

Battle of Lewisham mural public consultation responses

Summary

117 consultation responses have been gathered online (33) and through live consultation activities (84) in partnership with community organisations since April 2019:

- 70% of comments submitted by the public were coded either 'Positive' or 'Positive / constructive'.
- 14% of qualitative comments submitted by the public were coded either Negative' or 'Negative / constructive'.
- 45% of comments submitted by the public engaged with the design and provided constructive criticism

There is broad, if not unanimous, support for the concept of commemorating the Battle of Lewisham through public art.

Nearly half (45%) of respondents provided constructive criticism which will inform the final round of design changes before the mural is launched in late 2019:

Colour – Revisit the use of yellow and green in terms of the visual impact of these colours and how they help clarify the composition. E.g. What / who do they reveal and obscure.

Context – Ensure interpretation boards are installed alongside the artwork at launch.

People - Consider including Lewisham Mayor Ron Pepper if an appropriate image can be sourced.

Banners & symbols – Remove the 'National Front' banner and move the ALCARAF banner to a more central position.

NF platform - Consider ways in which the design can be altered to obscure the NF or minimise the risk of being perceived to give them a platform.

Composition – Consider revisiting the central third of the composition in order to address the perceived lack of clarity and focus. This could be achieved by altering contrast and exploring how a stronger punk zine 'cut out' technique might provide clearer lines and greater structure. Consider whether the peaks of the buildings could be introduced.

Next steps:

- Agree design changes with the Community Advisory Group (August)
- Implement changes agreed and sign off the final design with the Community Advisory Group (September)
- Provide fabricators with final artwork (October)
- Public artwork launch event (October)

This document presents and analyses public responses to the Battle of Lewisham public artwork design consultation in order to inform a final round of design changes. It is not an evaluation of the consultation process or a comprehensive report on the mural development process.

Live consultation responses

Six live consultation activities have taken place to date at which 84 comment cards have been completed by members of the public:

- Telegraph Hill Festival (6 April)
- New Cross Assembly (6 April)
- Moonshot Centre (10 April)
- Lewisham Library (13 April)
- Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre (22 June)
- Deptford Market (6 July)

67 qualitative comments were submitted, while 17 respondents completed structured comment cards with multiple choice questions.

Qualitative responses

The 67 qualitative responses have been coded by interpreting the tone of the feedback as 'Positive', 'Neutral', or 'Negative'. Positive responses expressed unambiguous support for the mural concept and / or design. 'Neutral' responses were either ambiguous or dispassionate, while 'Negative' feedback expressed that the concept and / or design of the mural was undesirable.

The modifier 'constructive' has been added in cases where suggestions for changes to the design have been expressed. We can infer that those responses coded 'Negative / constructive' were supportive of the concept of the mural, if not the execution of the current design.

| Sentiment | No. | % |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Positive | 44 | 66 |
| Positive / constructive | 10 | 15 |
| Neutral | 0 | 0 |
| Neutral / constructive | 9 | 13 |
| Negative | 1 | 1.5 |
| Negative / constructive | 3 | 4.5 |

Observations

- 81% of qualitative comments submitted at live consultation activities were either 'Positive' or 'Positive / constructive'.
- 6% of qualitative comments submitted at live consultation activities were either 'Negative' or 'Negative / constructive'.
- 32% of respondents provided constructive feedback on the design

Each comment coded with the modifier 'constructive' has been coded to inform design changes to the mural.

| Constructive | No. | % |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| Colour | 9 | 13 |
| Context | 8 | 12 |
| People | 8 | 12 |
| Composition | 5 | 7 |
| Banners & symbols | 1 | 1.5 |
| NF platform | 1 | 1.5 |

Key

- *Colour – The use of colour in the mural design*
- *Context – The need to illustrate or explain the historical context of the Battle of Lewisham either through design changes or interpretation materials.*
- *People – The groups and individuals highlighted in the design.*
- *Composition – The way in which the spatial arrangement of the content impacts on the reading and aesthetic balance of the work.*
- *Banners & symbols – The focus on and / or presence of political banners and symbols.*
- *NF platform – The sentiment that depicting the NF gives them a platform or tacitly endorses their message.*

Observations

- Top constructive feedback relates to the use of colour (13%), closely followed by ‘Context’ and ‘People’ (12%)

All comments can be read in full in Appendix 1.

