New works of art offer a tremendous opportunity to engage visitors and congregations, and to bring new items of beauty into your cathedral. They can also have a significant impact on the character of a cathedral.

We can advise you on the commissioning process to make sure the impact is the one you want.

**Download our guidance**

Where to begin?
Develop an arts policy
We strongly encourage you to develop an arts policy for your cathedral to provide a framework for the installation of new works of art, and to guide the development of specific proposals.

This policy should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and any application for a new art work should make reference to it.

Appoint someone to manage the process
We strongly recommend that a named member of Chapter or the senior cathedral team manages any proposal to install a new work of art. They don't need to be artistic themselves, but they should have a good understanding of what the cathedral wants from the commission, and take charge of the process.

Talk to your cathedral architect and archaeologist
You should develop proposals in close discussion with your cathedral architect and cathedral archaeologist so that the impact of the work is understood and any necessary mitigation measures are incorporated from an early stage.

Write a brief
Any new work of art should respond to a clear brief.

Set up an expert group
If you are going to select an artist by open or limited competition, it is advisable for you to establish an expert group to assist you in decision making.

What permissions do you need?
When the installation of a new work of art is proposed we assess its effect on the cathedral’s character and fabric.

Permanent installations
They usually require permission from your Fabric Advisory Committee.

But the Commission has the right to “call-in” the application for its own determination if it feels that the proposal gives rise to considerations of special interest.

You will also need to apply to the Commission if an installation requires a permanent alteration to the cathedral fabric.

Temporary installations
They do not require permission under the Measure, as long as they do not have a material effect on the fabric of the cathedral (e.g. significant physical intervention)

But you should still take advice on an installation from your Fabric Advisory Committee

“Temporary” means a period of up to twelve months.

What do we look for in your application?