



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

JOIN THE FLIGHT AND USE YOUR CREATIVITY TO BRING
THE TRAIL OF THE DRAGONS TO LIFE IN SUMMER 2027



A Wild in Art event brought to the city by

**Compton
Care**
specialist
palliative and
bereavement support



**ARTIST SUBMISSION
DOCUMENT**

CREATE A DRAGON, INSPIRE A COMMUNITY



In summer 2027, Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas will be transformed by a spectacular trail of magnificent dragons as Trail of the Dragons takes flight. 30 large-scale, vibrant dragon sculptures will capture imaginations, inspire creativity, and encourage visitors to explore the city and beyond.

Each dragon sculpture will be brought to life by a talented artist, making every piece a unique work of art. Designs will be selected from those submitted by the trail's sponsors, creating an exciting showcase of creativity, community spirit, and local pride.

The dragons will be located at key landmarks, public spaces, parks, and town centres, inviting residents and visitors to embark on a journey of discovery using a dedicated trail map and app. Alongside the large sculptures, schools and community groups will decorate smaller dragons, becoming part of this exciting community celebration.

Once the trail comes to an end, all of the dragons will be reunited for a farewell event before the large sculptures are auctioned. Funds raised through our Trail of the Dragons will support Compton Care as part of our 45th anniversary celebrations.

We are now inviting talented artists to submit their dragon-themed designs for consideration. Selected artists will have the exciting opportunity to bring their vision to life on one of the trail's large dragon sculptures.

Compton Care is working with Wild in Art to deliver this project. Wild in Art is an award-winning producer of creative events that transform places into family-friendly, outdoor art galleries. Since 2008, they've attracted millions of visitors to town and cities and contributed over £3.8 million to local creative communities.

"Trail of the Dragons is a powerful celebration of creativity, community and the spirit of Wolverhampton. We want to ignite something special across the city - bringing people together, sparking imagination and creating lasting memories. At the same time, this trail will raise vital funds so that Compton Care can continue to walk alongside local people and families when they need us most."

Rachel Overfield, Chief Executive of Compton Care

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT WWW.WILDINART.CO.UK



SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND GET INVOLVED

Each dragon will be more than a sculpture. It will tell a story, spark conversations, and inspire our community. By taking part, you're helping transform Wolverhampton into a vibrant open-air gallery while supporting Compton Care and raising vital funds and awareness.

TRAIL OF THE DRAGONS WILL:

- Include 30 large sculptures, each uniquely designed by an artist (plus other small sculptures designed by schools and community groups) forming a trail around Wolverhampton.
- Showcase professional and emerging artists from the local area and further afield
- Attract thousands of visitors of all ages, both walking the Trail and online at <https://trailofthedragons.co.uk/>
- Discover the stories behind the artworks and the inspiration behind each artist's design. Track your dragon finds throughout the trail using our app, available to download from Google Play or Apple Store.
- Generate thousands of social media interactions through Facebook and Instagram raising awareness of Compton Care, and encouraging people to follow the trail.
- Inspire pride across Wolverhampton, the Black Country and surrounding communities, bringing people together through art, culture and adventure while encouraging health, wellbeing and exploration of the local area.
- Support local businesses by increasing visitor footfall, attracting residents and tourists alike to discover the dragons and explore the towns and city locations taking part in the trail.
- Raise vital funds for Compton Care, helping to ensure local people living with life-limiting conditions and their families continue to receive specialist and compassionate care when they need it most.
- Celebrate local creativity by commissioning talented artists to transform the sculptures, with each selected artist receiving a £1,000 artist commission for their design and artwork.



HOW DOES IT WORK / TIMELINE

July - Nov 2026

Launch of Trail of the Dragons.

Inviting Businesses, Schools & community groups to sign up to the Trail

January 2027

Sponsors will be invited to an exhibition of submitted artists' designs to select their preferred design for their sculpture

March - May 2027

Selected artists receive their dragon and begin painting it with the design selected by the sponsor. This might be in the artist's own studio or in a painting space organised by the hospice, local to Compton Care.

July - August 2027

Sculptures are displayed around the area in accessible, interesting spaces for visitors to explore for free - Trail of the Dragons begins!

Sunday 6th December 2026

Artists are invited to submit designs by 23:59 on Sunday 6th December, with shortlisted designs selected by an expert panel.

On our trail, there will be 30 Dragons. Artists complete a submission form and 2D version of their design/s on the downloadable template

February 2027

Artists informed of the outcome of the sponsor selection process.

May 2027

All painted sculptures are delivered back to the Compton's storage area.

