

POST OFFICE

AMBASSADOR EVENT 08 MARCH 2024

PLAYERS THEATRE

LLOYDS BANK

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**LEVELLING
UP**



EAST SUFFOLK
COUNCIL

NatWest
**THINK
LOWESTOFT**

#THELEADINGLIGHT

VISUAL ARTS VENUE AND WORK STUDIOS

The former Post Office will be reimagined into a visual arts gallery, workshop space, a creative hub with a supporting food & beverage offer and will become an anchor institution for the cultural offer in Lowestoft.

The project will also have significant community benefits, regenerating Lowestoft's town centre, providing the community with the opportunity to get involved, to learn new skills through education and training and experience grass-roots cultural development, with links to improving the health and wellbeing of residents.



MESSUMS EAST



- **Messums Galleries** operate in the West End of London, Messums Yorkshire (Harrogate), exhibiting international contemporary and modern British art and Messums Wiltshire, a leading multi-purpose gallery and art centre.
- Messums Wiltshire includes a restaurant, accommodation, an education and residency programme
- Johnny Messums is Laurence Edwards gallerist

LAURENCE EDWARDS



- Born in Suffolk
- Studied at Lowestoft College
- Working in bronze for over 30 years with a foundry in Halesworth training and employing approx. 12 people.
- Works include the Yoxman in Yoxford
- Created the six-foot bronze casting of an ancient head as part of First Light Festival (top left photo)
- Laurence is committed to help build the cultural economy in Lowestoft and to supporting young people.
- Laurence will be making a landmark sculpture, co-designing with the community – locations are being explored.

POST OFFICE DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Consultation with creative sector revealed the need for a physical space to help them develop, collaborate and reach new audiences.
- Secured Towns Fund funding alongside East Suffolk Council investment.
- Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent – 12 March 2024.
- Technical designs have nearly been completed ready for tender package.
- Out to tender for main contractor in March.
- Works anticipated to start from July 2024 and complete within 12 months.
- Laurence Edwards engagement kick-started at First Light Festival 2023.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- Training and skills engagements
- Cultural events/exhibitions
- Communities engaged in educations, skills, and training
- Formal visits from schools and colleges

POST OFFICE IMPACT

Skills and training opportunities

A town which retains and attracts young people to work and live

Contributing towards 381,000 extra visitors a year

Contributing towards boosting the cultural economy by £4.5m per year

Increased cultural participation and engagement

Better place to live, work and visit

Transform the core of the town centre, boasting the economy

Improvements to pride, wellbeing and community cohesion

Improved perceptions by residents and visitors

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DESIGNS

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TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Objective of the project:

- A new construction to the rear which will become a public facing studio and a dedicated creative space for the resident artist, Laurance Edwards, and food and beverage offer.
- A partly covered courtyard, with seating which can be used as an overspill event space.
- A large space on the ground floor, in the front of the Post Office for pop- up exhibitions, library and reception.
- Main Gallery Space and an enhanced gallery.
- Artist studio space and live work studio space on the upper floors – for invited artists in residence.
- Repair and restoration of retained buildings.
- Exterior staircase and lift.



View from Surrey St.



Lift, Surrey St. entrance and café

CURRENT CONDITION & ROOMS



Main Gallery



Reception



Work Studio

CURRENT CONDITION & ROOMS



PROPOSED INTERIOR - RECEPTION & MAIN GALLERY



PROPOSED CAFÉ, COVERED OUTDOOR SEATING & COURTYARD



Indicative Café Internal



Covered Outdoor Seating



Covered Outdoor Seating view from Work Studio 1



View of Covered Outdoor Seating from Courtyard

PROPOSED INTERIOR WORK STUDIO & COMMON ROOM



THANKS FOR LISTENING



Illustration by
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