

## Press Release

4 December 2020 – 25 January 2021

For immediate release



**Supported by Arts Council England, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council launch their major capital commissioning programme on 4 December 2020.**

Artists are invited to submit ambitious and exciting proposals to create seven large-scale artworks. They can choose to propose ideas for one or more of the commissions. Each artwork will become part of the fabric of the new and redeveloped buildings that comprise the Amelia Scott Building in Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Funded using generous grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, the building opens to the public in spring 2022.

Each of the seven commissions will be installed in a different location on the site. The briefs encourage artists to propose innovative ideas for artworks that embody The Amelia's mission 'Enriching lives, inspiring learning'. Unlike traditional decorative commissions that are made only to look at, these artworks will welcome, accommodate and encourage visitors - they will be able to interact with them and access the integrated facilities that will be provided within the building including library, information services, museum and art gallery. The briefs take inspiration from Tunbridge Wells Borough and the High Weald, exploring its history, flora and fauna and the importance of water to Royal Tunbridge Wells town. Artists have been asked to respond to these themes when proposing ideas, so that their artworks will reflect on what it means to live in the area.

### The commissions are:

- 1. Main entrance lighting** commission value: £45,000  
Most visitors will enter the Amelia Scott Building using this entrance. The foyer lighting commission will be seen equally from inside and outside of the building – it will be a beacon that entices visitors to explore the spaces and facilities.
- 2. Exterior ironwork gates** commission value: £35,000  
Taking its inspiration from the flora and fauna of Tunbridge Wells Borough and High Weald, the gates will frame and enclose the exterior courtyard space between buildings, enabling group activities and al fresco dining to happen in seclusion.

3. **Foyer modular furniture** commission value: £24,000  
Multi-functional furniture in the heart of the building, this work will invite 6 people to sit comfortably and convivially, whether they use it to catch up with a friend or take part in a mini-activity.
4. **Curated Courtyard design** commission value: £21,500  
An invitation to find innovative ways to establish and green an urban exterior space through community gardening and ownership.
5. **Courtyard drinking fountain** commission value: £14,000  
Tunbridge Wells town owes its existence to the presence of the mineral rich waters of the Chalybeate Spring. This drinking fountain will celebrate our essential relationships with water, offering all visitors refreshment and respite.
6. **Foyer visitor resource point** commission value: £12,000  
Embedded within the welcoming strategy for visitors, this commission will encourage and aid the visitor journey through the building and its facilities.
7. **Exterior brickwork decorative artwork** commission value: £12,000  
Celebrating Tunbridge Wells' brick heritage, this artwork will help usher visitors around the building to find their way in and explore what's on offer.

This major commissioning programme is an opportunity for artists to contribute to a nationally significant arts, culture and learning initiative based in Tunbridge Wells borough, West Kent. Successful proposals will be original, sensitive and specific to the building and respond to residents' needs and ambitions.

More information about the commissions and the application process can be found on The Amelia website: [www.theamelia.co.uk/commissions](http://www.theamelia.co.uk/commissions)

The deadline for submission of proposals for all commissions is midday Monday 25 January 2021. The successful artists will be announced in March 2021.

#### Notes to Editors:

1. The Amelia will be an innovative and unique integration of services for the community and culture in the heart of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Bringing together a variety of cultural, educational and information services in one conserved and modernised set of buildings, this development will provide a welcoming and interactive space for local people and visitors to use and enjoy. Funded by generous grants from National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council are working together to shape the future of culture and learning in our borough. The Amelia takes its name from Amelia Scott (1860-1952), a prominent local campaigner for women's suffrage. The existing museum, library, art gallery, adult education, visitor information and citizen information services (Gateway) all play a vital role in Tunbridge Wells. Through the integration of these services people will be able to engage with heritage, culture and learning in new and unexpected ways.

Our goals are to:

- champion our unique collections and enhanced programming so that in 5 years' time we are recognised as a centre for high quality cultural experiences
  - Actively pursue best and innovative practice in provision of our specialist and combined services
  - create exceptional visitor experiences based on a commitment to outstanding customer services
  - become a sustainable cultural entity
2. Details of the commissions programme, briefs and further information can be found at [www.theamelia.co.uk/commissions](http://www.theamelia.co.uk/commissions)
  3. Submitted proposals will be considered by the Artist Commission Selection Panel which comprises artists, curators, museum specialists, museum consultants and members of the local community. (The commissioning panel members are not permitted to apply for commissions.)
  4. For press enquiries please contact the commissioning team: [arts@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:arts@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

