

Press release: 22 April 2021

David Mach announced as chair of selection panel for new Sculpture Trail in Kingston town centre

Renowned international artist David Mach RA has been announced today as chair of the selection panel for the new Kingston Sculpture Trail, set to open this summer. Creator of Kingston's iconic tumbling red phone box sculpture 'Out of Order' on Old London Road, David Mach is one of the UK's most successful and respected artists, known for his dynamic and imaginative large scale collages, sculptures and installations.

The selection panel, which will also include two local students, will together decide on the six winning artist entries that will be part of the trail. Artists from Kingston and beyond are currently being invited to submit ideas for a contemporary sculpture, with the closing date for entries at **5pm on Friday 30 April**.

The trail will be made up of the winning six new sculptures and will also incorporate existing public artworks, including the new eleven metre long three channel video installation 'Echolocation' from Mat Collishaw and Carole Hodgson FRSS's wall-based sculpture in the underground car park (1986). The trail will run across the town centre, including the riverside and Canbury Gardens, North of the town centre and will be in place for six months.

Residents and visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite sculpture which will become a permanent artwork in the town centre. The winning artist will also receive £10,000 prize money.

The project is being organised through a partnership of the Canbury Community Trust, Kingston Council, Kingston First and Kingston University.

David Mach RA, said:

"Normally on the other side of a selection panel, I'm very excited to be one of the judges for the Sculpture Trail. I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun picking out a new artwork for the town. Let's thank Kingston for being so forward thinking and the partnership that's providing this opportunity. It's a tradition now in Kingston to have art in public places and this is a great way to carry that on."

Ian Thomas, Chief Executive of Kingston Council said:

"On behalf of the borough I am absolutely delighted to welcome David Mach RA back to Kingston to chair the selection of new artworks for the town centre. David's presence shines a light on the value of public art and the creative sector's ability to bring artists, communities and businesses together to collaborate and support the renewal of our high streets and public spaces. The project will benefit residents and visitors alike, building new experiences that will create a real impact in Kingston and be enjoyed by future generations."

Kirsten Henly, Chief Executive of Kingston First said:

"It's fantastic to have David Mach RA chairing our Kingston Sculpture Trail selection panel all these years after the iconic 'Out of Order' telephone boxes were first installed, and shows how important, meaningful and long-lasting public artwork is to town centres. One of the six pieces selected by the panel, which will include two local young people, will have the opportunity to become a permanent fixture in the town centre enjoyed by generations to come."

Paul Stafford, elected member of The Royal Society of Sculptors and Honorary Fellow of Kingston University said:

"As a young artist myself I was bowled over by his work, which continues to be innovative, original and challenging. How fortunate we are to have David Mach RA as chair of our Kingston Sculpture Trail selection committee, the result of which will surely be the placing of some wondrous objects around our town centre."

Notes to editors:

To find out more about the sculpture trail and how to submit an idea please visit:

<https://www.kingstonfirst.co.uk/sculpture-trail/>

Deadline for submissions from artists is **5pm Friday 30 April**

Student panel

If you are a student interested in being involved in the selection panel, Schools, Colleges, Youth Services or creative organisations in Kingston can either nominate students, or students can apply direct by sending a short statement (up to 200 words) on why they should represent the voice of young people in Kingston on the panel to:

sculpturetrail@kingstonfirst.co.uk A completed application form is required which can be found on our website. <https://www.kingstonfirst.co.uk/sculpture-trail/>

Deadline for applications for the student panel is **5pm Friday 30 April**

For media enquiries, please contact shareena.merzi@kingstonfirst.co.uk

About Kingston First

As the UK's first Business Improvement District (BID), Kingston First has been driving initiatives to support the commercial success of the business community in Kingston since 2005. They deliver exceptional services that ensure Kingston is a thriving and attractive environment to do business in, as well as a vibrant and exciting destination for people to visit, shop, learn, live and work in.

