

Brief for:

# A Welcome Mural at the Commandery, Worcester

(re-issued 28/3/24 with amended application dates)



The Commandery, Worcester, is seeking an experienced artist to design and paint a welcoming mural on the new partition wall in our Reception area.

### **Museums Worcestershire**

Museums Worcestershire is the joint museum service of Worcester City and Worcestershire County Councils. Over the past 20 years, Museums Worcestershire has become known for its exhibitions, events and activities which tell the county stories and engage with audiences in innovative and exciting ways. The service is experienced in utilising collections and buildings to provide ambitious and quality experiences for our communities and have delivered successful and innovative projects over recent years.

Museums Worcestershire manage and care for the Worcester City, Tickenhill Trust and Worcestershire County Museum collections, as well as four buildings: The Commandery, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcestershire County Museum and the Museums Worcestershire Collections Store.

### **The Commandery**

The Commandery is a historic Grade 1 listed building in Sidbury, Worcester, owned by Worcester City Council and opened to the public by Museums Worcestershire. Visitors to the Commandery explore the past 1000 years of the building's history through interactive exhibitions, original objects and special events.

The Commandery began life as a Medieval monastic hospital but is most famous for being the Royalist Headquarters during the deciding battle of the English Civil War. Tudor merchants and Georgian gentlemen also set up home there, and in later years the building was used as a Victorian School for the Blind and as a 20<sup>th</sup> century printworks.

### **Project Overview**

We have recently re-designed our shop & visitor reception area, including the installation of a new partition wall. We are now looking for a local artist to paint a mural onto the wall to welcome visitors to the Commandery.

The mural could be linked to our main story (the Battle of Worcester and the English Civil War) or it could illustrate the many periods that the Commandery history covers.

Ideally the artist would find a way to make the mural subtly 'lead' visitors in the correct direction (to the right).

## Practicalities

The wall measures approx. 355cm wide x 185cm high. Artists are encouraged to visit us and view the space before submitting an application. The wall can be seen in Reception at any time during our open hours (Tuesday-Saturday 10-4, Sunday 10-3).

The photo below shows the wall. Please note that the table, the telephony cables and the push-button which opens the door will all be permanently relocated before the mural is installed.



The mural will need to be painted in-situ and whilst we are open to the public. Visitors will need to walk behind you whilst the work is taking place. Barriers will be provided to designate your working space. We would very much like the artist to engage with our visitors and explain their work.

The medium and materials used must be durable and low maintenance. Spray paint cannot be used due to our sensitive alarm systems.

### **The artists role will be to:**

- (1) Design and deliver a wall mural which is welcoming, celebrates the Commandery's unique history, and encourages visitors to walk in the desired direction
- (2) Paint the mural on site, during open hours, discussing their work with interested visitors. It may also be possible for you to run an artist-led workshop during the project, if this is something you would be interested in doing.
- (3) Liaise with Commandery staff to ensure your working area is safe for yourself and members of the public walking nearby. Your plans must comply with the management of H&S at work regulations 1999.
- (4) Provide a written method statement and risk assessment before work commences, and show evidence of your public liability insurance.

### **The Process**

Artists should apply by email, by Monday 27 May 2024, to Rachel Robinson, Commandery Development Manager [rrobinson3@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rrobinson3@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Museums Worcestershire will shortlist a maximum of four applicants who will be notified by Monday 3 June. They will each be paid £250 to work up a design to scale, which must be submitted by email or hard copy by Sunday 23 June 2024 (payments will be made after designs have been received).

Our chosen artist will be notified by Friday 28 June, and must complete the work on-site by the end of August. You must provide us with a risk assessment and evidence of your insurance before works can begin on-site. You will be paid an agreed fee of no more than £4000 on completion.

### **Your application should include the following:**

- A sketch design proposal. This can be for a single design, or can outline up to three different design options. Please also tell us what excites you about this brief and why you would like to work with the Commandery.
- Photographs of your previous work, or links to online examples
- Two references for previous work, with contact details
- A budget breakdown. This should include your time for planning and delivery of the project, as well as all materials & equipment, and any budget required for travel and/or subsistence (total cost not to exceed £4000).

## Assessing your application

Your application will be assessed according to the following ratio and criteria:

A proposal that demonstrates an understanding of our brief and will result in a mural which will celebrate the Commandery's unique history	35%
Evidence of similar, high-standard work completed elsewhere	30%
A commitment to meeting our budget and timescale	20%
A willingness to engage with our visitors on-site and discuss the project	10%
A design solution which will be successful in physically encouraging visitors in the correct direction.	5%

If you have any questions please contact Rachel Robinson, Commandery Development Manager, at [rrobinson3@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rrobinson3@worcestershire.gov.uk)