

'Groves Community Improvement Drive' Project - Mural Tender Process

Introduction

As part of the 'Groves Community Improvement Drive' project, Door 84, in partnership with local businesses and stakeholders, are commissioning a new mural to transform a commercial building on Lowther Street in the Groves. This project is being funded by phase three of the 'Vibrant and Sustainable High Streets Fund', provided by the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Aims

- Enhance the local environment by improving the visual appeal of Lowther Street
- Capture the essence of the Groves, its history and its people
- Highlight Lowther Street & the Groves as a visitor destination by showcasing the areas's unique history and identity through art

The mural will celebrate the people, nature and history that has made the Groves what it is today and will shape its future.

Theme

The 'Groves Community Improvement Drive' has conducted online consultation to gather the ideas, thoughts and feelings of local residents. The three themes that have emerged are 'Through the Ages / History', 'Nature' and 'People of the Groves'.

The below is a summary of the various responses received through the consultation. It is expected that the artist would use these ideas as inspiration for their design, rather than include every suggestion literally.

1 - 'Through the Ages' / History

- A timeline combining 'Through the Ages' and 'People of the Groves'
- Local history specific to the Groves area
- The history of the local buildings
- Old street scenes of Lowther Street
- A nostalgic street scene of how the Groves shops used to look "back in the day"
- A link to the Clarence Gardens statue

2 - Nature

- Trees, plants, and lots of botanical greenery in the background
- Flowers, birds, and trees
- Animals, plants, trees, and sunrise/sunsets
- Wildlife seen in the Groves (foxes, hedgehogs, frogs, birds, dragonflies, etc.)
- Multiple specific requests for foxes

- Beautiful wildlife
- A small river feature like the River Foss
- A link from the Clarence Gardens statue to the Foss Fairy Trail
- An overall appreciation for the earth

3 - 'People of the Groves'

- People of the Groves gone by to present day
- A modern, multicultural Groves community
- Reflection of the area's multi-cultural diversity
- Representation and inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community
- A focus on and support for the local independent businesses and organisations that sustain the Groves
- Positive, uplifting images of the area
- Elements that foster a deep sense of belonging to the local area
- A celebration of appreciation for our community

The successful applicant would be expected to complete further consultation with the local community to ensure their ideas are represented in the final piece. This could include workshops with young people and/or local adult residents. As part of the proposal, the applicant should outline how they intend to complete this consultation work.

Please note:

- the mural must be visually impactful and demonstrate a high level of skill.
- The mural must not feature any religious, political, or commercial elements, or feature any content which may be considered offensive, controversial, or unsuitable for all audiences.
- The artist will be expected to work at heights, and it is expected that part of the budget made available for this project will cover any expenses associated with this.

Finance

The project team welcomes submissions up to £5,600 to cover the artist's fees, materials, and equipment.

Location

The mural will be located on the side of a commercial building on Lowther Street (in the Groves) in central York. Permission has been provided by the business owner, who is supportive of the project, and the hope is that the mural will improve its appearance while celebrating the local area. The size of the wall space is as below:



Wall specifications:

- Wall location: Central external wall of Spar building
- Height: 6 metres
- Height to Ridge: 7 metres
- Width: 12 metres

Selection Process

This paper is an open invitation to all artists, although experience in mural art or art installations in the public realm is preferred. Submissions will be marked on the following:

- The artist's level of experience (20%)
- The artist's body of work and style (20%)
- Understanding of the brief (20%)
- Innovation and originality (20%)
- Cost (20%)

Submissions should be unique to the artist and be a completely new artwork. If known images are used that do not belong to the artist, it is the artist's responsibility to obtain legal permissions and pay any associated fees with using those images. If selected, artists will be required to provide evidence of this.

To apply

To be considered for this project, please email the following information to Door 84 at recruitment@door84.org.uk by 11.59pm on Sunday 28th June 2026.

- A copy of your CV
- A proposed concept design, including your vision for the mural and how you will respond to the suggested themes
- Concept sketches: preliminary sketches or mood boards illustrating your initial ideas for the mural design
- Examples of your relevant past work, including murals, large-scale installations, or other creative projects
- Cost summary

Proposed Timeline

- Applications to be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 28th June 2026
- Appointment of Successful Artist on/around Monday 6th July 2026
- Workshops to be completed in July 2026 (exact dates TBC)
- Refinement of Final Design by 1st August 2026
- Installation and Unveiling to take place August / September 2026

Other relevant information

- The artist will need to install the artwork in situ and be able to provide evidence of public liability insurance.
- Applicants must be over the age of 18 at the time of submitting an application
- Door 84, and partners within the 'Groves Community Improvement Drive' project, have the right to use images during installation and on completion of the mural for marketing and promotional purposes. The artist will be credited in all uses of imagery.
- Door 84, and partners within the 'Groves Community Improvement Drive' project, have the right to make suggestions to the proposed design should any issues be identified (actual or perceived) that may be cause for concern.
- It will not be possible to offer work or financial compensation to any unsuccessful applicants that bid for this project.

Contact

We are unable to meet with applicants prior to submitting their proposal, but if you have any questions or queries, you can make contact via:

Named Contacts: Lisa Green / George Arksey

Email: info@door84.org.uk

Phone: 01904 623177 (Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm)