



Armagh City and District Council Public Artwork, Market Square, Armagh

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Armagh City and District Council is calling for expressions of Interest (**Tender Ref: 12/09/10**) for a new public artwork from experienced and suitably qualified artists or design teams. The public artwork will be located at the Market Square in Armagh, in front of the Market Place Theatre. At the time of advertisement, the total budget available for the artwork is £75,000. **The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is STRICTLY 4pm, Friday 8th January 2010. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Applicants are requested to read the full contents of this document carefully as it contains important information about the Expression of Interest Application Process and terms of reference.

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1. APPLICATION PROCESS

Stage 1: The purpose of Stage 1 is to invite Expression of Interest applications with outline concepts from artists/design teams from which a suitably selected and qualified panel can short-list artists to work up detailed design proposals. The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest and outline concepts will be **STRICTLY 4pm, Friday 8th January 2010**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Stage 2: The Public Art Selection Panel will short-list a maximum of 6 artists/design teams for the site who will be invited to work up detailed design proposals for presentation to the public art selection panel and elected representatives from Armagh City and District Council. Artists Short-listed for Stage 2 will be notified by week ending **15th January 2010** and forwarded a detailed brief and design contract by week ending **22nd January 2010**. Detailed designs, including maquettes if supplied, will be presented by artists in person to a special joint meeting of the Public Art Selection Panel and elected representatives from Armagh City and District Councillors on **Monday 15th March 2010**. The successful artist/design team will be notified by the beginning of April, 2010.

2. BACKGROUND : PUBLIC ART MARKET SQUARE, ARMAGH

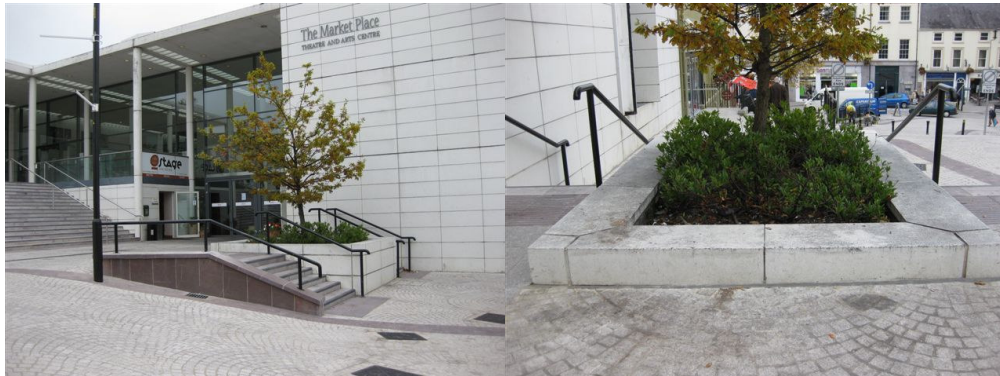
The new artwork is to be located at Market Square, outside the Market Place Theatre. The Market Square has recently benefited from a major refurbishment as part of a city-wide streetscape regeneration scheme that has re-vitalised 11 streets in Armagh City. The upper section of the newly refurbished square is intended to act as a pedestrianised focal point for the city and a venue for public events and performances. The slope of the square acts as a natural amphitheatre and a successful music event has already taken place in the square in September 2009. It is hoped that the new artwork, which is being funded by Armagh City and District Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department of Social Development will contribute to Armagh's growing sense of civic pride and confidence as a city of culture and rich heritage.

Armagh City lays claim to being the oldest City in Ireland. Emain Macha or Navan on the outskirts of the City is the oldest settlement in Ireland and seat of the Kings of Ulster for over 700 years. Some of Ireland's most famous people have important connections with the City, not least Saint Patrick who made Armagh the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland in the 5th century, and it remains so until the present day. The famous Book of Armagh which is housed in Trinity Library, Dublin contains the earliest writings that have come down to us relating to St. Patrick. Over the years the gifts of many benefactors and visionaries have transformed Armagh into a unique and rich cultural environment, alive with beautiful architecture and striking public buildings. The building of a state-of-the-art Theatre and Arts Centre at Market Square in 2000 has brought vibrancy, creativity and life back to the heart of old City, and with the newly completed refurbishment of Market Square, it is hoped the new artwork will add to these improvements.



