

# LOWRY



## Research Brief: LS Lowry, The Lowry and the City of Salford: 1887 to 2025

### Project

To research, write and share a comprehensive and insightful narrative about the enduring relationships between the artist LS Lowry, the city of Salford and its communities, and The Lowry as part of a broader programme of events and activities marking The Lowry's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2025.

*Lowry Turns 25* is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we will deliver an ambitious heritage project celebrating Lowry's 25th anniversary, bringing local histories to life, and exploring L.S. Lowry's legacy as a champion of working class and industrial heritage.

### Background

Lowry was opened in 2000 as one of a number of projects designed to mark the close of the second millennium and celebrate the start of the third. A multi-art venue presenting a diverse programme of theatre and visual art, and located at Salford Quays, we are the most visited attraction in Greater Manchester and home to Salford's collection of paintings and drawings by LS Lowry.

The artist LS Lowry (1887-1976) was closely associated with the city of Salford. Throughout the course of his long life, his fascination with industrial landscape underpinned key aspects of his artistic output. His interpretation of daily life in Salford and Greater Manchester has helped shaped people's perceptions of these cities in the 20th century.

In Lowry's lifetime, Salford underwent significant change, from the height of its industrial influence in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, through an extended period of industrial decline, to its modern-day status as a thriving cultural, economic and residential city; the catalyst for which being the opening of The Lowry in 2000.

### Research touchpoints

- **Salford in 1887**

Examine Salford's landscape and social conditions in 1887, the year LS Lowry was born, described by Frederick Engels' at the time as a place of 'filth and wretchedness'.

- **Salford by 1926**

Investigate the changes in Salford by the time it was formally established as a city in 1926, focusing on industrial growth, urban development, and social changes, and how LS Lowry's work reflected these.

- **Salford by 1976**

Analyse further transformations in Salford by the time of LS Lowry's death in 1976, including post-war developments and urban decline, and how LS Lowry's work reflected these

- **The Lowry's opening in 2000**

Study the impact on the City of Salford of the opening of The Lowry in 2000, as a catalyst for social, cultural and urban regeneration.

- **Salford, LS Lowry and The Lowry in 2025**

Assess how The Lowry has transformed both the City of Salford, as a catalyst for social, cultural and economic regeneration, well as playing a pivotal role in celebrating and interrogating the legacy of LS Lowry for today's audiences and communities, including the organisation's role in the preservation and continuation of LS Lowry's relationship with the people of the city.

### **Dissemination of the research**

The results of this research are to be shared with the people of Salford and beyond. This will include an illustrated lecture, to be delivered by the researcher, on 1 November 2025, at The Lowry, as well as in published and digital form. This will include a comprehensive report, documenting methodologies, findings and narratives, as well as data analysis and visual aids as appropriate

Additional methods of disseminating the research will also be explored.

### **Timeline**

Call out	Tuesday 25 February 2025
Proposal Deadline	09.00 on Thursday 20 March 2025
Notification of candidates for interview	17.00 on Friday 21 March 2025
Shortlisting interviews	27 March 2025
Research Commencement	7 April 2025
Interim Report Submission	27 June 2025
Final Report Submission	4 August 2025
Lecture Date	1 November 2025

**Project budget:**

This project is being funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A sum of up to £11,000 will cover the project fee which includes research, planning, meetings, travel, mailings, stationery and other materials and resources as required.

Proposals should itemise daily or hourly rates and demonstrate how many days or hours you will spend on the project.

**We will be looking for:****Essential**

- Proven writing, research and presentation skills
- Skills in the identification and use of primary and secondary sources and online resources with a particular ability to conduct in-person interviews with people from a range of different backgrounds
- Ability to uncover stories of the past and explain them in a modern context
- Data gathering and handling skills, from reliable sources
- Budgeting abilities to ensure the project stays within its predetermined budgetary plan, including tracking spending and reporting as required
- Strong interpersonal and communication abilities

**Desirable**

- A knowledge of the history of the city of Salford, and its key archival sources
- A knowledge of the work of LS Lowry
- Experience of public speaking

**Sources to consider:**

- **Interviews and Oral Histories:** Oral Histories, including those generated by a sister project One Lowry: Many Stories, as part of the wider 'The Lowry Turns 25' programme.
- **Literature Review:** Conduct a thorough review of existing literature on Salford's history, LS Lowry's life and works, and the development of The Lowry.
- **Archival Research:** Local and national archives to gather historical data, photographs, maps, and documents.

- **Field Studies:** Conduct site visits to key locations in Salford, including historical landmarks, The Lowry, and areas of significant urban change.
- **Data Analysis:** Analyse demographic, economic, and cultural data to understand the impact of urban and cultural developments (potentially including the recent economic and social impact report commissioned by The Lowry and produced by Lichfields in 2024: <https://the-lowry-site.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/uploads/2024/05/Making-Culture-Count-Full-Lichfields-Report.pdf> )

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- **Relevance and Feasibility:** Proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance to the objectives, feasibility of the research plan, and the ability to meet the deliverables within the timeline and budget.
- **Expertise and Experience:** The expertise and experience of the researcher in historical research, urban studies, and cultural analysis.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Innovative approaches to research and presentation.

#### Submission Guidelines: Please note word count limits where given.

- **Research project title:** Please give a brief working title for your proposed research project.
- **Introduction:** Please introduce your proposed research project (in no more than 100 words).
- **Research context, questions and significance:** Elaborating on the introduction, please explain (in no more than 500 words) the context, questions and significance of your proposed research. This section should identify the key literature in the field and explain how your research seeks to intervene in, and/or contribute to, this area of scholarship. You should set out your research questions clearly and explain why they are important. When considering the significance of your research, you should identify which disciplines and/or fields of study will benefit from this project.
- **Research methods, project plan and timetable:** Please explain (in no more than 500 words) how you intend to answer your research questions as set out in the previous section. This should address your research methods and a project plan and timetable.
  - **Methods:** Your focus here will vary depending on your discipline and research topic. This section may address: key materials and/or sources for your research (e.g. texts, archives, collections, databases, field sites, research participants); specific research methods and/or methodological approaches; any ethical issues that you will need to address in undertaking your research.

- **Plan:** You should include a short plan for completing the project within the period of the award. This should outline the time it will take to research and write up each section of your proposed project.
- **Reference list:** Use this section to provide details of key artworks referred to in your research proposal, up to a maximum of twenty.
- **Please include a CV with your submission**

**Contact:** For any queries or further information, please contact:

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