

**LUTL Commissioning
Pack: Cabinet of
Curiosity No.2 - 2025**

**CODY
DOCK**

Introduction

Cody Dock's, 'Cabinets of Curiosity' is an exciting series of three works that are a part of our 'Lighting Up The Lea' programme, as supported by the Heritage Fund.

Each cabinet focuses on a specific area of local history that is connected to Cody Dock, creating a metaphorical timeline that reflects important key points in our heritage. We will commission an artist or creative collective to design a public work to illustrate the rich and endless history of the Lower Lea River and tell these stories to the public.

This year's cabinet we ask the artist/collective to dial the clock back further and explore the pre-industrial history of the Lea. We expect them to take inspiration from the dockside carts and small trading wagons that vendors used to sell their wares in London's docklands, to produce a publicly engaging, outdoor work that will be moveable around our site.

The Lea has no shortage of stories to tell.

This is a site-specific work and will be revealed at September Open Day, in collaboration with Totally Thames and Open House. It will be kept as a permanent part of Cody Dock and stand as a vital piece within our tapestry of works that are produced to highlight the history of our site.

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Cabinet of Curiosity No1 - LUTL 2024 Commission

Our first Cabinet of Curiosity currently sits on site as an interactive soundbooth, focusing on the stories of Thames Ironworks.



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Commission Overview

For this particular commission, we are also looking for an installation that showcases the use of materials and construction methods that reflect the natural landscape of that time.

We are particularly looking for an artist or creative collective who love to tell a story in their work, who are excited at the prospect of exploring some lesser told local history and exploring new perspectives to engage the public with their commissioned piece.

As with the first commission this curiosity will be built to last and help animate our public spaces whilst providing much needed boost for Newham's creative sector.

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Important Historical Context

Marshland and Religious History

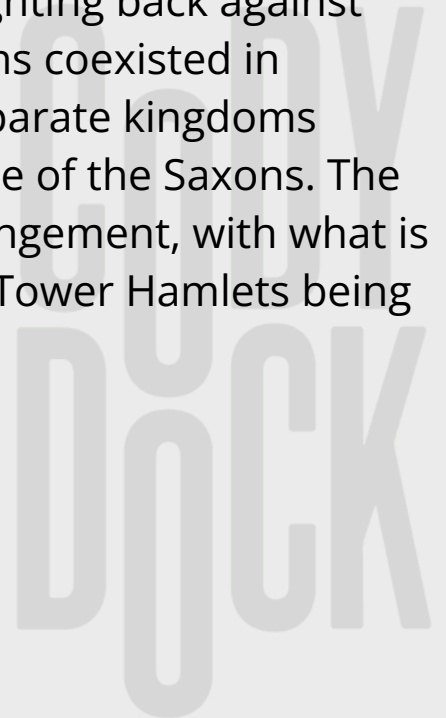
Our land was once a wild place, dominated by marshland as far as the eye could see, owned by the Stratford Langthorne Abbey, the fifth largest Abbey in England at the time. Known locally as the 'West Ham Abbey'. this ancient monastery stood in the marshes on a branch of the Lea, the Channel sea River the days of its splendour, it stretched across 1,500 acres of land, including the land that would later become Cody Dock and the Bromley Gasworks.

The last remaining piece of native reed bed as seen from Cody Dock's riverside frontage is all that's evident of the marshland that this land once was.

Viking and Saxon History

The Lea was also once the border between Viking Danelaw and the Kingdom of Mercia, with our River Lea being the boundary between Essex and London, the country and the city.

Vikings rowed their ships up the Thames and the Lea in a bid to take over new lands. There are legends of Saxon King Alfred fighting back against the Viking invasion of his lands. The Danes and Saxons coexisted in England for many years, dividing the country into separate kingdoms managed under their respective Danelaw and the rule of the Saxons. The Lea River formed the southern boundary to this arrangement, with what is now Newham being on the Viking Danelaw side and Tower Hamlets being on the Saxon side.



Opportunity Breakdown

Timeline for Application

Applications close **30th March 2025**
Shortlisting period **3rd-10th April**
Shortlisting interviews **w/c 21st April**
Successful candidate chosen **28th April**
Successful candidate contacted **28th April**

Timeline of Production

Shortlisting 'interviews **w/c 21st April**
Initial R&D meeting, intro and tour **w/c 5th May**
Secondary R&D meeting **19th May**
Initial production/build meeting: **1st June**
Secondary meeting: **To be agreed with artist**
Work to be completed by: **7th September**
Work to be revealed: **21st September**

Local artist applications from Newham will be prioritised and instantly added to our shortlist of work.

Developmental phase

We will support the artist through development and production, sharing our resources and knowledge where necessary. We understand that this is a unique commission and we will support the artist where we can.

Through our own R&D of this project and years of research and archiving the histories and stories we uncover, we have sufficient resources to support the artist through the R&D phase of this commission. We expect the artist to explore further than our archives, and carry out further research where necessary.

Sufficient research into materials that are durable and weather-resistant must be carried out before the proposal.

Budget

First release for R&D **£1700**

Initial production meeting 1st June **£1500**

Secondary production meeting **1500**

Final Payment 21st September **£700**

Previous collaborators

Artists and creatives who have previously delivered work at Cody Dock include: Tom Fisher Tim Allen, Lee Berwick, Ansuman Biswas, Judith Kusi, The Line, Project On A Bus, Thomas Randall-Page, Lydia Thornley, Daniel Vollmond (previously known as Dressel), Tim Whelan, Richard Wilson.

Over the past decade, we have engaged over 11,000 local volunteers from all backgrounds in the development and physical restoration of Cody Dock as a creative industries quarter, which now provides affordable studio space, public gardens, arts and exhibition space and delivers a significant citizen science ecology program.





About the Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033. Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment. The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are. The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

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Visiting the Cody Dock site

Applicants are welcome to visit prior to the application deadline: our site is open to the public 9 am - 7 pm, 7 days a week. Please note our hours are 9 am - 5 pm, it is advisable to contact the office in advance if you have any questions relating to your application or proposal.

CODY DOCK, 11c South Crescent, London E16 4TL Cody Dock is a 6 minute walk from Star Lane DLR Station. The DLR is a fully accessible public transport network with step-free access into all stations. Use the Stephenson Street exit from Star Lane station (the exit to the left) when departing from the platform.

Cody Dock is a 4 minute walk to the 323 bus stops (South Crescent Business Centre (Stop H) and North Crescent Business Centre (Stop J)).

Access needs

For those who need large text formats, we can send a large text format of the application to your email address or postal address. We can accept handwritten or spoken word formats. Please email **bella@codydock.org.uk** to discuss how we can support your application.

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