

# VOICES OF WANDSWORTH

London Design Festival, 14 – 22 September 2024

BATTERSEA DESIGN DISTRICT

## PURPOSE AND VISION

The purpose of Voices of Wandsworth is to engage the community in a collaborative and creative endeavour that encourages personal expression and fosters connections. We will invite individuals to share their thoughts, stories, and humour through a common prompt. We will then transform these messages into origami butterflies. We aim to create a collective artwork that symbolises growth, transformation, and the beauty of diverse perspectives.

The vision for Voices of Wandsworth is to create a visually stunning and emotionally resonant art installation that captures the unique voices of the Wandsworth community. We envision a space where many personal messages, transformed into origami butterflies, form a powerful and unified display. This installation will serve as a testament to the strength of community, the beauty of individual expression, and the transformative power of art.



*The aspiration for this project is to leave a lasting impression that inspires ongoing community involvement, fosters deeper connections among diverse groups, and celebrates the shared humanity that binds us all.*



Layers of Truth installation for London Design Festival 2023. Image Courtesy Mickey Lee | Wandsworth Council

## PROJECT CONCEPT FOR 2024

Last year's installation for London Design Festival was centred around the question "What is YOUR truth?". It received an overwhelming response from the community. Building on this success, "Voices of Wandsworth" seeks to deepen community connections through artistic expression and create a more ambitious installation.

The **butterfly**, symbolising growth, transformation, and freedom, will be this year's central element. Participants will respond to a prompt based on the theme and their messages will be folded into origami butterflies. This will be the basis of creating a visual and textual tapestry of community voices.

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE\*

## 1. RESPOND TO THE QUESTION: "IF A BUTTERFLY COULD HEAR YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY"

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Think about the prompt and what you would say if a butterfly could speak. Your message can be a simple sentence, a personal anecdote, or something humorous.

Send your response(s) via email to [VoicesofWandsworth@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesofWandsworth@gmail.com) by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 \*\*

## 2. ATTEND AN ORIGAMI BUTTERFLY MAKING SESSION

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We will be hosting origami making sessions throughout the borough where you can learn to fold an origami butterfly. We will be making lots of butterflies, which you can take home.

However, we will dedicate part of the session to the Voices of Wandsworth project in particular. We will have a free-flowing chat about the prompt and gather responses which each participant will write on a piece of paper.

We will shuffle these response papers, so each gets someone else's message. We will then share the messages as a group and make origami butterflies with these pieces of paper. This way, each voice is 'heard' by another.

The vision is for the messages to become an intrinsic part of the butterfly, and thereby the installation itself. We will be taking these message-butterflies away with us to use for the final installation. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to get hands-on and be part of the creative process.

## 3. HOST A WORKSHOP

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If you're part of a group, charity, or want to gather friends and family, I am happy to come and hold an origami butterfly making session if you can host me!

The session itself will be along the lines of what is outlined above. I am happy to tailor the workshop to the target group if need be. I want these sessions and workshops to be organic so open to suggestions as well.

# FINAL INSTALLATION

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The culmination of the "Voices of Wandsworth" project will be a beautiful installation unveiled during the London Design Festival between September 14 - 22 in the Battersea/Nine Elms area. We will invite all participants to join us for the unveiling and witness the collective voices of our community transformed into a stunning display of origami butterflies. This event will celebrate the shared creativity, stories, and messages from the Wandsworth community, symbolising unity and transformation.

### Here Are Some Ideas To Help Guide Your Response:

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Your message can be a simple sentence, a personal anecdote, or something humorous.

Here are some ideas to help guide your response:

- What wish would you send with a butterfly?
- What piece of advice could you offer a butterfly?
- It could be a funny or a light hearted message.
- It could be a personal story or reflection.
- What would you ask a butterfly to tell the world?

Your response *could* be:

- A short and sweet message, like: "Carry my dreams to the skies and let them soar."
- A personal story or reflection, such as: "During the pandemic, I found peace in watching butterflies flutter around my garden."
- Something funny and light-hearted. "Please tell my plants to stop dying; I'm trying really hard here!"

Feel free to be get creative as you want to be!

Stay tuned for more details and make sure to join us in this unique celebration of art and community spirit. Details will be shared on my website and Instagram page. Follow me [@RoopaDesign](https://www.instagram.com/roopa_design) for updates on dates, locations, and all the latest news about the project. [www.roopadesign.co.uk](http://www.roopadesign.co.uk)



\* Anyone who lives, works or has deep roots in Wandsworth can participate in Voices of Wandsworth

\*\* Please let us know if you would like your name to appear in the message or remain anonymous.