

Barbican Centre

Silk Street

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barbican.org.uk

barbican**Part 1: BIE Mission**

Barbican International Enterprises (BIE) curate and develop major exhibitions exploring contemporary culture, emerging technology and digital creativity. We create ground-breaking, immersive shows that have global relevance to encourage learning, generate creative collaborations and activate pertinent conversations in the public realm.

We believe in the power of the arts, culture & technology in shaping tomorrow, critically exploring the biggest breakthrough ideas and innovations that are expected to radically impact the global social and economic order. Through commissioning cutting-edge creatives and joining forces with leading cultural institutions across the globe we hope to stimulate meaningful debate around some of the biggest themes of our times.

Part 2: Our commitment to sustainability

Our forthcoming major exhibition 'Our Time on Earth' gives us the opportunity to assess current practices in relation to the sustainable agenda, and indeed set a roadmap for our activity from this point onward. Across BIE we're analysing the way we work, exploring new processes and solutions that reduce our environmental impact, while balancing the social, cultural and economic value we bring to the Barbican Centre and beyond.

Our ongoing commitment to the sustainable agenda is underpinned by the following 5 core values:

Accessibility & diversity

Creating accessible exhibitions that diversify the audience of the cultural sector is core to our work. Through our global connections we aim to celebrate a myriad of voices responding to the biggest challenges and opportunities of our time.

Collaboration & openness

Nurturing meaningful relationships with artists and institutions while fostering a culture of openness and collaboration, we hope to build and share knowledge for sustainable best practice, ultimately to become a leader for sustainable innovation within the touring exhibition sector. Incorporating sustainability as a core parameter within everything we do, we aim to provide a structure and methodology to support and influence our community.

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barbican**Responsibility & respect**

We fully acknowledge the role of human activity in expediting climate emergency and recognise our responsibility to monitor and reduce the environmental footprint of our exhibitions. Through this first phase of monitoring we aim to measure our activities, particularly in relation to resource, carbon and energy usage, developing a data set which can then be used to implement targets to reduce our impact year-on-year.

Education & innovation

We aim to produce and present cutting-edge content of educational and historical significance to hold social and cultural value locally, nationally and internationally.

Economic development

Generating valuable income from our exhibitions is a core aim for all our activities, which in turn goes back into the Barbican Centre as a whole to fund opportunities for cultural enrichment for the general public.

Part 3: Our Priorities

Our key priorities framing our approach to sustainability are:

PEOPLE

We strive to support and empower the artists, collaborators, suppliers and institutions we work with.

DESIGN

We recognise that the majority of impact happens at the design phase and will strive to minimise environmental footprint upfront, while also supporting our partners and collaborators to do the same.

RESOURCES

We will accurately monitor our usage of all core resources including materials, energy and water through all aspects of the project. We will strive to incorporate the principles of the circular economy with the aim of minimising our impact by design.

TRANSPARENCY

We will remain open and transparent about the challenges we face in reducing our environmental impact and aim to support our collaborators in a constructive dialogue recognising that working together is inherent to sustainability.

TOOLS

We will continue to research and share information regarding the most effective methods of measurement and review, providing guidance to our community of collaborators and partners where possible.

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barbican**Part 4: Monitoring & review****How we will be measuring our footprint:**

This exhibition will be the first in which we will actively measure and quantify our environmental footprint. We will develop a framework with selected environmental impact indicators in the areas of energy, resource use, waste, water and transport to quantify impacts as well as register positive green environmental decisions. That data will be the basis to calculate carbon and environmental footprints.

The collection of this data will provide an initial starting point for review, enabling us to align problem areas for improvement and subsequently set targets for future exhibitions.

As well as initiating the quantification of our environmental footprint we will be adopting various qualitative methods to analyse, record and minimise our impact. This will involve a three-phase approach:

- *Before (In the design phase)*

Parameters relating to resource use and waste will be captured within the briefs for artists, collaborators and suppliers, and in turn will form a key parameter for our decision-making and production of both the commissioning of works and exhibition design.

- *During (In the production phase)*

Impacts and observations will be recorded the form of a production diary aiming to capture any issues arising or areas for improvement.

- *After (In the de-installation and transportation phase)*

Debriefing will take place during the de-installation and packaging of each exhibition aiming to capture any issues arising or areas for improvement.

Part 5: Exhibition design and content

Our exhibition content and architectural frameworks are designed for longevity. As touring shows they are generally kept in use for a period of between 3 - 5 years and sometime longer, therefore efficient installation, de-installation, packing, and transportation are key considerations in the exhibition design and production process.

Reuse of all elements is inherent to our process, however we recognise the importance of incorporating circular design principles to every element of design, whilst carefully monitoring our activity to minimise our environmental footprint. Through our next exhibition we are holistically assessing current practices in relation to the sustainable agenda, with the intention to set a roadmap for our activity from this point onward. At all stages of development we will encourage awareness of impact, explore potential alternatives, maximise efficiency and minimise impact through design, measure and record where possible.

