

# ART IN REGENERATION

## Invitation for Expressions of Interest Lozells, Newtown, and Aston, West Midlands, UK

Birmingham City Council, Strategic Housing Division are looking for community artists to deliver projects in the Lozells and Aston areas of North West Birmingham.

Each of the chosen artists will be asked to work with up to 5 local primary schools and one Secondary School to develop temporary works of art reflecting social, economic and environmental changes taking place in Lozells, Newtown, or Aston. The programme celebrates the culture and pride of local community, its heritage and its future.

The programme is funded by Urban Living with a view to expanding work carried out with schools in other areas of N.W. Birmingham namely Ladywood and Hockley/Spring Hill.

**BCC Housing Department is currently looking for community artists to deliver a series of temporary art works, in any discipline, to be delivered between January 2009 and March 2009.**

**Selected artists will be required to attend a programmed period of research and development as part of the commission for two days during the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (see Additional Information section for details) in preparation for the delivery of the project with the schools through the remainder of January, February, and early March to be completed and invoiced by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009.**

The projects will be selected through an open competition and application is through submission only - there will be no interviews.

Proposals submitted via email or post will be accepted up to the deadline of **12 noon on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008**

In the week beginning **5<sup>th</sup> January 2009** a panel comprising representatives of the funders and BCC Housing Department will select the successful artists from the submissions received. If further information is needed at this stage we will contact shortlisted candidates by phone.

**If you need support or advice before you submit a proposal regarding sites, venues, or any other aspect of the project please contact Tim Triance, Project Coordinator on:**

**T: 0121 303 6360**

**E: [tim.triance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tim.triance@birmingham.gov.uk)**

**P: BCC Housing Department, Strategic Housing division, 49 Villa Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. B19 1BH**



## Background Information

### Client Group

BCC Housing Department

BCC Children Young People, and Families Department (Local Schools)

Urban Living

The client group represents the joint working of BCC Housing Department, and Urban Living.

**Birmingham City Council**, Strategic Housing Division are working to develop strategic masterplans for the regeneration of areas such as Aston, Newtown, and Lozells. An important part of this process is engagement with the community to ensure that any future redevelopment will reflect the aspirations of local residents as well as meeting the strategic objectives of the City Council. To facilitate this process both in the short and long term, the Strategic Housing Division is committed to the principle of developing community engagement, capacity building and community cohesion. This Division of the Housing Department has been developing such engagement through schools via the Housing Education Initiative (HEI).

The Housing Education Initiative (HEI) programme has now been running for 15 years in the current setting in Ladywood. In this period the programme has won awards and has become instrumental in delivering projects that help increase cohesion and interest in regeneration in the 6-8 schools that have been targeted. Presently, delivery concentrates on providing Primary School children with a 2 way interactive process that delivers information and knowledge on local affairs, local history, regeneration and environmental matters linked to the curriculum.

The project has won numerous prizes with projects such as TNT News and Animation Ladywood. Amongst its most significant current projects are TNT and the Eco Radio. Further details are available on [www.tntnews.co.uk](http://www.tntnews.co.uk) & [www.eco-radio.co.uk](http://www.eco-radio.co.uk) It is anticipated that these ideas will also be expanded into the new Schools.

Schools from surrounding areas have requested input and support from the project and there is a desire to expand into neighbouring schools to take this process through. The project will work to deliver practical experience into the school curriculum and be linked into, housing, and regeneration including creating the awareness of planning, clearance, construction, and 'green' initiatives.

It is intended that this 'Art In Regeneration' project will be instrumental in developing the first linkages with schools, and the community in Aston, Lozells, and Newtown.

**Urban Living** is one of nine Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas in the UK set up and funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Pathfinder covers substantial areas within North West Birmingham and Sandwell, specifically - Aston, Newtown, Lozells, Winson Green, Handsworth, Smethwick, West Bromwich and Greet's Green. The scheme has the overall aim of strengthening the housing market. The Urban Living community cohesion and engagement strategy identifies the importance of creative thinking when engaging diverse communities.

Recent work such as 'Our shared Future 2007' by Darra Singh has made reference to the link between art and a shared purpose. Urban Living sees the community as being the experts for regenerating the community, as they have experienced the issues that have caused community break down and multiple deprivations. Urban Living therefore believes that the community will have ideas of what works and what does not.