Quantitative responses

1. The design makes me want to find out more about the Battle of Lewisham:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Strongly agree | 12 | 71% |
| Agree | 3 | 18% |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 2 | 12% |
| Disagree | 0 | 0% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |

89% Strongly agree or Agree. 0% Disagree or Strongly disagree.

2. The design tells the complex story of the Battle of Lewisham:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Strongly agree | 4 | 24% |
| Agree | 6 | 35% |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 3 | 18% |
| Disagree | 3 | 18% |
| Strongly disagree | 1 | 6% |

59% Strongly agree or Agree. 24% Disagree or Strongly disagree.

3. The inclusion of images of the National front is necessary:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Strongly agree | 7 | 41% |
| Agree | 10 | 59% |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 0 | 0% |
| Disagree | 0 | 0% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |

100% Strongly agree or Agree. 0% Disagree or Strongly disagree.

4. The use of colour is striking and meaningful:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Strongly agree | 5 | 29% |
| Agree | 7 | 41% |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 3 | 18% |
| Disagree | 2 | 12% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |

70% Strongly agree or Agree. 12% Disagree or Strongly disagree.

Observations

There is strong support for including images of the National Front. However, nearly a quarter of respondents disagree that the design tells the complex story of the Battle of Lewisham.

The overall tone of qualitative responses gathered at live consultation activities was very positive, with only one response coded 'Negative'. Two respondents indicated or implied they were at the Battle of Lewisham and their responses are particularly important to consider:

"I think the mural is great and captures the Battle in both positive + negative ways + a sense of place. I was there. It was very frightening but also powerful."

"It looks great and really captured the atmosphere of the day."

However, the constructive comments indicate that design changes should be considered in three areas (Colour, Context, People), while there were also very considered comments relating to the composition that bear close consideration, e.g.:

“The design looks too ‘busy’. It lacks a clear, high impact composition. RAR zines aesthetic, emphasis of diagonals, Darcus Howe, law of thirds would all help tell a complicated narrative. Best of luck.”

Context was also the key issue raised by respondents who completed the structured comment cards. It is clear that the design will require accompanying interpretation materials in order to successfully ‘tell the complex story of the Battle of Lewisham’.

Online consultation responses

44 responses were received through the Goldsmiths website feedback form since the consultation page was launched in April with a Tweet that was shared 91 times and garnered 81 ‘Likes’.

12 of the 44 responses were from the same individual expressing very similar sentiments. Therefore, only one response from each individual will be considered, leaving 33 responses.

Those 33 responses have been coded using the same method as the comment card feedback gathered at the live consultation events.

| Sentiment | No. | % |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Positive | 11 | 33% |
| Positive / constructive | 5 | 15% |
| Neutral | 3 | 9% |
| Neutral / constructive | 4 | 4% |
| Negative | 8 | 24% |
| Negative / constructive | 2 | 6% |

- 48% of responses broadly positive, while 30% broadly negative – an 18% difference
- 20% of comments constructive
- 76% support for the concept of the mural can be inferred, if not with a great deal of confidence

Each comment coded with the modifier ‘constructive’ has been coded to inform design changes to the mural.

| Constructive | No. | % |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| Colour | 2 | 6 |
| Context | 1 | 3 |
| People | 3 | 9 |
| Composition | 2 | 6 |
| Banners & symbols | 3 | 9 |
| NF platform | 2 | 6 |
| Location | 1 | 3 |

(See Key on page 2 for an explanation of the categories of constructive comments)

Observations

- The issue of the inclusion of images of members of the NF and their banners and symbols was a prominent and strongly expressed reservation, overlapping several categories (People / Banners & symbols / NF platform)
- Due to the relatively small number of respondents, constructive comments and their fairly even spread in the coding categories, there is no clear issue raised by a majority of respondents, the above aside

The overall tone of qualitative responses gathered via the online consultation activities is notably less positive than those gathered through live consultation events.

One respondent indicated they were at the Battle of Lewisham, commenting: *"I was there in 77. Sums it up well for me"* (Postcode: SE23).

Many of the negative comments were informed by a misconception that the mural is publically funded, which is no longer the case. E.g.

"Stop wasting public money."

Some negative comments also perceive the design as divisive or highlighting a negative aspect of local history:

"To me this design does nothing to promote social unity - it just re-enforces the division by depicting the images of conflict. Surely it would be better to use less inflammatory images? Not happy with this as a local resident."