The Market Place Theatre, Armagh

3. ARTIST'S BRIEF, MARKET SQUARE, ARMAGH



Location for new artwork

Location: The artwork is to be situated near the main entrance of the Market Place Theatre on the site of a raised plinth that is currently planted with a tree. The Square is an historic focal point of the city and has been the civic centre for many centuries, with an 11th century market cross marking its centre. The weekly market, which is still located near the Market House, has been held here for hundreds of years and a new piece of wall art celebrating the market is to be placed in the lower section of Market Street in early 2010. With the construction of the Market Place Theatre in 2000, and more recently the refurbishment and opening of the city cinema next to the Theatre the area is once again a busy cultural hub, especially in the evenings with visitors enjoying film and live music and theatre events.

The site is overlooked by Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral at the top of the hill with the former Market House, now public library, located at the lower end of the square. The sloping public space with newly created steps and plazas creates a natural amphitheatre that acts as an ideal venue for concerts and music events, with temporary staging situated at the lower end of the square to the rear of the Market House.



Technical Information for Site: Armagh City and District Council commissioned a structural engineer's report of the proposed site and can provide the following information for artists:

- The planter in which the sculpture is to be located is constructed of masonry block walls that are 480mm thick. The internal dimensions of the planter 1940mm X 3140 mm. At the low side of the steps its height is 1130mm and at the high side 240mm.
- The foundation type could not be specified, but it was assumed by the structural engineer to be standard strip foundation and slab/raft located on the original sub-soil.
- With regard to services, there is a gas control valve located in the corner of the planter. It measures 500mm X 900mm.
- A foul sewer manhole also exists to the low side of the planter.
- As the proposed artwork is to be located in the planter, the base will be to the internal size, less the area occupied by the gas control valves. On the basis of this, assuming normal ground conditions, the sculpture weight should be kept below 25 tonnes.
- The height of the artwork will be dependant on the surface area catching the wind, and was reported to be difficult to assess at this stage and assumed will be dictated by the artwork's visual aspect.
- The report recommended that a maximum height of 10 metres be used, although this will need to be subject to further review, depending on such factors as materials to be used, total weight and vertical surface area.

Available Services: There is a nearby electricity and water supply for any artist wishing to incorporate light or water as part of the sculpture, although this is not a pre-requisite of the brief. Any work involved in extending the services to the site will be part of the overall budget.

Materials: The brief does not specify the materials to be used, but the artwork is intended to be permanent and of high quality, to reflect the quality standards set by the materials used in the streetscape regeneration. Therefore should be made of high quality, durable materials which require minimum maintenance.

Other Considerations: The artwork is located within a conservation area and will be subject to planning approvals which Armagh City and District Council will apply for. The successful artist will be expected to provide satisfactory drawings and elevations to satisfy planning procedures and this will be part of the overall fee for the commission. On completion of the project, the successful artist will be required to provide an engineer's certificate to satisfy the Department of the Environment and the Council that the artwork has been designed, constructed and installed in accordance with current engineer's standards and judgements.

Site Visit, Workshops and Public Consultation: Artist's short-listed to submit detailed designs will be expected to attend a site visit before submitting their final design (See Section 6 for details of eligible expenses). The successful artist will be expected to run as part of the commission a total of 3 x 2 hour workshops with the local community. Council staff will organise these and facilitate venues in consultation with the artist. There may also be the requirement to attend additional meetings regarding the public art programme, although these will be kept to a minimum and scheduled in consultation with the artist. Artists' fees for undertaking these workshops and meetings are included in the overall fee.

