

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Two Temple Place is seeking proposals for our next two major spring exhibitions - January – April 2026 and 2027.**

### **The Brief**

For our 2026 and 2027 exhibitions, we are looking for new, creative and ambitious proposals to be the centrepiece for year-long charitable projects that make up our Cultural and Community Programme. We are looking for brilliant ideas, that focus on stories and histories that maybe missing from other exhibitions. We are looking for proposals which support a lens through which we can shape wide-ranging community and educational partnerships and events for a whole year and fulfil the Programme's objectives.

The objectives of our exhibitions and our Culture and Community Programme are:

**ENGAGING AUDIENCES.** We encourage broader public, educational and community group participation and cultural engagement through free access to exhibitions and a wide-ranging programme of public events, educational workshops, free family trails and outreach.

**OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES.** The Bulldog Trust exists to offer opportunities to those who may lack them. This can be partnerships with community groups and schools or volunteer programmes. The Trust uses the exhibitions and Two Temple Place to develop a year-round charitable calendar. We host other charities and frequently partner with them in developing new projects, both social and cultural.

**NURTURING TALENT.** We provide work experience, volunteer and internship opportunities and have a broad network of talented facilitators. We work with emerging or mid-career curators and artists, offering them high-profile opportunities to showcase their work. We frequently give over part or all our building to skills development, music, theatre and other inspiring endeavours.

**ADVOCATING FOR REGIONAL COLLECTIONS.** We mount high quality exhibitions, with a focus on important themes, that raise national awareness of the many wonderful collections held in museums and galleries around the UK. We provide opportunities for advocacy and stakeholder engagement for these irreplaceable civil society resources.

### **What You Need to Know**

#### **Eligibility**

Proposals must display imaginative engagement with our audiences and can involve any media. The exhibition will need to respond creatively to our vibrant building. We're looking to be inspired by work that will surprise and challenge visitors. We are happy to take calculated risks.

Exhibition proposals must set out the lens or theme (some potential lenses/themes are set out below) which both inspires the exhibition, and which is intended to provide sufficient energy and interest to support a year-long Cultural and Community Programme. We believe that creativity is a vital source of skills-development and confidence-building and that it can have therapeutic value, erode social isolation and grow of stronger communities. In that belief, we see great synergistic potential between our annual exhibition and our wider Programme.

### **Curation**

We welcome approaches from all corners of the sector: professional cultural organisations, individual researchers, freelance curators, and regional museums and galleries. The curator(s) will be required to have knowledge of appropriate collections across the UK (or the curator may already be a part of one of these collections or institutions) in order to research and select objects for inclusion, write an article for the catalogue and the exhibition interpretation text, and plan the exhibition space at Two Temple Place. This will all be done with the support and guidance of the experienced exhibition team at Two Temple Place.

### **Funding**

Costs for the exhibition are paid for by Two Temple Place. Production, materials, transport, publicity and management costs will be covered and managed by us, and a fee is paid to the curator. As a charity, we do fundraise for each project.

### **Working in Partnership**

It is part of our mission that the exhibition and wider programme creates significant value for the partner organisations (both the collections whose works Two Temple Place include in the exhibition and community groups which The Bulldog Trust work with), and for the public. We're excited about possibilities for touring or for wider and deeper digital engagement, and about exploring these opportunities with our partners.

### **Timeframe for 2026 Exhibition**

<b>Exhibition Dates:</b>	<b>January–April 2026</b>
Programme and exhibition narrative:	Before end 2024
Object list developed:	Early 2025
Catalogue articles completed:	September 2025
Interpretation completed:	November 2025

### **Next steps**

You must first read the our Programme Report [2TP-Culture-Community-Report\\_2024.pdf](#) ([twotempleplace.org](http://twotempleplace.org))

Please send proposal ideas (a maximum of three pages excluding images) by email to Rebecca Hone, Head of Culture and Community, Two Temple Place. If you would like to speak with Rebecca in advance of sending a proposal, please email [rebecca@twotempleplace.org](mailto:rebecca@twotempleplace.org)

Deadline for January-April 2026 proposals: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Lenses which focus our programme**

Some examples of ideas which we feel could provide that cultural and charitable lens to focus our efforts are provided below. They are not to be considered an exhaustive list and no preference would be given to these over a proposal made using another lens entirely. The exhibition should relate to a wider theme but neither exhibition nor wider charitable programme should feel constrained to a neat fit. The exhibition proposal needs to be inspiring not didactic and could take on other important social themes.

**Mental Health.** Perhaps our greatest current social crisis, or numerous crises rolled into this broad title. This would enable a broad range of community programmes and mental health could also be a fertile and provocative arena for our exhibition. It could be more institutional in focus (prisons or healthcare) or consider the level of mental health issues which are left to communities to manage.

**Nutrition.** A core reason for the life expectancy discrepancies in the UK is nutrition related: food precarity and security, obesity and poor education. The workshop themes of creative and educational engagement with this area seem clear and multiple. And there have been high-profile creatively promoted campaigns in this area to draw on. A lot of this rests on literally toxic consumerism, poor labelling etc. Exhibition work could include body image, pride and shame, 21<sup>st</sup> Century pop art equivalents, culturally diverse alternatives, health related work.

**Care.** There are many community groups working with those who are forced or feel duty-bound to act as carers. It is an immense system of unpaid labour which stunts the personal and career development of those trapped within it. Care could be a wonderful basis for a wide-ranging and emotionally engaging and challenging exhibition which could take the concept in many directions.

**Community.** The core of The Bulldog Trust's work is to create and/or facilitate opportunity, often working with community groups focussed on those who are disadvantaged. An exhibition which focusses on the creation of community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and what we

mean by “community” today, with themes of home and belonging, would fit very well with our wider aims. and offer fertile exhibition ground.

**Rehabilitation and recidivism.** Although this may seem a far more focussed lens, The Bulldog Trust has a particular goal over the medium term to assist those with prior convictions, via education, creative expression, skills-development and wider facilitating of opportunity. We would therefore be very open to proposals involving work in this field.

### **Background**

This is a fantastic opportunity to develop our next major twelve weeks-long exhibition and to inspire our wider year-round community and educational programme that animates Two Temple Place, making our remarkable building the inspiration for artists, makers and for a new community of visitors and Programme participants. You will be working with us to surprise visitors to one of London's most lovely and eccentric buildings, owned by a charity and run for the public, whilst catalysing an important social and cultural programme.

During 2024, The Bulldog Trust - the social and cultural charity which owns Two Temple Place and uses its amazing building as a tool for its charitable work - decided that its community and educational programme and its exhibition should more clearly be a single holistic programme. This Call for Proposals thus asks for the exhibition proposal to be placed into the context of the wider programme which works with community groups, schools and cultural organisations (see our four objectives, above).

The Cultural and Community Programme and its exhibitions Two Temple Place have grown in impact and reach since its inception in 2011, reaching audiences of over 430,000 and working with over 50 regional museums and galleries.

Two Temple Place is an extraordinary architectural gem. It was built as an office for William Waldorf Astor in the late 19th century and is a unique venue in central London. We want it to be celebrated, enjoyed and explored by artists and the community with honesty, irreverence and joy. Our spaces have been fully adapted to accommodate community projects and exhibitions with top grade lighting and hanging systems, security, and environmental controls, and they conform fully to the terms of the Government Indemnity Scheme. For the curator, devising a show for the ornate and intricately decorated space is a huge challenge that calls for imagination and ingenuity, and successful exhibitions bring works together in ways that respond to and complement the building's unique décor, and surprise and delight visitors and our community and educational participants.

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Two Temple Place, Summer 2024