As mentioned above, some but by no means all respondents fear portraying the NF tacitly equates them with the counter-protesters and suggests some form of moral equivalency. While others are concerned that images of the NF and their symbols gives the far right a platform:

"I think the banner with the wording National Front should be ripped also the NF sign"

"It is a little confusing and the NF name and presence is so prominent. It almost looks as though it's trying to present both sides as equivalent"

We will need to carefully consider how these comments inform subtle design changes while ensuring that the accompanying information dispels any perceived moral ambiguity.

Finally, there were some suggestions for changes and aesthetic critique that should be taken into account in the final round of design changes:

"I would like to see the Mayor of Lewisham close to the Bishop, to highlight that was not just a religious organisation going against racism and fascism."

"The artwork looks only partially developed and could draw on the punk / zine aesthetic harder. The coloured smoke is nice, but I'd like to see more layering and hand cutout effects."

The final comment resonates with feedback gathered in the live consultations where it was suggested that a stronger punk zine aesthetic might help clarify the composition so it tells a clearer story.

Overall sentiment of qualitative responses

| Total | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| Sentiment | No. | % |
| Positive | 55 | 55 |
| Positive / constructive | 15 | 15 |
| Neutral | 3 | 3 |
| Neutral / constructive | 13 | 13 |
| Negative | 9 | 9 |
| Negative / constructive | 5 | 5 |

| Constructive | No. | % |
|-------------------|-----|----|
| Colour | 11 | 24 |
| Context | 9 | 20 |
| People | 11 | 24 |
| Composition | 7 | 16 |
| Banners & symbols | 4 | 9 |
| NF platform | 3 | 7 |

Observations

- 70% of qualitative comments submitted at live consultation activities or through the website were either 'Positive' or 'Positive / constructive'.
- 14% of qualitative comments submitted at live consultation activities or through the website were either Negative' or 'Negative / constructive'.
- Colour, People and Context are the three most popular topics for constructive criticism

Design change recommendations:

Colour – Revisit the use of yellow and green in terms of the visual impact of these colours and how they help clarify the composition. E.g. What / who do they reveal and obscure.

Context – Ensure interpretation boards are installed alongside the artwork at launch.

People - Consider including Lewisham Mayor Ron Pepper if an appropriate image can be sourced.

Banners & symbols – Remove the 'National Front' banner and move the ALCARAF banner to a more central position.

NF platform - Consider ways in which the design can be altered to obscure the NF or minimise the risk of being perceived to give them a platform.

Composition – Consider revisiting the central third of the composition in order to address the perceived lack of clarity and focus. This could be achieved by altering contrast, adding white 'cut-out' lines etc. Consider whether the peaks of the buildings could be introduced. Explore how a stronger punk zine 'cut out' technique might provide clearer lines and greater structure to the composition.

APPENDIX 1 - Postcard comments

I love the “collage”, however I would like to see more labelling and information placed on the collage. Some people say too messy, but maybe an overview “page” – who knows – Well done. Love it!!!

[Positive / constructive | Context]

All looks fantastic – fully support this project – would love it to be very visible at the University

[Positive]

Please add Linton Kwasi Johnson! Otherwise I think it’s fantastic

[Positive / constructive | People]

Great. I like the design. Put it somewhere highly visible.

[Positive]

It looks great and really captured the atmosphere of the day.

[Positive]

I love it! It’s such a significant local event [event?] + should be celebrated. I teach history in Deptford Green School + feel it would be a wonderful resource.

[Positive]

More white faces. Union jack more prominent. What was the Battle of Lewisham? Context. Mirror riot shields. Union Jacks in the middle.

[Neutral / constructive | People / Banners and symbols / Context] these comments were from LPD 2018 and have already fed into design changes.]

More fighting / action please

[Neutral / constructive | Context] these comments were from LPD 2018 and have already fed into design changes]

Great idea – would be very important to site it right in the centre of New Cross where it can be seen + enjoyed by more people.

[Positive]

I like the pops of colour and the collage element

[Positive]

Well worth doing! It looks terrific and I especially like the colours.

[Positive]

Think about colours + shapes and where the eye is drawn to. Maybe an inclusive and accessible focus group. Think SPLD’s. I would like to see some of the imagery carried off the edge of the borders. A great project!

