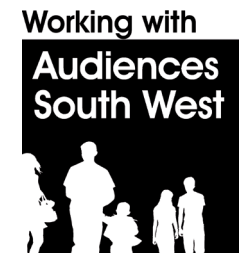


Dorset/Swindon/Torbay

Artist's Brief: Commission 2010



Dorset/Swindon/Torbay Commission 2010

Background and information about Commission

Since Autumn 2008, the local authorities from Torbay, Dorset and Swindon have been working in partnership with Arts Council England SW and Audiences South West on a project to increase participation in the arts (National Indicator 11 – Ni11). This initiative to increase engagement has brought together the 3 authorities to work on how this might be addressed.

The first stage of this project involved working on audience development and organisation capacity.

We are now entering Phase Two and wish to commission artist/artists to produce for us a world class piece of work.

We are keen to leave a legacy of skills and aspiration beyond this initial event, and want to explore the role of digital technology in reaching and engaging with new and existing audiences.

The medium we have therefore chosen for this commission is light and sound incorporating up to the minute technologies and creativity. The work will be an iconic piece of art, innovative in its field.

Where and when

The commissioned piece will be showcased three times - once in each locality. The piece will be used to close a festival/event that each authority is working on.

The dates for these are:

Swindon - Saturday 10th July 2010

Dorset - Sunday 26th September 2010

Torbay - Summer 2010 tbc

Each festival/event takes place outside and the successful artist could utilise a piece of the landscape as a canvas for their work. At present the canvases have been identified as:

Swindon - Lydiard Park

Swindon Arts Renaissance Partnership will be holding a big arts day at Lydiard Park on Saturday 10th July 2010. We would like a 'finale' performance to be showcased on the front of our gorgeous House (right).



This event will be for all communities in Swindon – it’s about bringing us together to enjoy the wealth of arts activities on offer Swindon and put on a spectacular event, which will include live music, performances, community engagement, art and much more.

Lydiard House and Park have recently benefited from major HLF investment and we are also seeking an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of the park, the architecture and the landscape as well the heritage and sense of ownership for the people of Swindon.

Torbay - Rock Walk / Royal Terrace Gardens

The Torbay event will take place on the last night of a Cultural Olympiad project entitled ‘GeoQuest’. This project will have been building over the summer ending in a weekend of shared performances by the community who engaged with Geoquest. These will be produced by Dartington Arts and will be rooted firmly in the Geopark status of Torbay - a key aim of the project is to build awareness of the position of Torbay in the Geopark network.

The canvas for the commissioned work will be Rock Walk in Torquay - an imposing cliff and Victorian gardens which are currently undergoing a massive creatively led restoration programme to be completed in Summer 2010. (*Project details and site maps available on request*).



More information on Torbay’s Geopark status can be found here - www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk

Dorset - Weymouth

The Weymouth event will take place as part of the B-side Festival 2010. “B-Side” (the seaside) is a multi-media, site-specific arts festival, animating public spaces in Weymouth and Portland during September. It prioritises young and emerging artists from across the South West region.

The commission will form a major platform for raising the bar for work within the festival. Funding for the 2010 event is already in place and the programme is being developed.



There are a number of possibilities for the Weymouth leg of the project, the actual site will have to be negotiated between the selected company, the site owners, and the B-Side steering group.

*Photos’ of other possible sites can be viewed via this link:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/alan_rogers/4105267899/in/set-72157622813863366*

Weymouth and Portland is the venue for the 2012 Olympic sailing event and the work in Weymouth should look to use the regency seafront as a backdrop to the commissioned work. The specific site will be negotiated with the B-side festival organisers. The seafront in Weymouth is capable of attracting audiences of 100,000 for specific events. It is envisaged that the commissioned work will be large scale. Previous events of this kind have attracted audiences of 10,000.

The Brief

We are looking for an artist or organization that sees collaboration as part of their practice. They must have experience in reaching and engaging new audiences in new, experimental art forms that challenge and transform.

We would like each applicant to send a recent CV or links, examples of past work and a statement (not more than 500 words) about how they would respond to this commission. We are not expecting specific proposals for the final work, but instead a sense of how the applicant would organise their time to create a relevant art work for the clients.

As part of the commission we would hope the successful artist(s) will consider working with an artist/new talent from each authority. The successful applicant will have carefully balanced the requirements of each site whilst at the same time appreciating the partnerships desire to link the three elements of the commission and highlight a thread between the elements. The work must be reflective of the environment, audience and project aspirations.

Funding

We have a total budget of £28,000 inclusive of fee's and materials and tax. The budget for the project would be agreed with the artist and managed by Swindon Borough Council.

Timeline

Call Closes: 8th January 2010

Successful artists informed no later than: 15th January 2010

Interviews: 20th January 2010, Bristol

Please send all info to:

Anna.Gilroy@torbay.gov.uk or by post to Anna Gilroy, Arts Development Officer, Torbay Council, Resident & Visitors Services, Tor Hill House, Union Street, Torquay TQ2 5QW.