

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT – CO-CREATED MURAL COMMISSION

**CONTEXT**

[Our City and Beyond: Manchester Oxford Road Edition](#) is an 18-month community art project led by HOME in collaboration with Network Rail and supported by Manchester City Council.

Through creative sessions and artistic interventions, we are working with a diverse range of communities across Manchester to explore art and rail.

Professional artists, school children, young people, students, local residents, commuters, daily travellers and station staff are all being engaged in this ambitious programme.

Network Rail is funding this project to establish momentum in creative placemaking to improve our station environment for our passengers, city-dwellers and surrounding communities.

The programme delivers:

- A new approach for the rail industry that is designed to demonstrate intent and create a credible platform for wider collaboration and co-investment. This programme is as a true exploration of what becomes possible with culture and rail step into partnership.
- Creative engagement with schools, young people, passengers and communities.

- Events and exhibitions that animate the station environment.
- Public artwork which changes the landscape of the city.
- A structured partnership model that opens the station to cultural and civic collaborators.

CREATIVE BRIEF

Building on our commitment to co-creation and meaningful participation, the lead artist will design and paint a mural that showcases the voices of local residents and community members living and working around Oxford Road Station. The outcome will recognise the area as a place of daily transit as well as a lived neighbourhood.

The mural will be produced offsite, painted onto boards which will then be attached to the wall on one of the stations platforms. The mural is expected to cover the full area which is circa 100 square metres.

From a stylistic perspective, the mural will be optimistic in tone and will avoid using:

- Overly bright colours, particularly red and green.
- Circular art, particularly larger than a dinner plate to avoid confusion with signalling equipment.
- Mirrored or reflective materials.
- Directional arrows and names of physical places (eg stating 'Liverpool this way').

Given the public nature of the space the mural will occupy, it is essential that the artwork does not use any language or words that could be objectionable.

The lead artist will be asked to work with HOME to incorporate the *Our City and Beyond* stylistic identity and/or logo.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The selected artist will be asked to lead four engagement sessions with residents based in the vicinity of Oxford Road.

The content of these sessions could include gathering stories, ideas, and reflections on the station's role in everyday routines; memories, meanings and feelings associated with the area, the station and railways; hopes for the future of the place and its role as a gateway into Manchester.

The creative output of these sessions will directly inform the content, tone, and visual narrative of the mural, ensuring that the work is grounded in real, locally rooted perspectives.