

Quotes

Mark Boleat, Policy Chairman at the City of London Corporation:

"This project will transform London's historic river and the City of London Corporation, which manages five of the capital's iconic bridges, is very proud to play a key role in making it happen. Bringing together art, design and technology on an unprecedented scale, Illuminated River has captured the imagination of talented creatives from around the world, all of them hugely enthusiastic about competing to be part of what is likely to be the largest art project of its kind in the world."

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England:

"The Thames is London's most ancient public space. It has witnessed countless invasions, disasters, pageants and processions; inspired some of our greatest writers from Samuel Pepys to TS Eliot; and has been a constant for Londoners since the city's birth. The bridges that span our river are some of the most precious historic sites we have; they are markers of place and beautiful responses to our practical need to navigate the city. The Illuminated River project is the next stage in the Thames' evolution, a way to reconnect with the river, a celebration of our collective history and a glimpse into our city's future."

Cllr Timothy Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Arts:

"I hope as many people as possible will visit the exhibition and see the masterplan proposed by the Illuminated River contestants for the Thames bridges."

Adrian Evans, Totally Thames Festival Director:

"We're delighted to be working with the Illuminated River Foundation on this ambitious international design competition to illuminate London's Bridges that will allow people to appreciate and experience these structures in a new light."

We've been overwhelmed by the ideas from young people through the educational participatory programme we've delivered working in four London schools and a University Technical College. Working with art and film, the young people have generated visions of how the river and its bridges could be transformed after dark. I would encourage everyone to go and see the exhibition at the South Bank featuring the six international finalists and work created by young people from across the capital that through a project like this inspires the next generation of designers, architects and artists."

Geoff Loader, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at Tideway London:

"A key aim for the Thames Tideway Tunnel is to 'Reconnect London with the River Thames' and projects like the Illuminated River will help to achieve that ambition."

Sir Peter Hendy, Chairman of Network Rail:

"Millions of rail passengers rely on London's bridges every day to get to and from work and home. The Illuminated River project will help highlight the vital role these bridges play in connecting our capital city. Although as a public body we can't fund this exciting idea, we will do everything we can to ensure its success."

Andrew Cooke, Acting CEO London & Partners, the official promotional body for the capital which runs Visitlondon.com:

"The Illuminated River will be a dazzling celebration of one of the world's most iconic

waterways and will cement the capital's reputation for culture and creativity. This project will attract and captivate new international audiences who will be able to experience permanent public art on an incredible scale and learn more about the rich history of the city."

Nick Evans, from the PLA harbour master team in London said:

"We look forward to working with Illuminated River Foundation to achieve designs that will ensure the river stays safe and navigable and appropriate for local communities, while enhancing the cultural attractiveness that makes the capital's river a magnet to people from all around."