[Positive / constructive | Composition / Colour]

Fantastic and striking contemporary design. I would say visually to make 'smoke bombs' texture even more smoky on edges? Extend buildings at the top to see their outlines. Think carefully how put info / interpretation boards. Block of back of banner (red section) to have something else there?

[Positive / constructive | Composition / Colour]

Have loved learning about Battle of Lewisham through this consultation. Design is beautiful. Love the colour set against black / white background.

[Positive]

Really like the design & idea to commemorate this important event in local history.

[Positive]

It's a great idea, complicated to execute. Not sure the colour scheme work. An idea would be to twist the black and white photos towards colour so the smoke colour is not so isolated. Happy to help.

[Positive / constructive | Colour]

Looks great!

[Positive]

Very dramatic and impactful. It seems the only white person on the side of the protest is a vicar. It would be good if white people who were anti NF were shown. In fact, it makes it look a bit like black people fighting the police. This might give an inaccurate impression.

[Positive / constructive | People / Context] these comments were from LPD 2018 and have already fed into design changes]

This was the start of a mass counter movement against the Nazi NF. Lewisham stands proud. Now we face the threat of Football lads + Nazis again. Lewisham rise like lions again.

[Positive]

News headlines scattered in the "blank" part of the sky to give some background info for people to have an idea of what the event was about.

[Positive / constructive | Context] these comments were from LPD 2018 and have already fed into design changes]

Love the design

[Positive]

It's important to share. I respect that. And it's good to understand.

[Positive]

Barbara likes that even the NF is represented as well as everybody else.

[Positive | Notes by Ted]

Not sure about the colours. Don't like the white guys with the Union Jacks in the bottom right hand corner – surely this photo could be replaced with a better one, that fits with the rest of the picture in some way that the top right hand corner does.

[Negative constructive | People / Colour]

I feel it's great that such care and detail is being made to make this happen [heart shape]

[Positive]

It looks awesome!

[Positive]

Great. Maybe a bit more balance regarding who is seen / obscured i.e. guys behind Darcus "yellowed" out.

[Positive constructive | People]

I cannot tell what this is about without reading the banner in the corner. A more symbolic design like the one for the battle of cable street would be better.

[Negative]

Really happy to support this vital part of our South East London modern history identity – great idea!!

[Positive]

Would like to see dates and 'Battle of Lewisham' mentioned, otherwise it feels more of a generic but important statement. By 'complex story' – yes, we recognise, priest, police + protesters on both sides, but the complexity of the story? Not sure of the use of colour as looks random. How do we know what the symbolism of these colours is – but they help separate the composition and create focal points

[Neutral constructive | Context / Colour]

Looking forward to it!

[Positive]

Great idea. We need to remember to oppose any injustice, especially today, the world is going the wrong way – we must be vigilant, always!

[Positive]

A long overdue commemoration of an essential part of South London history. Fully support the mural + design.

[Positive]

Really good initiative. I like the picture but not sure about the colours they tend to hide the detail. Why is the background New Cross when it is called the Battle of Lewisham? I was 16 working in British Home Stores at the time. We all looked in while the riot went on around us. But I walked home the back way and it was quiet! It was a normal shopping day, where are all the ordinary shoppers?

[Positive / constructive | Colour / Context]

This mural is an important addition + conveys the history of the moment. It doesn't gloss the violence + is representative. Like the colours + look forward to the finished mural.

[Positive]

Very colourful, lovely painting. Whoever invented this is very talented ☺

[Positive]

It's essential that we remember events such as these, the memory inspires and creates change. Creativity and community art are vital components of society which are generally lacking the support of gov.

[Positive]

This happened the year I was born and makes me so proud of growing up in Lewisham and bringing my own children up in a beautifully diverse, creative community.

[Positive]

I think the mural is great and captures the Battle in both positive + negative ways + a sense of place. I was there. It was very frightening but also powerful.

[Positive]

Mural looks great! Colours really good because they're eye catching. I like the red for the banners on the right + the pink. Not sure about the yellow + green – maybe just have red and pink?

[Positive / Constructive | Colour]

Think the idea's really good – comparing to the cable street mural I think the Lewisham one should not shy away from showing the violence withstood by the antifascist protesters!!

[Positive]

Fabulous idea! I think this would be a wonderful feature for the community.

