



2027 ARTIST OPEN CALL

BACKGROUND

Canary Wharf's Arts + Events team produce and host over 100 events annually. Our most popular and longest running event, Winter Lights, is a celebration of light art from artists across the world. Next year's Winter Lights festival will be our 11th edition!

Initially featuring just a single project, Winter Lights grew into a much larger estate-wide festival in 2015, featuring 16 artists. The event was a huge success and since then the festival has continued to grow and is now London's largest free annual light show. In 2026 the festival attracted over 350,000 visitors.



CALL FOR ARTISTS

We are now seeking artist proposals for our 2027 Winter Lights festival which will run Tuesday 19 – Saturday 30 January 2027.

All proposals should celebrate light art. We welcome submissions from artists of all backgrounds, including Fine Art, Design, Architecture, Media Art, Sculpture, Kinetic Art, and Installation Art.

Our 2027 edition's theme is RE(IMAGINE) which can serve as a jumping off point or inspiration for your submission, but we don't wish for this to be overly prescriptive.

We welcome proposals from disabled artists and are able to provide funding for artists requiring additional support outside of the project costs.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR PROPOSAL

Winter Lights is primarily an outdoor festival, the artworks will be placed in our parks, squares, plazas and water throughout Canary Wharf.

There will be scope for one artist's work to be inside our retail spaces, please bear in mind, this will be in open, well lit mall spaces where we are unable to control light levels.

Given the large crowds the festival attracts, the most successful pieces are those that can be enjoyed by many people simultaneously.

We welcome interactive installations but ask that they allow multiple visitors to engage at once.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR PROPOSAL

We encourage pieces that can be reconfigured to highlight our unique spaces.

We encourage the incorporation of sound.

We ask artists to integrate sustainable ideas and any energy-saving solutions where possible.

Within the theme RE(IMAGINE), we are looking to draw out certain curatorial and thematic strands:

- The reimagination of public space and public realm
- Reimagining what 'could be' encompassing aspirations and hopes
- The Imaginary – supernatural, futuristic and otherworldly
- Sustainability – RE(IMAGINE) brings to mind the act of reusing, recycling and other sustainable practices



PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Your submission ideally should be in PDF format,* and must include:

- A brief description of the project
- A brief description of the artist or group submitting the proposal
- At least 2-3 high quality images or renders of the piece and movie files if it is an existing piece
- A basic outline of the structure's engineering.

Please ensure you have read all elements listed on our considerations page before submitting.

Alongside your proposal, we require a completed Budget Spreadsheet Template which must be filled out in the format provided.

** Please note, due to IT restrictions, we are unable to open links within the body of an email so request your submission documents are sent as attachments.*



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Health and safety at Canary Wharf is of the utmost importance. Canary Wharf is an incredibly windy area and therefore we are very strict on the following points and cannot accept submissions which are unable to comply with the below:

- Able to withstand freezing and wet conditions.
- Windproof, withstanding at least 50mph wind, we look to exceed this rating whenever possible.
- Sturdy, rigid and designed to be displayed outdoors.
- Not easily breakable or climbable by the public.

In addition, you must be able to provide proof of Public Liability Insurance to a minimum of £10m.

We will require confirmation and technical documents to prove all the above prior to any contracting.



SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should provide:

- A full proposal of the work including images or video files
- A complete quotation of fees presented in the **Budget Spreadsheet Template** provided to you. Whilst we would like this to be as exact as possible, we appreciate this may not be completely accurate at this stage

Successful applicants will need to arrange:

- Site-specific Method Statement & Risk Assessment
- Public Liability Insurance of £10million minimum
- Structural Engineer's Report
- Your own accommodation and travel, which should be included as part of your proposed budget
- Any customs import or export forms required, again this should be included as part of your proposed budget on application



TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS & SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

PROPOSALS

Deadline for proposals:
Wednesday 13 May

Outcome of proposals sent to artists:
June/July 2026

All successful submissions will be subject to approval following a call with our Operations Manager.

Contracts issued to successful artists:
By end of July

EVENT DATES

Installation: Sat 16 – Sun 17 January

Festival Dates: Tuesday 19 – Saturday 30 January

Derig: Sunday 31 January



READY TO APPLY?

If you are ready to apply, please send your proposal to Arts+Events@CanaryWharf.com by Wednesday 13 May. We will confirm receipt of all proposals.

If you need any further information before submitting your proposal, please contact the team. You can contact Lowri at Lowri.Harries@cwg.com or Camilla at Camilla.McGregor@cwg.com, we will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

We look forward to hearing from you!



A window display featuring a repeating pattern of blue, wavy, ribbon-like shapes. The pattern is set against a dark background. In the center, there is a mannequin wearing a light-colored, possibly gold or beige, outfit. The overall lighting is blue, creating a vibrant and modern aesthetic.

THANK YOU
WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATION