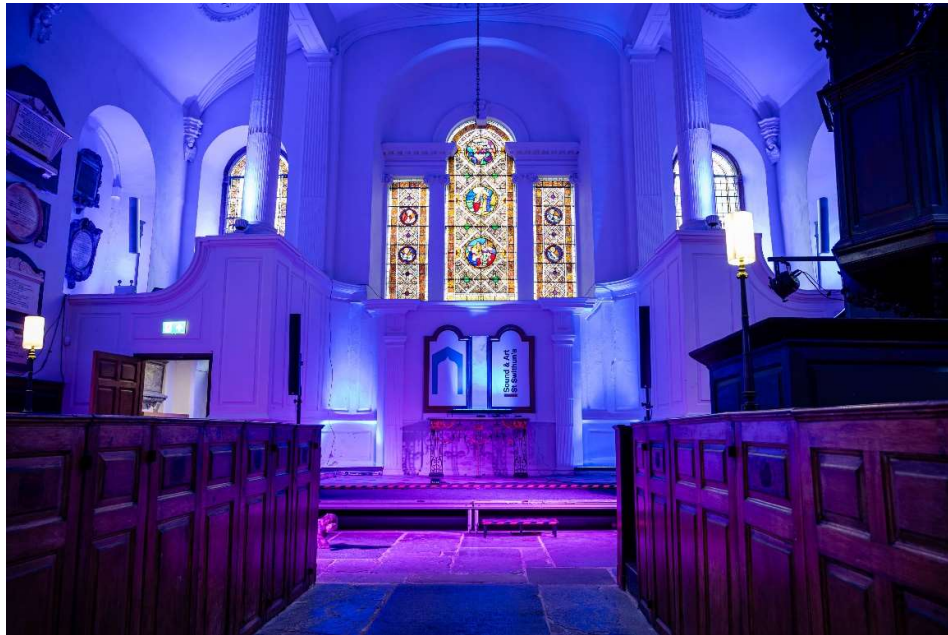




Form EOI/CCT/25 - Expression of Interest



In relation to:
Sound & Art at St
Swithun's / St
Swithun's
Church, Church
Street,
Worcester.
WR1 2RH.

1. **Background:**

St Swithun's is a Grade I listed building noted primarily for its Georgian nave which dates from the 1730s. It also contains an impressive early organ which was installed later in the 18th century. The history of the church starts considerably earlier than the 18th century however. This church has been in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust since 1977. In 2019 work began on restoring the building ready for a major re-launch as Sound & Art at St Swithun's (SASS). SASS is a £2.8M National Lottery Heritage Funded project to create an arts space in the heart of Worcester city centre. This beautiful example of a Georgian church has been transformed through conservation and adaptation, giving it a new lease of life. Since October 2022, Sound & Art at Swithun's has become a major player in the city's cultural life, delivering a programme of performances, concerts, recitals and arts events; a cultural and heritage learning programme; and provided an environment for people to recharge, relax and experience and interact with the space in a meditative way. As the Sound & Art at St Swithun's project is approaching the end of its funded period with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the CCT are now looking to the next stage of the project, and are exploring options for the building's future use and sustainability. One of these options is searching for long-term partner tenants who can work out of the building and will help us to look after and safeguard this fantastic site well into the future.

About the CCT:

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity responsible for saving historic churches at risk. We have saved over 350 buildings which attract almost 2 million visitors a year. Our unique collection of English churches includes irreplaceable examples of architecture. We operate the third largest heritage estate in charitable ownership in the UK. All of the churches in our collection are listed, mostly Grade I and II*.





2. What we're looking for:

The CCT are interested in hearing from organisations interested in becoming tenants, licensees, or partners to work from and/or help operate and deliver activities and events through the site at Sound & Art at St Swithun's, Worcester.

By completing the attached EOI (Expression of Interest) Form CCT will be able to collate relevant information on initial proposals, allowing us to assess each EOI objectively, with a view to finding the best long term fit for the site. Where the Expression of Interest is being submitted on behalf of more than one organisation working in a consortium or partnership, please provide relevant information for all of parties involved.

