

**FLOURISH PRESENTS *THE SHAPE OF US* AT SHOREDITCH DESIGN WEEK FOR LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2026****An immersive community-led art installation exploring identity, belonging and the power of inclusive design**

For London Design Festival 2026, not-for-profit organisation and design studio **Flourish** will present **The Shape of Us**, an immersive illuminated art installation exploring identity, belonging and what can happen when design is shaped with communities rather than simply delivered to them.

Presented as part of **Shoreditch Design Week**, the installation will be on show at **Shoreditch Town Hall** from **15–17 September 2026**.

Developed in collaboration with **The Exchange Community Hub in Westminster**, powered by **North Paddington Foodbank**, *The Shape of Us* brings together an intergenerational and diverse group of participants to explore who they are through accessible creative making. Each participant will produce an individual three-dimensional self-portrait using colour, pattern, collage and paper, expressing something of their personality, inner world, hopes, fears and aspirations. No previous artistic experience is required. Every contribution is valued equally and becomes an integral part of the finished installation. The individual pieces will be illuminated and suspended together within a shared structure. Seen alone, each tells a personal story. Brought together, they form a bold and immersive artwork shaped by different generations, backgrounds, perspectives and lived experiences.

At the heart of the installation is a principle that runs through Flourish's work: **design should not simply be created for communities, but shaped with them**. By creating opportunities for people who can be underrepresented within traditional design and cultural spaces to participate in the creative process, *The Shape of Us* asks audiences to consider who gets to take part in design, whose stories are visible and how creativity can help us feel more connected to one another and to the places we share. For visitors, the work is both a visual experience and an invitation to think differently about design. Colour, light and individual expression come together within one shared installation, demonstrating how many different voices can contribute to something larger.

The installation will also introduce visitors to the wider work of **Flourish**, which uses creativity, participatory design and community-led approaches to strengthen communities, improve wellbeing, create more inclusive spaces and build lasting social connection.

The Shape of Us is more than an artwork about community. It is a demonstration of Flourish's belief in the social value of creativity and in giving people the opportunity to contribute, be represented and feel that they belong - **A creative life is a happier life**.

EVENT INFORMATION

The Shape of Us by Flourish in collaboration with The Exchange and North Paddington Foodbank

Part of **Shoreditch Design Week and London Design Festival 2026**

15–17 September 2026. Shoreditch Town Hall, London

ABOUT FLOURISH: Flourish is a not-for-profit organisation and design studio using creativity to strengthen communities, improve wellbeing and build lasting social connection. Its work puts people at the heart of the design process, combining community-led design, inclusive spaces, creative programmes and accessible opportunities to participate in creativity.

ENDS

Contact

Friends & Co, Berna Sermet: berna@friendsandco.co.uk www.friendsandco.co.uk @friendsandcouk