[Positive]

A potent symbol of people's response to racist provocation. All power to you.

[Positive]

I worry the words National Front might show this in a glamorous light.

[Negative / Constructive | People / NF platform]

Moving – vivid reminder of the event for those who lived through it in Lewisham. Reflects an important part of Lewisham history.

[Positive]

Good idea! The mural looks great and it will be a great addition to the Library façade.

[Positive]

Great idea, great design, Just do it!

[Positive]

More women and put the date on the building at the back that says Courage!

[Neutral constructive | People / Context]

Art should (I think) fuel debate and this mural will hopefully make people stop and think about the type of world we want to live in.

[Positive]

Excellent idea! Important to remember the heritage of the borough. Reflects the community + how far we have come.

[Positive]

Do it

[Positive]

Design is a bit busy and quite dark.

[Negative / Constructive | Composition / Colour]

Looks good great idea!

[Positive]

Brilliant idea. Should have been done years ago. Let's make it happen now!

[Positive]

It represents communities nicely

[Positive]

Great design.

[Positive]

Include Father Diamond. Needs to be on the high street. Put yellow below Darcus to emphasise.

[Neutral constructive | People / Colour – Will notes]

Need to explain what the colours symbolise – the different groups that were working together to oppose the NF. Really important the NF are there. They're people. Can't eradicate them.

[Neutral / Constructive | Colour / People – Will notes]

Something to connect it to current events for young people.

[Neutral / Constructive | Context – Will notes]

Great idea!

[Positive]

This should be displayed on exhibition. Excellent work. Deptford and the South East has progressed tremendously with the different races, classes interacting. It has brought forward a community that can live as one. Excellent work.

[Positive]

The design looks too 'busy'. It lacks a clear, high impact composition. RAR zines aesthetic, emphasis of diagonals, Darcus Howe, law of thirds would all help tell a complicated narrative. Best of luck.

[Neutral / Constructive | Composition]

Brilliant mural! Excellent idea!

[Positive]

A great initiative – and a really good design!

[Positive]

It's a good idea! Something important to celebrate, especially in this part of London. Also a good message for current and future Goldsmiths student!

[Positive]

Great idea. Make it happen. Good artwork.

[Positive]

APPENDIX 2 - Email responses

Total: 44 (33 individual)

Postcode: SE14

Comments: I love the design, but as this was a failed march that had to be abandoned, the art work should reflect that, and society still needs organisation such as these to be disbanded, so I think the banner with the wording National Front should be ripped also the NF sign, maybe behind it united colours. Also the British flag could have united colours, reflecting the melting pot we still are.

[Positive / constructive | Banners & Symbols / NF platform]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: I really like the design. The splashes of Rastafarian colours add colour to the design as well as acknowledging the Caribbean heritage of those involved. The splash of pink reminds me of punk and the non-BAME protesters. The images selected are very powerful e.g. Courage and the campaign banner are very poignant.

The most powerful images and the ones I like the most are those of the Black protestors in the centre of the artwork as this is a clear reminder that the 21 Black men arrested were the catalyst of the battle. The men doing the Black power salute is also a good reminder of the struggles and victories of the Black community.

[Positive]

Postcode: HA8

Comments: On the left-hand side there are not enough black people.

[Negative / constructive | People]

Postcode: SW11

Comments: Even though I grew up in South London (Brixton) I have never heard of the Battle of Lewisham. I suppose I was a bit too young and my first knowledge of mass public clashes were the 1981 Brixton Riots. Having now read about it and looked at the initial design I really like it. I love poster art and I am a professional photographer so I appreciate the use of documentary photography mixed with splashes of colour giving it the retro 70's feel. I think the message is relevant to today's politics. I don't live in the area so I am just passing on my positive opinion but really think the final decision should be made by local residents.

[Positive]

Postcode: SE8

Comments: Love it.

[Positive]

Postcode: Se13

Comments: Though it's exciting, I wonder if it's communicating strongly enough. I would like a more immediate anti-fascist message. It also depends how big it will be!

[Positive / constructive | Context]

Postcode:

Comments: Why show a national front banner? It needs to explain they were racists otherwise it feels like it is promoting them.

