



## **Launch of the Northern Line Extension (NLE) *Underground, Overground* – feasibility study**

21 October 2020

### **The brief:**

Wandsworth Council are seeking to commission an experienced cultural producer or creative company to develop options and assess the feasibility of a large-scale processional performance event to celebrate the launch of the Northern Line Extension in Autumn 2021.

### Context

The Northern Line Extension (NLE) is the first major Tube extension since the Jubilee Line Extension 20 years' ago. The £1.1bn project will connect the Northern Line with two new stations at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station, both of which will display new commissions from Art on the Underground. Crossing the boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth, the project is on track to open in Autumn 2021 and the 3.2km twin-tunnels will connect residents and visitors to the regeneration projects that have transformed the area.

We want to celebrate this moment in a way that reflects the diversity of the communities that will be served by the extension. We propose to follow the journey of the first underground train – from Kennington to Battersea Power Station (and perhaps back again) – above ground as a processional live performance. Staying as close as possible to the exact location of the tunnel, the performance will cross private and public land and take in landmarks such as Battersea Power Station and Kennington Park to create a spectacular visualisation of the changes under ground.

There is precedent for a similar intervention in the Capital with Station House Opera's *Dominoes*, first commissioned by CreateLondon in 2009. The most recent edition in London saw 600 volunteers lay 23,000 concrete breezeblocks across 5.5km of the city centre, to chart the line of the Great Fire of London, celebrating its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

The project is ambitious in scope and will require a partnership across three boroughs. To get things started, Wandsworth are commissioning an experienced cultural producer or creative company to develop options for the route and performance. We're excited about the potential for pyrotechnics, light or movement so that we might capture, from the air, the image of the NLE in its entirety.

### **Overall objectives for the Launch Event**

- Call attention to the diversity of communities, landmarks and land-uses that the NLE will serve
- Attract participation from local communities in this historic moment



- Deliver an ambitious cultural event that celebrates the NLE’s scale of achievement
- Create spectacular imagery that can resonate around the world

Wandsworth has an additional objective, to display Battersea and Nine Elms as attractive places to live, work, and visit, well connected to wider London.

#### Budget

There is a maximum budget of £5,000 + VAT for this feasibility study to include all fees and expenses.

#### Outputs for feasibility study

We anticipate the following outputs:

- Route analysis and technical production considerations
- Proposals of 2-3 types of creative intervention, reflecting different levels of budget, with indicative programme and milestones. A mixture of live and hybrid programming should be considered, considering the uncertainties relating to Covid-19 and live events
- Fundraising plan with anticipated contributions from key partners
- Audience development plan
- Community engagement plan

The feasibility study will define the basis for the project in 2021 and be used to help secure funding pledges from public and private sector partners, as well as become a potential Project Grant submission to Arts Council England. It will become the creative brief to support a second round of commissioning in Q2 2021.

The consultant team will work closely with the Nine Elms Strategic Lead for Culture and Nine Elms Arts and Events Manager with access to other Council Officers and partners as required.

#### Timeline

We require the work to be completed by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will require regular updates with the Delivery Team, including a suggested review in early December 2020.

The rough programme for delivery of the overall commission is as follows:

Commission feasibility study	Nov 2020
Present feasibility study	Jan 2021
Securing funding commitments	Jan-Feb



Submit ACE bid	Mar
Deliver engagement programme	July-October
Production	October 2021 – subject to TfL programme

How to apply:

Please send the following to [alex.rinsler@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:alex.rinsler@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk):

- Cover letter to outline your qualifications for the work and suggested approach
- Breakdown of budget with activity plan and proposed day rates
- Brief professional bio/s of the consultant team and at least two examples of relevant recent work

The deadline for applications is **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. We will notify the successful applicant by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**. Following the Council's policies on procurement, at least three providers have been invited to submit a response.

**For further information:**

About the Northern Line Extension:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/northern-line-extension>

About the Vauxhall Nine Elms Opportunity Area:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/opportunity-areas/opportunity-areas/vauxhall-nine-elms>

<https://nineelmslondon.com/>