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barbican**01 Energy**

- Explore potential at exhibition to measure and capture energy usage throughout design, production, installation, de-installation and transportation of shows.
- Understand energy types at venues, is renewable energy procured?
- Aim to procure the most energy efficient equipment e.g. should lowest wattage possible and be A+++ rated where available.
- Lighting to be LED where possible.
- Lighting rig / exhibition space to be designed to be as energy efficient as possible.
- Controls for exhibition space and electrical equipment to be designed for easy power turn off, to be switched off each night.
- Rechargeable batteries to be used wherever possible for electrical equipment.

02 Water

- Monitor water usage throughout the process of exhibition build, duration of exhibition and exhibition take down.
- Designers, artists and collaborators will also be requested to monitor their individual water usage through the design process.

03 Design***Exhibition Build:***

- Ensure exhibition designers are briefed with circular design principles and supported where possible with appropriate toolkit to monitor their impact.
- Ensure the exhibition set and artworks are designed to be as light as possible to reduce CO2 emissions during transportation.
- Sets, walls, and displays should be designed to be easily dismantled, re-used, re-purposed or recycled
- Flooring as a high-impact material should be carefully researched to consider material and manufacturing content, to avoid wastage and enable reuse or recycling.
- Avoid designing stud-walls, structures and shapes which are hard to reuse and produce excessive waste.
- Minimise the use of glue and nails to enable easily dismantling at the end of exhibition.

Materials

- Ensure exhibition designers are briefed with circular design principles and supported where possible with appropriate toolkit to monitor their impact.
- Prioritise use of materials which are reused or recycled where possible. Ensure circularity and end of life is considered when using virgin material.
- Where the use of virgin wood is unavoidable, only use FSC certified.
- Ensure materials are sourced as locally as possible.
- Ensure the use of materials is monitored and reported throughout the design build, de-installation and transportation phase.
- Avoid the following where possible:
 - Tropical hardwood
 - MDF
 - Petroleum-based materials such as resin and acrylic
 - Materials which are hard to recycle or reuse such as composite plastics, polystyrene and PVC
 - Hazardous materials (e.g. non toxic paints with low levels of volatile organic compounds)
 - Cem-free concrete Single-use plastics (SUP)

Design & Interpretation

- Ensure exhibition designers are briefed with circular design principles and supported where possible with appropriate toolkit to monitor their impact.
- As interpretation will have to be re-printed for touring exhibitions, ensure use of materials which are either biodegradable, or easy to recycle within existing infrastructure.
- Prioritise design which is durable and easy to transport.
- Ensure clear communication between locations to avoid unnecessary reprinting.

Disposal & End of Life

- Ensure that the exhibition infrastructure can be easily deconstructed and that any materials can be easily reused or recycled.
- Ensure that any materials which can be recycled are placed within correct recycling infrastructure.
- Research institutions, charities, community-based projects that can re-purpose materials.
- All AV equipment to be re-used in future exhibitions where possible otherwise donated or recycled.

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04 Electronics

- Prioritise the re-use of electronics where possible.
- If new AV equipment must be purchased, strive that it is ethically sourced.
- Where re-used electrical/electronic equipment is used ensure it has been recently serviced.

05 Transport

Packaging

- Use Velcro, bungee cords, fabric ties or other reusable alternatives to plastic cable ties or PVC tape.
- Prioritise use of biodegradable and reusable materials where possible.
- Avoid use of non-recyclable and non-reusable materials such as bubble wrap.
- Whilst touring, reuse packaging materials where possible.
- Prioritise use of reusable crates where possible.
- Make accurate packaging notes to ensure efficient reuse of packaging material in touring destinations.
- Minimize plastic and other unnecessary waste in accordance with the City Corporation's [Single Use Plastics Policy](#) single use plastics is unavoidable, biodegradable and/or recyclable plastics may be used until a sustainable alternative is available.

Meetings & Travel

- Remote conferencing will be used for meetings where possible to ensure travel is kept to a minimum.
- Essential members of BIE team will travel to install and de-install the exhibition during its international tour. Consideration will be given to remote install/de-install over the tour of the exhibition
- Keep couriers to a minimum and use of low carbon couriers where possible e.g. bike courier

Exhibition Transport

- Ensure that exhibition transport is closely monitored and carbon footprint is registered for future improvements.
- Prioritise sea freight over air freight.

06 Artist & Collaborator Relationships

- Ensure living wage is paid to contractors and their subcontractors including their employees, workers and the self-employed
- Ensure suppliers and service providers are as local as possible.
- Ensure pay is considered for any time dedicated to delivering design pitches.
- Ensure Equality and Inclusion in our programme, services and consultancy supplier contracts.

Part 6: Responsible Procurement Policy

BIE as a Department of the Barbican observes and adheres to the City of London's Procurement Strategy. [Responsible Procurement policy - City of London](#) includes 18 different commitments that align with nine of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Included on that policy page is a chart which shows that alignment and the internal policies it currently supports.