[Negative / constructive | NF platform]]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: So pleased to see it

[Positive]

Postcode: se23

Comments: I think the success of this design depends on the location it will be placed in. You may need to identify some potential sites to get a proper response to this. The location will put it into context. As it stands there is only one easily recognizable reference to the place in the artwork - the protest banner - and I'd suggest some more relevance to the area in the artwork itself. It might help younger generations identify with the sense of civic movement.

[Neutral | Location]

Postcode: SE15

Comments: I really like the design, especially the prominence of Darcus Howe. I think it reflects the size of the crowds that fought against the fascists and the emotions of that time.

[Positive]

Postcode: SE6

Comments: Dear madam, sir,
Here's my feedback about the proposed artwork.

I sincerely like the idea and the concept!

I think that the Union Jack or something about the UK should be on the left too, because if not first point of view will be for something going against the government.

I suggest to highlight more the anti-racism banner on the left to focus on the concept of the good will of the people going against the NF.

Finally, I would like to see the Mayor of Lewisham close to the Bishop, to highlight that was not just a religious organisation going against racism and fascism.

Hope this helps and thanks for the initiative!

[Positive / constructive: People / Banners & symbols]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: Perfect! I love it

[Positive]

Postcode: SE23

Comments: ok

[Neutral]

Postcode: Br1

Comments: I question whether it demonstrates what Lewisham is now and will be in the future. It pictures the past and perhaps ignites ill feeling and puts bad memories at the forefront. That is now behind us and we want to celebrate Lewisham especially communities coming together and Nhs, education, our future generation, our seniors, our breakdown of barriers.

[Negative]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: A reflective and arresting piece capturing various aspects of the battle. However, imagery on the bottom far right appears too dark and combined with the red, seems to clash. Not sure whether the images are meant to merge into each other and to appear faded and incongruous? Overall, a powerful reminder of our history.

[Positive / constructive: Composition]

Postcode: SE23

Comments: I was there in 77. Sums it up well for me

[Positive]

Postcode: se14

Comments: this whole project is a waste of money at a time when the council funds are under stress - continuing with this type of exercise is a hallmark of a fascist state where politics and dogma are more important than making sensible decisions

[Negative]

Postcode: SE6

Comments: To me this design does nothing to promote social unity - it just re-enforces the division by depicting the images of conflict. Surely it would be better to use less inflammatory images? Not happy with this as a local resident.

[Negative]

Postcode: SE14

Comments: I really like this design. I like the fact that it reflects the what was popular in terms of art and design in the 1970s

[Positive]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: Designed by a local artist, some reference to the present as well as the past.

[Neutral / constructive | Contemporary reference]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: The image does not represent what really happened. The police were protecting the National Front. Black people were not being protecting. War broke out.

[Negative]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: The design is fine. My thoughts are with regard to the location of the mural. I understand funding dictates its location, but there needs to be something in the heart of Lewisham by the clock tower or else what is the point? There are lots of side walls covered in graffiti, so why not something useful.

Are organisers speaking to freeholders? What about at the side of Santander Bank, or the entrance to Burtons Yard? Or a plaque by the clock tower. And well done Goldsmiths for putting this amount of work into real Lewisham living history. Thank you.

[Positive / constructive | Location]

Postcode: SE6

Comments: I love the design! I value the punk and resistance ethos that the design reflects: it speaks to then and now. The fight against racism is still vital. This has my full support. I hope the location will be prominent and historically relevant to the battle's location.

[Positive]

Postcode: SE12

Comments: The artwork looks only partially developed and could draw on the punk / zine aesthetic harder. The coloured smoke is nice, but I'd like to see more layering and hand cutout effects. Also it is hard for me to tell, but I would be extremely conscious of not giving a platform to any NF marchers. Hopefully you only have protestors in the collage.

[Neutral / constructive | Composition / NF platform]

Postcode: SE6

Comments: Love this design! The photo montage is striking and I love the use of colour, it really represents the eclectic communities (BAME/LGBTQ and more) that make up this part of SE London.

[Positive]

Postcode: se1

Comments: please contact me

[Neutral]

Postcode: SE13

Comments: Good cross section of community. Important to see Bishop of Southwark (all of south London) bottom left. All churches worked together at that time to condemn racism and to reject NF hatred. Still doing that today. St Mary's Lewisham

[Positive]

Postcode: SE14

Comments: Goldsmiths has no right to align itself with this movement of anti-racist defiance while BAME students are being treated with violence and disrespect in Deptford Town Hall. Open the doors to the building, listen to your BME students, and stop masquerading as a progressive uni.
-Concerned Lewisham Resident.

