



# Wigan North Western Mural Project



## The Brief

### Background

Avanti West Coast working with Bolton and South Lancashire Community Rail Partnership (B&SLCRP) are commissioning a new large-scale mural for the underpass beneath the platforms at Wigan North Western Station. This is a busy thoroughfare with a high daily footfall.

Currently, there is a large blank area of wall to either side of the underpass comprised of aluminium panels painted white with a second and smaller band of red panels below. The mural will stretch along the white panels, and the band of red may remain or be re-painted another colour to Avanti's colour specification. The width of each white panel is 109 cm and the height is 114 cm and there are approximately 45 panels in total. (See Appendix 1 pages 5 and 6) Individual panels have to be removed periodically for inspection of the walls underneath. They are fixed to the walls by small brackets above each panel. The panels offer a smooth surface to work on though they are bevelled at the edges.

The creation of a new mural will improve the subway's appearance and bring colour and impact to these expanses of wall. This is a significant opportunity to bring local visual arts to the attention of both passengers and staff and will be a creative gateway for people arriving and departing from Wigan.

The project aims to engage local communities and stakeholders including community groups and charities, local businesses, commuters, station staff, local authority organisations such as the library, schools and colleges in the development of an artistic brief related to the history, heritage, people and places of the Wigan borough.

The mural will be produced by a suitably experienced artist, and preference will be given to artists who have or are living, working or studying in Wigan. The main artist will be supported in the development of the design by volunteers, who may be newly qualified artists or young people aspiring to a career in visual arts. The project will also provide opportunity for additional community engagement through arranged site visits to observe and document the installation.

Artists will be invited to submit a design proposal for the mural site. A short list of designs will be selected, and the winning design will be chosen by a Selection Panel comprising representatives from Avanti, B&SLCRP and the local community. The winning artist will also be expected to work on design development with a selection of local community groups through workshops organised by B&SLCRP and local community partners.

A space at the Swan and Railway Public house directly opposite the station will be available for the artist to use as a planning base.

## **Artistic brief**

**Suitably experienced visual artists who have worked, studied or resided in the Wigan area or who have significant links with Wigan are invited to submit proposals for an innovative and colourful two-dimensional mural for the subway at Wigan North Western Station, Wallgate, Wigan WN1 1BJ.**

The design for the mural will be printed onto hard wearing vinyl. Designs must be submitted in the digital format specified by the local company chosen to produce and install the mural.

Artists are encouraged to create a contemporary design that features both significant members of the community, past and present, and the context and history of Wigan celebrating the landscape, buildings and dynamism of the area. The design must also be sympathetic to the structural limitations of the site and relate to its use as passenger thoroughfare.

Avanti's Artwork Guidance document can be accessed here -

<https://www.boltoncommunityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Avanti-West-Coast-Artwork-Guidance.pdf>

and artists are encouraged to read this before formulating their design.

A series of interviews and surveys will be undertaken with station staff, rail users and the local community to gather their views about who and what the mural should represent. A social media campaign, Wigan Heroes, will support this engagement with the public.

A further requirement is therefore that the selected artist responds to the results of these interviews, which will be posted on the Bolton Community Rail website as part of the documentation of the project - <https://www.boltoncommunityrail.org.uk/>

**Deadline for the submission of proposals is midnight on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

## **Judging process**

From the submitted entries, the selection panel will short-list a maximum of six artists. Artists who are short-listed will be required to undertake a brief interview by Zoom to discuss their design and inspiration.

Following the interviews, the winning design will be selected by the Selection Panel.

It is expected that the short list will be announced by **24<sup>th</sup> February 2021** and interviews will take place between the **8 and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

The winning artist will be announced By **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**.

## Guidelines

- ▶ A budget of up to £6,000 is available for the mural to include an artist fee of approximately 20 days (costed at the a-n recommended rate of pay per day according to experience).
- ▶ The artist fee covers the intellectual property of the design and mentoring of volunteers, participation in community workshops plus meetings as required for planning and evaluation.
- ▶ Preference will be given to suitably experienced visual artists who have studied, worked, lived or who have significant links with the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan (see boundary below).



- ▶ All submitted designs must reflect the artistic brief and satisfy the aims of the project.
- ▶ If short-listed, artists must be available for a brief interview as part of the judging process.
- ▶ After the interviews and final decision, the selected artist will need to liaise with Avanti staff to gain permission for site visits etc.
- ▶ More than one artist can jointly apply for the project, but one must be the lead artist and be responsible for quality assurance.
- ▶ The artist must be willing to lead and mentor a limited group of volunteers, including young and recently qualified artists, who will assist with, but not lead, the design process.
- ▶ The designs for the mural must be completed and in digital format by **31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**.

## How to apply

Artists are required to submit the following information:

1. A written proposal outlining the design concept. This should include the artistic vision and rationale behind the design (maximum 1 x A4 sheet).
2. A maximum of 6 supporting drawings or visuals illustrating the design (digital formats).
3. A current Artist's CV, including designs of any previous art commissions undertaken.

## How to submit

Artists should send their applications by email to Steph Dermott at B&SLCRP:

[steph@boltoncommunityrail.org.uk](mailto:steph@boltoncommunityrail.org.uk)

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The winning design will be selected by a panel and announced by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**

**Appendix 1.**  
**Views of the underpass walls**



