

# Brief: Outdoor Furniture for café at Toynbee Studios

**Budget:** £9,600 for materials, construction and fees

**Deadline for expressions of interest:** 14 June

## Context

Toynbee Studios is Artsadmin's home and a creative hub for developing and showing new work. Toynbee Studios consists of a theatre, rehearsal spaces, creative studios and café – all of which host performances, rehearsals, workshops and events throughout the year.

The Arts Bar and Café at Toynbee Studios offers a vibrant, cultural setting on the edge of the City and east London for eating, drinking, meetings, socialising, networking and showcasing artists and art. The cafe sits at the entrance to Toynbee Studios and is the accessible entrance to the building.

The café is vegetarian and offers a sustainably and ethically-sourced menu, in line with Artsadmin's values and environmental policy and action plan. The café serves hot and cold drinks, juices, pastries, sandwiches, snacks, independent beers and ales, and European wines. The cafe is open from Monday-Friday.

Artsadmin is developing partnerships with local SMEs, like Tati, to serve other cuisines and provide a platform for local businesses. Tati is part of OITIJ-JO Collective, a 'not-for-profit' community organisation that creates a platform for and champions Bangla creativity.



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The café reopened in May and we are offering indoor and outdoor service. From 1 July, our artistic programme restarts with [Apocalypse Reading Room](#) installed in the cafe. Artsadmin's ambition is to improve the outdoor seating and tables offer for people to enjoy accessible, al fresco hospitality over the summer months, to increase cafe's visibility and to encourage more clientele and income.

[www.artsadmin.co.uk/toynbee-studios](http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/toynbee-studios)

### **Café audiences who will use the furniture**

- Artists and arts workers using Toynbee Studios (staff, 15+ creative tenants including artists, creatives and arts professionals, hirers such as dancers, musicians, students and actors) including regular wheelchair users.
- Toynbee Hall staff and audiences
- People living/working in Aldgate East
- Arts audiences attending events at Toynbee Studios from 1 July

### **Considerations**

- The café furniture will be placed in the courtyard outside the café. While it will need to fit in with the aesthetics of the neighbouring Toynbee Hall we also want it to be associated with Artsadmin/Toynbee Studios
- We want it to be distinctively different to the other seating and tables in the courtyard so that it's clearly for cafe clientele (potential attachments for signage will help communicate the use)
- Need to be secured to the designated area so they don't end up across the courtyard (but not permanently secured)
- We need to ensure that the neighbouring Toynbee Hall entrance is not impeded.
- It may be possible for the furniture to remain outdoors between April and October. Weather proofing, security, wear and usage out of hours will also need to be considered.

### **Opportunities/Objectives**

- Create a welcoming and accessible space for our cafe clientele and arts audiences. Artsadmin aims to embed [accessibility across our building](#), Toynbee Studios.
- The visibility of outdoor seating and tables will potentially draw new customers to the café/studios/events/getting to know Artsadmin
- The distinctiveness of the furniture will make audiences connect the café to Artsadmin and will attract new clientele working or living in the locality.

## Area for seating



We are aiming to provide up to 20 seats with tables (we may need to regulate this in relation to Covid).

The total area for the furniture when outside is 10.5 x 2.2 m (23 sqm)

The photo indicates the rough area where outdoor furniture can be placed.

The benches will be removed and plants can be trimmed.

## Area for storage

The furniture will be stored inside the cafe foyer. The area it can be stored in once folded measures at 1.4 x 1 metre at 2.2m high.

## Essential:

- Lightweight (can be carried by one person, but not blow over)
- Mobile, folding or stackable (see storage measurements)
- Sustainable materials used
- Potentially upcycled (use materials in our store or upcycle existing chairs/tables)
- Accessible (tables at standard wheelchair height) - a wheelchair user needs to be able to sit at a table.
- Covid-safe, easy to wipe down and clean
- Waterproof (weather resistant/rust proof)
- Beautiful, appealing, colourful and eye catching to encourage passers by on Commercial Street
- Durable (we envision this furniture will last up to 10 years)

## Desirable:

- Colourful. Our visual identity may change over the coming months so you don't need to stick to our brand colour. This is current colour palette used on our website:



- Designed and/or built by local crafts people or artists
- Ability to add umbrellas for when it rains.
- Open to designs which incorporate a modular function
- For an additional fee: Possibility to create matching mobile, outdoor, standalone hand sanitiser dispensers (wheelchair height) to put outside our two entrances
- For an additional fee: Possibility to create planters that match the aesthetic of the furniture. We have beautiful flowers and plants around the Cafe entrance.

### **Application Process:**

- Please send us up to 3 examples of relevant previous work - this can be images, videos or website links.
- Please provide a sketch of the design working to the parameters outlined. In this sketch, please indicate some idea for the materials used, colour scheme and any features. If your design is shortlisted we will pay you a fee of £200 to further develop the design and provide measured plans.
- Please provide a timeline to complete the build and installation

**Deadline:** 14 June 2021, 10am

Please mail [admin@artsadmin.co.uk](mailto:admin@artsadmin.co.uk) if you have any questions.