September 2027

All sculptures are deinstalled and given a wash and brush up, then assembled together for a Farewell Weekend where they will be displayed for one last time

THE BRIEF

The dragon was chosen as a powerful symbol reflecting both Compton Care's mission and the spirit of Wolverhampton. Its strength mirrors the resilience the charity supports patients and families to find in the most difficult moments, while its sense of protection reflects the safe, supportive care it provides. Dragons also symbolise guidance, echoing how Compton Care's specialist teams walk alongside people with compassion and expertise. Above all, they represent hope and transformation - capturing both the journeys of those the charity supports and the energy of a city continuing to grow and evolve.

Trail of the Dragons 2027 invites artists to unleash their imagination and bring these magnificent dragons to life in their own unique way. With no set style or creative approach, we welcome bold, inspiring, playful and meaningful designs that capture the spirit of the trail.

ARTISTS' GUIDELINES

- You may submit up to two sculpture designs, but a separate Artist Submission Form must be completed for each design.
- Designs should be suitable for a broad audience of all ages and must not be offensive, political, religious, or sexual in nature.
- Corporate branding, advertising, and any designs that infringe third-party intellectual property rights (including recognisable logos or brands) are not permitted.
- Artists wishing to modify the sculpture's shape should have experience working with fibreglass and must ensure the structural integrity of the sculpture is maintained.
- Sculptures will be displayed in public spaces and will be touched and interacted with. Any attachments must be secure, durable, weather-resistant, and safe for public interaction.
- Each sculpture will be securely fixed to a concrete base. Please keep the base area free from any attachments or design elements.
- A dedicated painting space may be available, offering an opportunity to engage with the public while creating your dragon.
- Artists may choose to work from their own studio; however, any transport costs will be the artist's responsibility.
- Artists are responsible for providing their own materials. Water-based acrylic paints are recommended. Collage and paper-based materials are not advised.
- A specialist protective varnish will be supplied by the organisers and must be applied to the finished sculpture.
- Artists are not responsible for the installation, collection, or location of their dragon on the trail.
- Artists may be asked to undertake touch-up work or, where required, will be offered first refusal on any repair work.
- Successful artists will receive a £1,000 commission upon completion and approval of their finished sculpture.

READY TO GET DESIGNING?

Download the dragon templates [here](#) or from the website. The templates provide a scaled outline of the dragon sculpture from multiple angles to help you bring your vision to life.

Please add your design with as much detail as possible, including an indication of the colours, materials and finishes you intend to use. Once complete, please fill in the submission form and follow the link provided to upload your design. Uploaded files must not exceed 10MB.

All design submissions must be received by 23:59 on Sunday 6th December 2026. Unfortunately, we are unable to return any materials submitted.

Artists selected for the next stage will be notified by during February 2027.

If you have any questions, please contact trail@comptoncare.org.uk. Our sculptures have been purposefully designed to be an accurate 3D blank canvas to enable you to create your own unique work of art. The sculpture is constructed primarily of glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) and is finished with a white primer so it is ready to paint.

Dimensions :

Height: 170cm	Width: 95cm
Length: 195cm	Weight: 45kg

The dragons are manufactured using a mixture of Class 2 fire retardant laminating resin and chopped roving fibreglass over an initial brushed-on layer of polyester gel coat. Each sculpture is finished with a primer and is ready to paint.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The project is open to all artists, amateur or professional. You must be aged 18 or over and living in the UK.

2. You may submit up to two applications.

3. All terms and conditions in this application form a part of the agreement between you, Compton Care and Wild in Art in connection with The Trail of the Dragons and by submitting your work you are agreeing to be bound by all terms and conditions in this application form.

4. You must be the sole author and owner of all intellectual property rights of the work entered, or if the work is not your own in full, you must have sole permission in writing from the copyright owner/s to use their work. Source material or proof of permission in use of another person's work must be made available on request by the selection panel. Compton Care and Wild in Art do not accept liability in the publication of any reproduced art.

5. The design must represent a piece of work that you have the ability to reproduce on a 3D sculpture.

6. Any additions or modifications to the sculpture must be sufficiently strong to maintain structural integrity of the sculpture and must not cause injury.

7. To enter, the work must be received by the **closing date of 23:59 on Sunday 6th December**. All entries must be accompanied by a completed artist submission form.

8. No allowances will be made for work that arrives later than the deadline.

9. By completing the artist submission form and submitting your designs, you consent that all data provided by you may be used by Compton Care and Wild in Art for marketing, communications and evaluation purposes unless you opt out in writing. Upon commissioning Compton Care will share your data with the sculpture sponsor. We don't and never will sell or pass on any of your details to another organisation for them to use for their own purposes. We may, however, use third party organisations to help deliver services on our behalf, for example, distributing our email newsletters or feedback questionnaires, or managing participant lists for our events. At all times we will ensure that we look after your details responsibly and that any organisations using your information on our behalf do the same. For more information, please see Compton Care Hospice Privacy Policy at [Privacy Policy](#) - [comptoncareprivacy-policy](#).