4. PUBLIC ART SELECTION PANEL/STEERING GROUP

The public art selection panel is comprised of 6 City Councillors, 3 Council officers (Strategic Director of Regeneration and Development, Urban Regeneration Officer and Director of the Market Place Theatre), an experienced and qualified artist and representative from Armagh City Centre Management, an astronomer from Armagh Observatory, the Public Art Coordinator, the Director of the AMMA centre (Multi-Media Education Centre located in the Market House), the Landscape Architect for the Streetscape regeneration scheme, Roads Engineer for the Department of Regional Development and a representative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

This panel will be responsible for all short-listing and selection procedures as well as overall management of the project. Elected Representatives will be present at the Stage 2 presentations and final decisions of the panel will be ratified at a full meeting of elected representatives of Armagh City and District Council.

5. STAGE 1 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must include the following:

- 5.1 An Artist's CV setting out relevant experience of successfully delivering other similar public realm artworks. The CV should run to no more than 3 pages.
- 5.2 Examples of previous work (no more than 10). Artists are advised to submit both hard copy and CD/DVD representations of their work.
- 5.3 A written outline of the artist's or group's concept and statement of intent for the site, and proposed materials. This should not exceed 500 words. Artists may if they wish submit outline drawings or sketches, although Armagh City and District Council **DO NOT** require detailed designed proposals or maquettes at Stage 1 as these will be requested from artists who are short-listed for the Stage 2 process.
- 5.4 Names and contact details of two referees.
- 5.5 Provision of a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for return of proposal, if required.

Please note:

Artists who will be working with a sub-contracted fabricator are strongly advised to submit a joint proposal with their intended fabricator at Stage 1.

6. NOTES ON BUDGETS, FEES AND EXPENSES FOR SHORT-LISTED ARTISTS

- 6.1 **£500** will be paid to up to 6 artists successfully short-listed for Stage 2 for the Market Square artwork, **in order to work up a detailed design proposal** and create a maquette and/or computerised 3-D model. This fee will include any postage or courier costs involved in transporting the maquette.
- 6.2 Essential travel costs of **up to a maximum of £500** will be paid **to facilitate expenses associated with a site visit and to make a formal presentation of the final maquette** and /or computerised 3-D model to the public art selection panel. Receipts for all legitimate expenditure will have to be provided in order to claim travel expenses. Please note that any additional costs will have to be met by the artist.
- 6.3 The successful artist/design team will be responsible for the design and creation of the art work including foundations and final installation within the budget of £75,000. The budget of £75,000 will include any further artists design fees, expenses, foundation costs, materials, insurances, production and manufacturing, engineer's reports, community consultation/workshops and installation fees, transport costs, and other necessary fees in order to finalise the installation of the public art piece. The successful artist/design team will be required to sub-contract and project manage all associated work for the public art piece, and to liaise with Armagh City and District Council or their appointed representative in providing information required to secure all required statutory approvals such as planning and technical approval.
- 6.4 The overall fee also should include any re-landscaping of the site and additional lighting that the artwork may require.
- 6.5 Short-listed artists/ design teams will be expected to submit an itemised project budget that identifies all costs, including contingencies. It must cover all disbursements, design, documentation, materials, foundation costs, manufacturing and the delivery to the site of the finished art work, including all health and safety requirements.

7. APPLICANT/S SELECTION CRITERIA for SHORT LISTING AT STAGE 1.

Applicants will be evaluated against the following selection criteria:

- 7.1 Relevant experience and success in delivering high quality and innovative public realm artworks, with a track record of having delivered projects within prescribed time-scales and budgets. (40 points)
- 7.2 Proven understanding of and ability to respond to urban contexts. This will be assessed from artist's CV and examples of previous work. (40 points)
- 7.3 The strength and merit of the artist's/design teams statement of intent and its relevance and suitability to the site. (20 Points)