Types of partners

All applications are welcome, but we are particularly interested in speaking to potential local partners who can meet specific criteria. We would love to hear from organisations who have local knowledge and experience, are focused on the community and have experience of successfully working with specified target groups. We welcome applications from organisations;

- Who would like to operate from an iconic historic building.
- Who have a vision of what they can achieve through the site.
- Those who will work to help fulfil the longer term vision of the CCT and the NHLF as project funder.
- Who can work within the community, and understand local needs/audiences.
- Who might support the delivery of a sustainable business model through the site which could include ticketed events, craft markets, performances, celebratory events (such as wedding receptions), heritage events, learning and engagement workshops with schools and the local community, heritage / cultural activities, and making St Swithun's available as a corporate/commercial space for hire.
- We are prepared to look at alternative uses outside of the original approved purposes. Currently the building is classed as D1.
- There may be some additional support funding for a relevant organization wanting to base themselves in the venue.



3. The Building:

Sound & Art at St Swithun's, formerly St Swithun's – was one of Worcester's first parish churches and is considered to be "one of the best preserved examples of an early Georgian church in England" – it has been renovated and restored, in collaboration with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to preserve the shared heritage of the local community and play a part in Worcester's current cultural network. With a large nave area, it offers a variety of different flexible uses – from event or gallery space, including a licensed bar option, staging and industry standard P.A., an office, disabled/baby change and standard toilet facilities, and has been levelled to allow for disabled access. The building provides over 4100 sq ft of usable space, with pew seating for up to 180 people, newly refurbished, all in beautiful Grade 1 Listed surroundings. A floor plan accompanies this EO, but if you need more information, please do get in contact with the a member of the team on the contact details below.

Expectations around partnership:

Any operational partner will be expected to support the following where possible:

- Support the financial sustainability of the site via contributions to annual management and maintenance and a sinking fund for repairs.
- Adhere to all CCT policies and procedures in line with caring for and operating from a Grade 1 listed historic place of worship.
- Where feasible, commit to continued development of audiences and community outreach.

4. EO Application

If you would like more information, and a more informal discussion around the various options and partnership opportunities, please do get in touch with Guy Foreman, CCT Head of Enterprise, on gforeman@thecct.org.uk – 07823 341 544.

Please complete Form EOI/CCT/25, accompanying it with any additional supporting documents or evidence such as business plans and projections, in order to support the Expression of Interest, as required.

Applications should be sent electronically by email to commercial@thecct.org.uk

Closing date for EOI's is by 28th March 2025





<https://worcesterstswithuns.org>

1. Main Contact:

Title: First name: Surname:

Telephone Number: Mobile Number:

Email Address:

Business Address:

2. Business/Organisation Details:

2a. Which sector do you currently operate in?

2b. What is the size of your Business/Organisation?

2c. Organisation reference no. if applicable (Charity/Company reg no):

2d. Please outline your management structure:

2e. Please provide examples of 2 partner/client businesses or organisations that you have worked with in the past:

2f. Please note below how many years your organisation has been trading

2g. Please attach a copy of your annual accounts if relevant.

3. Operational Outline:

3a. How are you proposing to use the space at St Swithun's, Worcester (Purpose of business and vision for the space)?

3b. How are you aiming to finance your business model (grant funding, earned income etc)

3c. What do you expect your projected annual turnover be through the project?

3d. How would you outline the benefits that you bring to the local community?

Please email completed submissions through to: commercial@theccct.org.uk . If you would like more information, and a more informal discussion around the various options and partnership opportunities, please do get in touch with Guy Foreman, CCT Head of Enterprise, on gforeman@theccct.org.uk – 07823 341 544.

Please submit all Expressions of Interest to CCT by 28th March 2025 - we will get in touch with applicants directly to discuss their interest further and proceed on a more formal basis after this.

Signature:

Date: