

## Press Release

23 May 2017

### **London Met appoints acclaimed landscape architects to create 'landmark' community campus**

London Met has appointed landscape architecture practice Gustafson Porter + Bowman to design a new public square within its Holloway campus which will transform both the campus and local area.

Gustafson Porter + Bowman are renowned for creating original and engaging spaces in urban areas. Their work includes Swiss Cottage Open Space in Camden, Woolwich Squares in Greenwich, the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in London's Hyde Park, and the redevelopment of Nottingham's Old Market Square - winner of 13 awards including a Civic Trust Award and the Design Council's CABE Award.

The practice will now work with London Met students, staff and the local community to create an inspiring community space which has the potential to become an 'Islington landmark'.

In 2015 London Met announced plans to invest £125m to redevelop its Holloway campus as part of its One Campus, One Community project.

Professor John Raftery, Vice Chancellor of London Met, said: "I'm delighted that the world class Gustafson Porter + Bowman will be working with us on this exciting and important project.

"We want the people of Islington to feel as much a part of London Met as our students and staff do. Creating a new shared public space at the heart of our campus will be a contribution to our community and better reflect our values as a university. We believe education should be available to all with the potential to succeed, and that universities must work with, and benefit their local communities.

"We believe this project has the potential to create a landmark space in Holloway, and I look forward to hearing from students, staff and local residents on their visions for the square."

Gustafson Porter + Bowman were selected to develop the University's central courtyard following a competitive tendering process, which included a panel of London Met staff and students.

Neil Porter, Founding Partner, Gustafson Porter + Bowman, said: “We are delighted to be working with London Metropolitan University and Design Engine on their masterplan to transform the Holloway campus. The intention is to unify the disparate collection of existing buildings by providing a new square that acts as the destination and heart of campus life.

The design will need to respond to the redevelopment of the surrounding building’s to ensure that the square forms part of a forward-looking and buzzing educational facility.

We look forward to working with the University and the local community to develop our design.”

The University will now hold a number of engagement events, including consultations with students, staff, and the public, to hear views on how the space can be best developed and the features they would like to see included.

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### **Notes to editors**

- Image: Concept sketches showing potential design of new square courtesy of Gustafson Porter + Bowman. A full consultation will shortly take place to develop ideas and designs for the square.

### **Contact**

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### **About London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. Six schools teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2016, London Met recorded its

highest ever graduate employment score, with 93% of all 2014/15 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation. It was also ranked above all five Russell Group universities in London for teaching quality in 2016.

[londonmet.ac.uk/news](http://londonmet.ac.uk/news)

### **About Gustafson Porter + Bowman**

Gustafson Porter + Bowman is an award-winning landscape architecture practice which has received public acclaim for creating authentically engaging spaces within a global portfolio. The development of their design work has continuously pushed the boundaries of what constitutes the field of landscape design and is known for its sensual and sculptural features.

Spanning climate zones, geographical characters, historical and cultural backgrounds, their exciting and varied projects include The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial in Hyde Park, Zeytouneh Square in Beirut, Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam, the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the first ever landscape installation at the 11th Architecture Biennale in Venice.

Established in 1997, Gustafson Porter + Bowman's designs draw inspiration from the uniqueness of places and are typified by the use of advanced computation tools in the development of topographical landforming.