8. ARTIST/ DESIGN TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful artist/design team will be responsible for:

- 8.1 Liaising with Armagh City and District Council Urban Regeneration Officer and the Public Art Co-ordinator on all aspects of the project
- 8.2 Providing all necessary drawings, elevations and other such drawings required for the securing of statutory planning approvals.
- 8.3 Documenting the project design and specifications
- 8.4 Supplying and funding all materials required for the project, including foundations, artwork materials, as well as all transport and works safety requirements
- 8.5 Ensuring appropriate work site safety procedures are undertaken throughout the preparation of the foundations and installation of the public art.
- 8.6 The fabrication and installation of the works;
- 8.7 The provision of a structural engineer report for foundations and final installation, satisfying planners and the Council that the foundations and artwork comply with current engineering standards.
- 8.8 Completing the project within the timeframe and budget provided;
- 8.9 Contributing to marketing activities such as photo shoots, allowing use of concept drawings, providing artist statements and any other reasonable activity requested by Council to promote the project;
- 8.10 Contributing to reporting and evaluation at the conclusion of the commission;
- 8.11 Attending Public Art Steering Group meetings when required;
- 8.12 Providing Council with operating and maintenance instructions and costs;
- 8.13 Conducting a series of artist led workshops with local community groups and key stakeholders;
- 8.14 Regularly updating the Urban Regeneration Officer/Public Art Co-ordinator on project development;
- 8.15 Provision of an integrated artist's statement as part of completed art work.

9. ARMAGH CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Council is responsible for:

- 9.12 Monitoring the project through the Urban Regeneration Officer, Public Art Co-ordinator and Public Art Selection Panel/Steering Group;
- 9.2 Providing the artist/design team with support through the Public Art Co-ordinator, Public Art Co-ordinator and the Public Art Advisory Committee;
- 9.3 Overall Project Management and supervision;
- 9.4 Drafting the Commission Agreement and Contracts;
- 9.5 Primary artist/team contact;
- 9.6 Providing community contacts;
- 9.7 Project marketing and reporting;
- 9.8 Advising the artist/ team if in the future the art work needs to be relocated or intentionally modified, or destroyed;
- 9.9 Facilitating community relationships as requested and as suitable;
- 9.10 Setting up and documenting appropriate consultation procedures with the ACDC community;
- 9.11 Overseeing the budget for the project;
- 9.12 Obtaining planning permission and paying all statutory planning fees.

10. PROJECT TIMELINE

KEY DATES FOR MARKET SQUARE PUBLIC ARTWORK	
Event	Date
Deadline for Receipt of Expressions of Interest	8 TH Jan 2010
Short-listing of Artists for Detailed Design Phase (Stage 2)	By week ending 15 th Jan 2010
Letters to short-listed artists with detailed artist brief and tender documents.	By week ending 22 nd Jan 2010
Detailed Design Phase for Short-listed Artists	25 th Jan – 15 th Mar 2010
Site visit for short-listed artists	By Mon 8 th February 2010
Presentation of Detailed Design Proposals and Maquettes to Public Art Selection Panel and Elected Representatives	15 th Mar 2010
Recommendations to Council re appointment of artist for commission.	By 31 st Mar 2010
Conditional letters to successful artists	By 9 th Apr 2010
Securing of Planning Permission for site	By 30 th June 2010
Signing and agreeing of final Artist's Contract	By 9 th July 2010
Deadline for completion of Project	10 th Dec 2010

11. OWNERSHIP

The Public Art Work becomes the property of Armagh City and District Council after installation by artist/design team and acceptance by Armagh City and District Council. A contract for this project will provide for the appropriate care and maintenance of the work, artist's copyright and acknowledgement.

12. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The successful artist will be engaged by Armagh City and District Council and the payment schedule will be as follows:

- 5% will be paid upon submission of the Planning Application
- 35% will be paid upon signing of contract once Planning Approval is secured;
- 30% will be paid upon completion of the artwork;
- 30% will be paid upon acceptance of work by Council and the completion of the reporting requirements to Council.

13. SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest responding to this brief and addressing the appropriate selection criteria should be forwarded by recorded delivery in hard copy by 4pm on Friday 8th January 2010 or by hand (if delivered by hand applicants should ensure they get a receipt):

Expression of Interest for Public Art Works
The Purchasing Officer
Armagh City and District Council
The Council Offices
The Palace Demesne
Armagh
BT60 4EL

Late, faxed or emailed submissions will not be considered. The Public Art Selection Panel and Council's decisions will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

14. CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Applicants may contact the Urban Regeneration Officer for further information in writing, by phone or email.

Dawn Park
Urban Regeneration Officer
Armagh City and District Council
(T) 028 3752 9632
dawn.park@armagh.gov.uk