10. Copyright and all other IP Rights in the design belong to and remain with the artist. However, subject to Compton Care paying all amounts due to the artist under any final commissioning contract, the artist grants to Compton Care and Wild in Art an irrevocable royalty free licence to use the completed artwork for purposes in connection with the event, Trail of the Dragons.

11. You consent to the use of your work, name and photograph in any promotional material carried out by Compton Care and Wild in Art without any further compensation.

12. Your work will be reviewed and shortlisted by Compton Care and a panel of suitably experienced and impartial professionals including a representative from Wild in Art, prior to being shown to the event sponsors.

13. Work will be commissioned following selection and or confirmation by the event sponsors. The decision on all matters relating to the work selected to be used is final. No further correspondence will be entered in to.

14. Upon commissioning, Compton Care will enter a separate service level agreement with you to include an agreed schedule and the terms and conditions of engagement.

15. Compton Care will provide the sculpture at no charge to you. Cost of materials is your responsibility except for varnish, which will be provided. Unless otherwise agreed by both parties in writing.

16. If you are not able to paint the sculpture in a provided painting space, we will work with you in order to co-ordinate and manage the safe and secure transportation of the sculpture in the most cost-effective way. Artists will be expected to pay all or a proportion of delivery charges to and from the event storage. This is at the discretion of the event partner, and should finalised before any commission is confirmed.

17. You will provide a list of artist materials - specifically paint, brand and colours used in the application on the sculpture.

18. Compton Care reserves the right to withhold any fee payable to you in connection with the event if in its sole opinion the quality of the finished work provided falls below that which can be reasonably expected for public display and/or is substantially different from the design submitted.

19. The sculpture remains at all times the property of Compton Care and must be returned in good order.

20. If the sculpture is returned unfinished by you or deemed irreparable due to damage while in your possession, you shall be charged the full replacement cost of said sculpture.

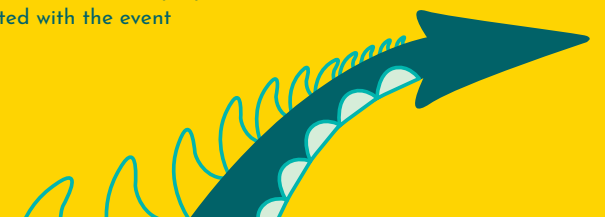
21. Compton Care will award commissioned artists **£1,000 (+VAT if applicable)**. This will be paid on completion of the finished artwork, subject to sign off, and all relevant paperwork. Payment will be made within 28 working days of receipt of invoice. By submitting this application you confirm that you are responsible for all your own tax and national insurance contributions relating to the commission and reporting thereof. Compton Care will consider, at our discretion, staged payments on a case by case basis.

22. Compton Care and Wild in Art may from time to time produce facsimiles of the completed sculpture in both 2D and 3D form, excluding figurines. For the avoidance of doubt, any agreement reached in connection with any facsimile of your design should include any consideration to be paid to you by Compton Care and require transfer of rights to Compton Care.

23. Subject at all times to your agreement, Compton Care and Wild in Art may produce a figurine of the completed sculpture as part of the event merchandise. If your dragon sculpture design is selected to be a figurine, this will be subject to a separate figurine contract and include a royalty fee.

24. Following the event, the sculpture will be auctioned to raise money for Compton Care, who will, where practicable, try to offer artists first refusal to undertake repair and maintenance work should the applicable sculpture require it, but in most instances suitably experienced local artists will be commissioned separately by Compton Care to complete any agreed maintenance and repairs.

25. By entering your work for consideration to be selected to be used in the event and for eligibility for payment of the honorarium you warrant that you have all required rights and consents to submit the work and allow Compton Care and Wild in Art to use the work in connection with The Trail of the Dragons. You also agree to grant an irrevocable royalty-free licence to Compton Care and Wild in Art and to use the completed work for the purposes described elsewhere connected with the event



JOIN THE TRAIL AND HELP OUR COMMUNITY ROAR WITH CREATIVITY

trailofthedragons.co.uk

Get in touch

Email us at: trail@comptoncare.org.uk

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Trail of the Dragons 2027
45 YEARS OF
Compton Care



A Wild in Art event brought to the city by

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Creative partner:

the Studio
GRAPHIC DESIGN SINCE 1959