[Negative]

Postcode: SE6

Comments: I lived in Catford since 1970 and do not remember this event - it can't have been very significant so why waste money on it?? especially Council Tax money which I cannot afford anyway!!! and the design is aggressive and obnoxious.

[Negative]

Postcode: SE12

Comments: It is a little confusing and the NF name and presence is so prominent. It almost looks as though it's trying to present both sides as equivalent - which is morally wrong and risky in this divided contemporary political climate. It would be more useful if it focused on the anti-fascists. This has such strong contemporary resonance and it would be better not to include so much National Front - there's enough fascist graffiti appearing on streets as it is. I appreciate it may be historically accurate to include, but without interpreting the history responsibly this artwork risks endorsing extremist rightwing politics. Please, please reconsider.

[Negative constructive | NF platform]

Postcode:

Comments: need to know about the ug courses in design as well as the opportunities after completing graduation

[Neutral]

Postcode: SE14

Comments: I recollect police officers suffering several injuries containing racists intent on causing havoc and intimidating Lewisham's black residents.

The mural gives the impression that police were marching with the fascists!

Just as an indication how badly this could go wrong, during the 2005 Lewisham Black History Month I ran for and boarded a bendy bus carrying heavy shopping.

The bus looked empty from the rear, but once aboard I saw the lower section to the front was packed with mostly elderly people, while the seats at the back were occupied by half a dozen young black

youths lounging across two seats with their feet on the seats opposite. I took a seat and placed my shopping beside me. Then I discovered why the elderly residents cowered at the front of the bus!

It began with "You put your bag on his trainers" which I didn't! It escalated to threats to slap my head and stab me but they weren't carrying knives. Then began the poking of their fingers into my eye, stopping a centimetre or two short of impact. I didn't blink or flinch!

During this exchange one shouted 'People like you made us slaves!' to justify his attack!

Well done Lewisham, what a success this poster will be.....for those wishing to inflame relations between the police and black youth!

Perhaps you' imagine real success will be making the job of the police so difficult they completely abandon the streets allowing criminal gangs to take complete control!

Best wishes

[Negative]

The following responses are from the same individual:

Postcode: Se13

Comments: Stop wasting public money.

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Comments: How about a mural for the 51 souls killed outside marks and spencers during ww2 and the 200 seriously injured by a v1 rocket, and not a mural for an event that lasted for 6 whole hours back in the seventies. True victims of fascism.

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Comments: Make some room for the poor souls killed outside marks and Spencer's Lewisham high street by a v1 rocket during the war, true victims of fascism, how many people died in the so called battle for Lewisham 0 ?

Comments: Make some room for the poor souls killed outside marks and Spencer's Lewisham high street by a v1 rocket during the war, true victims of fascism, how many people died in the so called battle for Lewisham 0 ?

Comments: the battle of Lewisham, don,t make me laugh,i was caught up in that march inadvertently, it was a bunch of thugs goading the police in Lewisham high st.Its the 75th anniversary of the year 51 people died and 200 seriously injured by a V1 rocket outside M&S in lewisham high st.True victims of fascism . I guess that horrific incident is not diverse enough for you plebs.

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people died and 200 seriously injured by a V1 rocket outside M&S in Lewisham High St. True victims of fascism. I guess that horrific incident is not diverse enough for you plebs.

Comments: battle for Lewisham, HA! HA! TEE HEE !

CHECK OUT THE MEMORIAL OUTSIDE MARK AND SPENSER LEWISHAM HIGH ST YOU DWEEBES.

Comments: the battle for Lewisham tee hee, i observed it, a bunch of yobs goading the old bill, and you dweebs want to make a mural of it, smirk, titter.

Comments: I wonder how you could include in this design my mother being spat at and called a white bitch several times as she returned from shopping at Tesco or me standing on Lewisham Hill and a car with some blacks in it stopping, looking at me and calling me a white bastard. Or the estate near Ladywell station where some friends of mine had to endure a lot of black hatred towards them before the housing association finally relented and rehoused them. Maybe a square inch of this mural can reflect that?. Diversity, stick it where the sun doesn't shine !

Comments: Don't waste public money on this tat Use it for the elderly.t

[Negative]