



Dear Neighbour,

We have now submitted our planning application to the London Borough of Wandsworth for a new teaching and research centre in Battersea, which will provide the College with new studios, workshops, research space and business incubator units.

We are delighted to have been part of the local community for the last 25 years and want to stay in Battersea where we have an established presence. The opportunity to expand arose in 2015, with the purchase of the land opposite our existing campus enabling us to secure our future in Battersea and transform the College into a dynamic STEAM-focused graduate university (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and design, and Mathematics).

Research and innovation have always been fundamental to our work, and we want to continue to nurture the next generation of creative entrepreneurs. This new £50 million building is integral to this ambition and part of a £108 million investment programme that will move us into the next exciting chapter of our 180-year history. The project is jointly funded by the RCA, philanthropic donations and the UK Government. This investment will have an estimated return to the UK economy of £8 for every £1 invested.

We are grateful for the response we have had to our proposals, which has helped to shape the plans, and we wish to continue this positive engagement locally as the plans progress.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Paul Thompson

Vice-Chancellor, Royal College of Art



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

Our proposals include:

- A new 4-storey teaching building incorporating workshops, studios, teaching and exhibition space
- A new 8-storey research building accommodating research space for areas such as materials science, advanced manufacturing and driverless cars, as well as an extended business incubator hub for small business start-ups related to the RCA
- A new café on Parkgate Road open all year round (9am – 9pm) for both students and residents, providing a social community hub with the potential to accommodate exhibitions and events
- An art materials shop for students and the general public
- The creation of attractive public space at Radstock Street and proposals to improve Howie Street in the future
- 265 cycle parking spaces encouraging continued sustainable travel
- A double height covered street space for exhibitions, which will be open for pedestrian access when not in use by the RCA, providing more opportunities to open up the building to the public and extend our events programme
- Improved routes through the site, integrating the new building with the surrounding area, which local residents can use during the day (9am – 6pm). For safety and security reasons, it will not be possible to maintain 24-hour access
- Public seating incorporated into the design of the building at ground floor level on Howie Street and Elcho Street



Your Feedback and Response

We have listened to what we have learned from the public exhibitions and from our conversations with local groups and representatives. The most frequent issues you raised and our response are summarised below:

Design

We want the new building to reflect on the outside what is happening inside, and also make a statement about our presence in an area we have called home for 25 years.

We have listened to comments about creating an active façade at the ground and first floor levels of the building. The large windows on the ground floor allow views into the building and the activity taking place inside. More windows have also now been added to the first floor.

The research building on Parkgate Road will operate throughout the year so will not be empty out of term time and the large, shop windows will be illuminated at night ensuring the area continues to be well lit.

Materials

A lighter London brick is now proposed for the building which will complement and reflect the tone of other brick commonly used in Battersea. The brick will be laid in a distinctive pattern to create interest and set it apart from neighbouring buildings.

Height

Extensive studies were carried out before the building form was decided to ensure the building layout met our need for flexible space and to determine the best location for the taller building. This approach enabled us to reduce the overall height and massing of the building and minimise the impact of the proposals on our immediate neighbours.

Changes to Howie Street

We have a long-term aspiration to deliver a range of public realm improvements to Howie Street, including road resurfacing, tree planting and traffic calming measures through a partial one-way arrangement

For more information on upcoming events or if you would like to subscribe to the RCA's events mailing list, please visit:
www.rca.ac.uk/events

'As a local resident of 34 years the development is like a breath of fresh air.'

– Resident,
Parkgate Road

'The Royal College of Art has a world wide reach and influence. Having a focal point in Battersea can only be good for the area.'

– Resident,
Paveley Drive

to the west, which would still allow access to cars and the No. 19 bus. The bus route remains unaffected by the plans.

As the RCA does not own the road, a coordinated approach is needed with the local council, TfL and other landowners to deliver and fund any improvements in the future.

Parking and Traffic

Where required, existing parking on Howie Street would be relocated into surrounding streets to ensure any impact on parking is limited. Overall, there will be a reduction of 2–3 parking spaces as a maximum.

RCA in the Community

We recognise we need to do more to publicise our engagement locally and are actively recruiting for a new member of our team to coordinate our outreach programmes and work in partnership locally to identify opportunities.

Through ReachOut RCA we already work with around 500 young people from London boroughs each year, including partnerships with a number of Wandsworth schools. This will continue along with a greater focus on Further Education. We also welcome visitors to the College for our annual Show and Secret Show, in addition to our regular events programme.

The new building and its exhibition spaces will provide us with the opportunity to strengthen our public engagement programmes and events.

Construction Management

The RCA understands that construction is a sensitive issue for both local residents and businesses. If planning permission is granted, a construction management plan will be agreed with Wandsworth Council in advance of any work starting to ensure any disruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

The site will be registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme and the RCA will work with its contractors to ensure deliveries are coordinated and local residents are kept fully informed about upcoming construction works.



‘Robot research is an exciting addition to what is already there and as a former art school student it is good to see a creative arts venture in this space.’

– Resident, Searles Close

We want to hear back from local residents. If you would like to get in touch, you can contact us on:

Freepost RTUA-THGR-LUYK
Public Consultation Cascade
26 Noel Street
London
W1F 8GY

E: consultation@cascadepr.co.uk
T: 020 7871 3565

For more information, including a FAQ on the proposals, please visit www.rca.ac.uk/battersea

About the RCA

The College is celebrating its 180th anniversary this year, which makes us the world's oldest art and design institution in continuous operation.

The College has produced some of the world's leading entrepreneurs and creative thinkers, with alumni including Sir James Dyson, Tracey Emin and Sir Ridley Scott. The delivery of the new building, along with the new business incubator hubs, will help strengthen the College's research and innovation resource.

We offer highly specialised programmes across the disciplines of architecture, fine art, design, communications and humanities to postgraduate students and have a student body of over 2,000.

Partnerships with Global Leaders: Burberry and Hyundai-Kia

The Burberry Material Futures Research Group was established this year and is supported by a £3m grant by the Burberry Foundation. This partnership will be the first explicit STEAM research centre at the College, with a particular focus on advanced manufacturing.

The Hyundai-Kia Innovation Laboratory will be a leading centre for automotive and mobility research and design. It will use human-centred design to enable examination of all future intelligent mobility possibilities including vehicle design, road and city design, architecture, robotics and materials science.

The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design

The RCA has a particular focus on trying to tackle real-life challenges and provide innovative solutions through design research. An example of this is the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design.

The College also looks at ways to support those with disabilities. For example, the start-up Aergo has been producing new concepts and designs to improve the posture of wheelchair users suffering from motor neurone disease.

Did you know...

Through InnovationRCA, our centre for enterprise and innovation, we have helped to ensure that the concepts and ideas developed by our students and graduates become successful business ventures.

We have generated more university-owned start-up companies than any other university, including Oxford and Cambridge. The delivery of the new campus building with new incubator hubs will double the number of new business start-ups incubated by InnovationRCA.



**71 GRADUATES LAUNCH
47 START-UPS**



**£40M TURNOVER
GENERATED**



**OVER 500 UK JOBS
CREATED**



**£12M TURNOVER LAST
YEAR**

Case Study: Creoto

There are 10 million amputees in the world and this number is rising. Many prosthetic sockets on the market fit badly causing pain and pressure sores to the wearer. Supported at InnovationRCA, Creoto's patent-pending socket dynamically changes and adapts to the fit of the user's limb to address this problem. Users can set and save different adjustments on their smart phones.

