

PLATT *HALL*

THE PLACE WE IMAGINE: SHARING FOOD AT PLATT HALL

Artist Residencies at Platt Hall

Artist brief

Are you an artist whose practice explores relationships between people, food and drink? Do you live in Greater Manchester?

Platt Hall is looking to recruit two artists/artist collectives to bring creative perspectives to sharing food and drink within Platt Hall. Each project will involve working with local partners and residents to investigate the relationship between food and drink in relationship to health and wellbeing, belonging or growing. You will respond directly to residents' needs in the four wards adjacent to the Hall: Rusholme, Longsight, Fallowfield and Moss Side.

The residencies are part of a wider year of research into making and sharing food and drink at Platt Hall to ensure a sustainable future for the Hall in the next stage of its development as a vital neighbourhood creative resource. The wider research programme will create a body of evidence for sustainable options for food and drink production and consumption at Platt Hall.

Our research question is:

How can sharing food and drink at Platt Hall bring people, collections and heritage together through health and wellbeing, food sustainability and belonging?

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About Platt Hall

Platt Hall is a former textile merchant's house that sits on the corner of Platt Lane and Wilmslow Road on the boundaries of Moss Side, Rusholme and Fallowfield. It has been many things - a home, a work camp, an art school. From 1947 to 2017 it was the Gallery of Costume, home to Manchester's world-class collection of fashion and dress. Now it houses a range of collections including dress and textiles, domestic tools and equipment, homecrafts and handcrafts, dolls houses and miniatures, paintings, prints and archive material relating to the history of the building. We're creating a sustainable future for this landmark historic building by working with local people to make the site and its collections accessible and relevant for today's and future communities in this neighbourhood. *The Place We Imagine: Sharing Food at Platt Hall* is part of this process.

Outcomes

In response to our research question the appointed artists will work with people to produce work in a format relevant to their practice that will deliver the following outcomes:

Knowledge – the work will generate a better understanding of how food resonates for communities in this neighbourhood.

Evidence – the work will show *how* sharing food and drink at Platt feels, *how* it enhances belonging, brings the Hall to life.

Agency – involving local participants in this piece of work will develop advocates for the Hall as a site for sharing food together.

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What we are looking for:

We are looking for two artists/ artist groups to each deliver a short food and drink related piece of creative work before the end of 2025.

Artists must live in Greater Manchester.

Your proposal needs to respond to **one or more** of the following themes and can explore the intersections between them:

- Food Cultures and belonging in the neighbourhood of the Hall.
- Health and Wellbeing connected to food
- Food and growing/ Food Citizenship

Artists must have an awareness of the complex relationships people have with food, including different cultural perspectives, food poverty and health.

We invite applications from artists who work in range of creative processes. For example, this could include socially engaged art practice involve eating and sharing, making and talking.

Process

This residency should:

- Speak to the diverse cultures of Longsight, Rusholme, Moss Side and Fallowfield. This neighbourhood comprises a rich mix of cultures, histories, styles, languages – its residents come from all over the world.

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- Engage with the ethos and atmosphere of Platt Hall and its associated collections. These include dress and textiles, domestic objects and handicrafts, paintings and drawings from all over the world.

The process for developing this work needs to:

- Be intrinsically participatory. Everything we do at Platt Hall is intended to strengthen and extend local relationships and build a sense of collective ownership.
- Work with the challenges of the historic fabric of a Grade II* listed building and find creative opportunities within it.
- Embed sustainability as a core principle. Working with what we've got, reducing our climate impact, preservation and material care and repair.
- Be inclusive and sensitive to cultural associations, symbolism and language relevant to diversity of the neighbourhood.

Artists must work with the Platt Hall team and people within one or more of current programmes connected to Platt Hall. These include:

- Garden Volunteers (Adults)
- Wellbeing programme (Adults)
- Heald Place Primary School
- Young people
- Early years (Child under three and their families)

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Fee

Each artist group will receive a fee of £3000 to cover their preparation and delivery. You can apply as a group but there is only one fee of £3000.

There is a separate materials budget of up to £750 per residency which we can agree and source together.

Timescales

Each residency needs to be completed within a three month period between June – December 2025. (to be negotiated)

Mentee

We will be recruiting a early career artist to shadow and work alongside both residencies. Artists must be open to sharing and supporting this person as part of the project.

Information sessions

We are holding two information sessions to meet staff and ask questions.

Thursday 27 March

9.30 - 10.30am : Online

11am – 12noon : In person at the Hall

If you can't make either of these but still have questions please email Ruth Edson, ruth.edson@manchester.gov.uk

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Selection process

The Place We Imagine panel, made up of local residents/ partners and Platt Hall staff, will select proposals that complement each other in ideas, formats and approaches. We will assess proposals according to the aims, themes and practical considerations outlined in this brief.

We will select a short list of artists who will be asked to present their ideas to an audience of interested local residents and stakeholders on Tuesday 13 May at the Hall. Artists will be paid for their time for this.

Dates

Tuesday 27 March 9.30 - 10.30 online, 11 – 12noon in person	Information session
Wednesday 16 April 5pm	Submission deadline
By Friday 25 April	Applicants informed
Tuesday 13 May 10.30 - 12.30	Presentations (if shortlisted)
By Friday 16 May	Successful artists informed
Between June- Oct	Delivery of residency (if successful)

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How to apply

Please answer the following questions:

1. Tell us about you and your practice
2. What is your idea?
3. How does your idea relate to the overall question? **How can sharing food and drink at Platt Hall bring people, collections and heritage together through health and wellbeing, food sustainability and belonging?**

How does your idea relate to the one or more of the following priorities?

- Food Cultures and belonging in the neighbourhood of the Hall.
- Health and Wellbeing
- Food and growing/ Food Citizenship

4. Which group would you like to work with?

- Garden Volunteers (Adults)
- Wellbeing programme (Adults)
- Heald Place Primary School
- Young people
- Early years (Child under three and their families)
- A combination of above

5. Is there anything you would like support or guidance with?

6. What resources will you need to make it happen? Materials and spaces for delivery.

7. Breakdown of how you will use the budget to cover artist fees. Up to £3000 fees and £750 materials.

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There are several different options for how you submit your answers, but in all cases the information provided 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 5 minutes.
- A written document answering the questions, with no more than six accompanying images. No more than 3 pages 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, please see www.platthall.org.
Instagram: @mag_platthall

To book a place on either the online or face to face session, please contact Ruth Edson on ruth.edson@manchester.gov.uk. If you can't attend, you can also contact Ruth for more information.

GDPR: All films will be deleted after the recruitment process. Personal information such as address and contact details won't be shared wider than the recruitment panel and will be deleted after the recruitment process.

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Additional Notes

Practical considerations

Platt Hall is a publicly owned Grade II*-listed 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.
- All activity will be risk assessed in planning regarding pest control, food hygiene and health and safety.
- We have a commitment to sustainability. Please use materials with a low carbon footprint, or recycle and re-use where possible.

The Place We Imagine residencies are kindly supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Arts Council England and Manchester City Council.