



PROJECT BRIEF

Mural for the Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre at Penton Street

Introduction

The Liliesleaf Trust UK (TLTU) and the Centre for Creative Arts, Cultures and Engagement (CREATURE) at London Metropolitan University (LMU) are collaborating on an inspiring new initiative: the co-creation of a public mural for the Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre Learning at Penton Street, London. This project seeks to commemorate and interpret the rich history of anti-apartheid activism and its contemporary relevance, amplifying voices from local and global communities.

To support this endeavour, we are inviting proposals from individuals interested in serving as **Curatorial Research Fellow(s)**. We are looking to appoint one or more fellows, depending on the experience and skill sets of the selected candidate(s). This role is integral to guiding the research, engagement, and delivery phases of the mural project, ensuring it reflects the collaborative, community-centred ethos of the Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre.

Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre

TLTU are currently building the Anti-Apartheid Legacy Centre at 28 Penton Street. This historic site was the former London HQ of the African National Congress in exile. The Centre will become the first UK venue to explore the heritage of the movement against apartheid, unlocking the heritage of one of the most influential, Black-led social movements of the 20th Century. Our project commits to representing the full diversity of the movement against apartheid in Britain. This extends from best known activities by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) but also includes a wider breadth of organisations/individuals collaborating towards ending South African (SA) apartheid rule.

The perspectives this broader exploration uncovers include many more of the SA diasporic and Black and Global Majority-led activities that contributed to the solidarity struggle. Through exhibitions, events, workshops, and engagement activities, the Centre's

programming will amplify the significance of this struggle within UK history and draw from its inspiring legacy to support community resilience, empowerment, and cohesion. We have identified a range of audiences for the centre, ranging from heritage and social justice enthusiasts to residents and international visitors. Priority audience groups for the centre are young people, Black and global majority heritage people and first-generation migrants, who are underrepresented in heritage audiences across Britain's mainstream cultural landscape.

Project Overview

The mural will occupy a prominent outdoor space at the Centre and serve as a visual and educational focal point for exploring themes of solidarity, social justice, and the heritage of the anti-apartheid movement and/or South African culture. It will reward a passing glance as well as support more in-depth engagement provide with narrative and material integrity. The mural will draw audiences to the Centre as it will be visible from White Lion Street.

Developed in collaboration with the Centre's wellbeing/target audience groups, and the South African diaspora, the mural will emerge from facilitated workshops and community engagements, underpinned by research into the heritage and legacy of anti-apartheid activism in South Africa, the UK and beyond.

Key project objectives include:

- Engaging diverse community groups to co-design the mural's themes and imagery; enabling people with a range of abilities and knowledge of the heritage to contribute confidently, meaningfully and safely.
- Highlighting the contributions of anti-apartheid activists and movements, particularly underrepresented voices; and a response to oft-portrayed power dynamics inherent in interpreting heritage.
- Using arts-based practices to foster dialogue and creativity around issues of structural inequality, migration, and racial justice.
- Creating a lasting and impactful public artwork that inspires contemporary audiences.
- Contribute to research activities and publications in related academic fields, as well as generate and document arts and heritage-based research that emerge from the project.

Themes for Exploration

To ensure the mural resonates deeply with its intended audience, the following themes are proposed for exploration:

- **Anti-Apartheid Solidarity** – Showcasing the unity and collaborative spirit that fuelled the movement, both locally and globally.
- **Leaders of the Struggle and Lesser-Known Activists** – Honouring prominent figures like Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, as well as the many unsung heroes and women who played vital roles in the movement or figures associated directly with 28 Penton Street.
- **Visual Identity of South Africa** – Drawing inspiration from South African textiles, indigenous patterns and motifs, flora and fauna, and the rich diversity of its peoples to create a visually striking and culturally meaningful design.

- **Expressions of Justice, Collaboration, and Anti-Racism** – Integrating powerful imagery that speaks to the continued struggle for justice and equality, reflecting how the legacy of anti-apartheid activism informs present-day movements.
- **Global Connections and Resistance Movements** – Exploring how the anti-apartheid struggle inspired other social justice movements worldwide, emphasizing shared histories of resilience and activism.
- **Heritage-Inspired Creative Expression** – Using art to reflect values such as anti-racism, collaboration, and justice, drawing inspiration from historical movements and cultural motifs.

Role of the Curatorial Research Fellow(s)

The Curatorial Research Fellow(s) will:

- Lead research activities to inform the mural's design, drawing on archives, oral histories, and community input.
- Lead and facilitate co-design workshops with community groups (expected to be total 12 across the project's duration), potentially collaborating with a commissioned mural artist (if this is not the appointed CRF) to ensure inclusivity and authenticity.
- Propose a preferred artistic medium and design for the mural drawn from the community consultation and co-design process.
- Produce a project plan for the mural creation and delivery; ensuring that the mural serves a clear interpretive function connected to the history of the site/movement and carefully consider how it sits within the surrounding landscape
- Contribute to or lead mural delivery in situ, potentially using either a co-creation or co-design methodology.
- Work collaboratively with other project participants, including TLTU/CREATURE staff, artists, researchers, and community members.
- Deliver public engagement programming that connects the mural to broader themes of anti-apartheid heritage and social justice.
- Produce research outputs which might include publications, seminars, and digital content, as well as contributing to public and academic discourse.
- Have experience working intergenerationally and cross-culturally

Additional Funding and Support

- Additional funding will be made available for the materials needed for the mural itself, with ideally, an estimated materials cost to be outlined by the Curatorial Research Fellow(s).
- Costs for community participants involved in the workshops and co-creation sessions will be covered by TLTU/ CREATURE, and other partner organisations.
- Assist in fundraising efforts where necessary to support the mural's development and/or related activities.

Invitation to Respond We invite applicants to respond to this project brief by outlining the expertise and experience they can bring to the role of Curatorial Research Fellow. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following experience, with suitable candidates considered who can bring at least four of the below criteria to the role:

- A strong background in curatorial or arts-based research, particularly in heritage or social justice contexts.
- Experience in community engagement and co-creation processes.
- Good knowledge of anti-apartheid history and/or South African cultural heritage
- Demonstrated experience in research publication.
- Demonstrated experience in mural planning and delivery
- Experience of fundraising
- A commitment to fostering inclusive and impactful public programming.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and engage with diverse community groups.

Submission Guidelines Interested individuals should submit:

1. A cover letter detailing their experience, approach to the project, and vision for the role.
2. A CV highlighting relevant expertise.
3. Any supporting materials, such as prior projects, publications, or examples of community-based work.

Submissions should be sent to **info@antiapartheidlegacy.org.uk** with the subject line: **Application for Curatorial Research Fellow – Mural Project**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with shortlisted candidates invited for interviews.

Timeline

- **Submission Deadline:** 13th March 2025
- **Project Start Date:** April 2025
- **Mural Completion:** Second half of 2025, TBC

Budget The role offers a fixed-term contract with a fee range of £3,000-£8,000, depending on experience and project delivery capacity. Additional funding may be available for research dissemination and programming activities.

Contact Information For inquiries about the project or the application process, please contact:

- **Caroline Kamana, Director, TLTU:** c.kamana@antiapartheidlegacy.org.uk
- **Wessie Ling, Director, CREATURE:** w.ling@londonmet.ac.uk