

In the Windows at Platt Hall - a call for exhibition proposals

Do you live or work in Rusholme, Moss Side, Fallowfield or Longsight?
Would you like to share stories, artworks or ideas with the communities in your neighbourhood?
Would you like to do this in the windows of Platt Hall?

Platt Hall is in the corner of Platt Fields Park on the junction of Platt Lane and Wilmslow Road. People are constantly passing by – going to and from home, work and the shops, walking in the park, sitting in the sunshine or taking shelter from the rain. It's a beautiful building and the windows are one of its most distinctive features. There are lots of them!

Over the last two years during the Covid pandemic we have been using the windows to brighten people's lives, sharing art, stories, messages of good cheer, and updates on the project to redevelop Platt Hall. You can see some examples at <https://www.platthall.org/in-the-windows.html>.

Now we'd like to open this up to the wider neighbourhood, with a programme of exhibitions in the windows created by and for the people who live and work here.

Background

We are working with local residents to redevelop Platt Hall as a creative community space where everyone is welcome. We have a programme of creative workshops, collections exploration events, a gardening project and family playgroup. But the building is closed to general visitors the rest of the time, and will remain so for some time to come.

We want the Hall to feel alive even when the front door is closed. The windows are an ideal space for connecting with people, sharing creativity and prompting conversations. So if you are an artist, a maker, a community group or simply someone who has something they would like to share with the neighbourhood, the windows of Platt Hall are a creative space in which to do it.



Proposing an exhibition – what you need to know

- We will host up to three exhibitions per year. Anyone who lives or works in Rusholme, Moss Side, Fallowfield or Longsight can propose an exhibition.
- Two exhibitions will be ground floor only, using up to four of the six windows.
- One will be open to larger scale ideas, with all the windows at the front of the building available.

Aims

This is what we want the overall programme to achieve. Please consider this in your proposal:

- **Creating impact.** Making people stop and look. Animating the Hall while the front door is closed.
- **Championing everyday creativity.** Celebrating local creativity in all its aspects, both amateur and professional.
- **Connecting with communities.** Speaking to the different communities who live locally. Breaking down potential barriers caused by the imposing architecture of the building.

Themes

These are the themes we are interested in. Please address at least one in your proposal:

- **People.** Telling stories about local people and their lives.
- **Place.** Celebrating the local area, engaging with communities, cultures, topics and issues.
- **Collections.** Exploring the Platt Hall collection, making links with the wider neighbourhood.

Practical considerations

Platt Hall is a publicly owned historic building. This means there are restrictions on what we can do with it. Please consider these when preparing your proposal:

- We can't do anything that would cause damage to the historic fabric of the building (eg. screwing into walls or window frames). We can attach things to the glass windowpanes or suspend things from existing fittings.
- We cannot display any commercial advertising on the building, so please do not propose anything that advertises goods or services.
- We need to minimise pests coming into the building, so some materials may need to be frozen on entry to the Hall e.g. textiles with wool or cotton content.
- We have a commitment to sustainability. Please use materials with a low carbon footprint, or recycle and re-use where possible. There is a materials budget which we can agree and source together.
- You will have to install your own exhibition, with support from staff at the Hall. Installation time available is a maximum of one day, so simple is best.

Selection process

The *In the Windows* panel, made up of local residents and Platt Hall staff, will select a programme that combines a good mix of ideas, formats and approaches. We will assess proposals according to the aims, themes and practical considerations outlined in this brief.

Fee

There is an exhibitor fee for this project, which will vary according to scale of proposal:

- Small projects (up to four ground floor windows): up to £500 plus £150 materials budget.
- Large projects (all three floors): up to £1000 plus £300 materials budget.

Materials budget to be agreed with Platt team.

Dates

Submission deadline for first round of exhibition proposals: **Friday 1 July 2022**

Programme selected and exhibitors notified: **Friday 22 July 2022**

Provisional dates for exhibitions:

Exhibition 1: October – December 2022

Exhibition 2: March – June 2023

Exhibition 3: tbc

How to apply

Please answer the questions in the Exhibition Proposal Form on the following page.

There are several different options for how you submit your answers, but in all cases the information should be the same. The options are:

- A video (filmed on a phone is fine), talking us through your answers and showing us no more than six images relevant to your idea. Maximum 3 minutes.
- A written document answering the questions, with no more than six accompanying images. No more than 3 A4 sides of writing. Please keep images low res.
- Verbally in person. A member of the Platt team will type your answers in response to the questions on the form. These will then be submitted to the panel.

To find out more about Platt Hall and the Inbetween project please see www.platthall.org.

If you would like to have a chat about this project and your ideas, please do get in touch, either with Liz Mitchell on elizabeth.mitchell2@manchester.gov.uk or Ruth Edson on ruth.edson@manchester.gov.uk.

In the Windows Proposal Form

1. Who are you?
2. What do you want to do in the windows?
3. Why?
4. How many windows do you want to use?
5. How does your proposal connect with the aims and themes of this brief?
6. What is your connection with Rusholme, Moss Side, Fallowfield or Longsight?
7. Is there anything you would like support or guidance with?
8. Please provide a rough breakdown of costs and how you would spend the exhibitor fee/materials budget.

Please submit your proposal to Liz Mitchell on elizabeth.mitchell2@manchester.gov.uk or Ruth Edson on ruth.edson@manchester.gov.uk. Or contact us if you'd like further help on how best to submit.