will bring local residents together to co-create a series of banners honouring this remarkable legacy. Artists will work closely with community groups to design and produce vibrant, hand-crafted artworks that reflect shared stories, skills and cultural histories.

The final pieces will be exhibited in summer 2026 at Oxford House and contribute to the Whitechapel Gallery's 2026 Back Yard Biennale, followed by an autumn tour across venues in Tower Hamlets.

About Oxford House

Oxford House is a historic 'settlement house' established in 1884 by students and graduates who came to live and work in the East End. They established projects and community initiatives ranging from boys and men's clubs, to work exchanges and adult learning initiatives for local people. Oxford House has been based in its listed Victorian building in the heart of Bethnal Green since 1891.

Oxford House has seen many important moments in history from universal suffrage to ongoing struggles for racial equality and both World Wars. The post-war period saw Oxford House become a vital community hub in Bethnal Green reflecting its diverse local community. From youth work, projects for older people, to women's groups and community-led Somali cultural projects, Oxford House has reflected a changing East End.



Women's exercise class, circa 1940s, Oxford House Archive

Today, Oxford House is still a vital community hub still based in our beautiful, recently refurbished Grade II listed building on Derbyshire Street with a 120-seat theatre, gallery, dance studio, Victorian chapel, cafe and rooftop terrace with spectacular views across East London.

Who We Are Looking For

We would like to hear from artists with a strong interest in heritage, textiles and socially engaged art practice. We actively welcome applications from those who have a connection to East London, Global Majority artists, disabled artists, artists who identify as LGBTQ+, and/or those who come from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Essential Experience & Skills

- A genuine commitment to socially engaged and collaborative practice
- A strong interest in the heritage of Bethnal Green
- Ambitious with experience of using textiles as part of artistic practice (in any form or approach)
- Experience designing and leading creative workshops within community settings
- Keen to work closely with the Arts & Heritage team throughout planning, delivery and installation
- Ability to complete the final artwork by early June 2026



E2 Festival, circa 1970s, Oxford House archive

Fee Breakdown

Total artist fee: £1,500 covering 5 days of work:

- 1 day: preparation and planning
- 6 half-days delivery (each half-day = 4 hours, including set-up and clear-up)
- 1 day: completion of final artwork + short evaluation

How to Apply

Please submit:

- An up-to-date CV
- An expression of interest (up to two sides of A4, 12pt) outlining:
 - your artistic practice and relevant experience
 - why you are suited to this commission
 - your proposed approach
- Up to 4 images of relevant work or a link to your website

Complete an equal opportunities form [here](#).

A large-print version of this brief is available on request.

We welcome video or audio applications (up to 5 minutes). Please send these via WeTransfer, addressing the points listed above.

Email applications to: jobs@oxfordhouse.org.uk

Deadline: 10am, Monday 12 January 2026

Interviews: Week commencing 26 January 2026, in person at Oxford House.

Made in the East End is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

Equality & Diversity

Oxford House (OH) strives to be an equal opportunities service provider and employer. OH recognises that many groups of people within society suffer disadvantage, harassment or discrimination in many aspects of their lives, thereby devaluing them and denying them their basic rights. OH commits itself to combating such discrimination by seeking to extend within the organisation, opportunities for people affected by disadvantage and discrimination. OH recognises that many people have different lifestyles and responsibilities that make demands on them as carers for children, family or partners.

OH seeks to ensure equality & diversity throughout services, employment and management by providing appropriate encouragement where necessary to enable all types of people to play an active role and advance within its structure. OH seeks to raise awareness within the organisation, and amongst members and users, of the various forms of discrimination and to promote efforts to combat it. OH will train all its staff and volunteers in equality & diversity to ensure that they are up to date with any new legislation.

All forms of discrimination, abuse or harassment by staff will be regarded as disciplinary offences and dealt with in accordance with OH disciplinary procedures. All forms of discrimination, abuse or harassment by users of Oxford House or members of OH will be dealt with by the Chief Executive and/or Trustees.

Oxford House is committed to being an equal opportunities organisation. We recognise that discrimination and structural disadvantage continue to affect many communities, and we actively work to challenge these barriers. We aim to ensure equal access and inclusion across all our services, programmes and employment practices.

All staff and volunteers receive equality and diversity training, and any instances of discrimination, abuse or harassment are treated as disciplinary matters.

Established in 1884, OH is a registered charity in England.

Our financial model combines a mixture of unrestricted and restricted funding. By careful stewardship of our income (a mix of office rental, venue hire, café, and grant) we have already secured most of the funding required to meet our ambitions for 2025/26.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US!

Click on the links below:

 [Instagram](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [X](#)

 <https://www.oxfordhouse.org.uk/>