Further information is available at [\*\*www.urbanliving.org.uk\*\*](http://www.urbanliving.org.uk)

Partners want to engage artists that can deliver high quality arts experiences for the local community, with the core aims of addressing change.

### **Programme Context**

These projects are to focus on the specific areas of Lozells, Newtown and Aston where significant investment is being used to create a vibrant and sustainable housing market, a thriving local economy, a cohesive community and an appropriate range of high quality neighbourhoods.

The impact to peoples' lives involved in the Urban Living programme will involve improvements to their own or neighbouring homes, relocation, a revitalised sense of place, improved green spaces and conservation of heritage. Much will be gained through this process, some things lost, and some replaced. This provides an opportunity for creative projects to explore, discuss and reflect upon the changes that are taking place.

The pathfinder area has a diverse black and minority ethnic population, which makes up more than 65% of the 150,000 total (source: 2001 Census). About 6% are recent asylum seekers. The analysis of statistical data for the area shows, high unemployment, low educational attainment and crime. Overall these characteristics that can be an indicator of marginalised communities and a lack of community cohesion. The importance of culture and creativity in addressing issues within urban regeneration and social exclusion is widely recognized. Art can be used as a mechanism to bring members of the community together to create a shared vision and an understanding amongst all of what a sense of belonging means. Art activities can be used to creatively strengthen the voice of local communities and reflect the aspiration and needs within an area.

This project aims to:

1. Distinguish these as a positive, imaginative areas in which to live and visit, increasing community identity, pride and vitality.
2. Use a series of art based projects as a method of building community cohesion.
3. Impact on perceptions and increase aspirations.
4. Celebrate diversity and heritage through the arts
5. Provide opportunities for the community to come together to strengthen their connections to one another and to contribute to the changes happening in the area.
6. Develop a series of high quality arts activities that reflect the aspirations of children and young people in the pathfinder area.

## What We Are Looking For

Artists will be expected to submit proposals for temporary artworks/ interventions in any discipline that interacts with people in these three areas, through the schools either as participants in the creation of the piece or as an audience.

The projects should be delivered between January 2009 and March 2009.

Selected artists will be required to attend a period of research and development as part of the commission during the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (see Additional Information section for details).

In addition artists will be required to participate with other artists in delivering an event on completion of the work. This event should provide an opportunity for participating schools and the community to view the work, and/or a record of the development of the work, and to celebrate the outcomes of the project. A venue, food and refreshments, and AV equipment will be provided.

### **Projects should consider one or more of the following themes:**

Place-making  
Celebrating diversity  
Changing communities  
Aspirations  
Heritage  
Environment  
Learning  
Healthy living  
Public spaces

## Proposals

The proposal **should** contain the following information

**1) C.V and examples of work** in any format i.e. no more than five images and no more than a five minute show reel.

**2) Statement** - summarizes the project idea in under 50 words.

**3) The project idea** – a fuller version of this statement setting out (no more than 1,000 words) outlining

- your vision
- what you expect to create, the process that will be used to achieve this, and who will be involved (artists, participants, audiences)
- where and how the work will be distributed/ exhibited
- the proposed timescale - when will the project happen (within the programme timescale of January 2009 – March 2009)

## **4) An indicative budget**

- There are opportunities to make applications within a range from £2,000 to £10,000. Please note that fees include all travel and production and documentation costs.

These figures are indicative and are not ceilings; value for money will be taken into consideration.

The following costs should be outlined in your budget (where appropriate):

- artist's commission fee inc. design costs & attendance at programmed meetings
- materials and fabrication costs
- all travelling expenses, subsistence and accommodation (Artists)
- transport for school children to and from venues where required to carry out aspects of the work/or events in association with the work.
- workshop expenses including room hire
- exhibition or distribution costs for project
- installation (some support can be given with site preparation, running electricity, and water to site, subject to agreement with coordinators)
- transport and security costs
- record keeping, documentation, monitoring of project activity & brief report. This information to be provided in a format for use at community events as described, and to populate a web site to ensure long term access to project information (web site to be provided by BCC).

**5) Also, return with your proposal a completed **technical questionnaire** and **monitoring form** (*on separate sheet*)**

**All proposals must be received by BCC by the deadline of 12 noon on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008.**

**Submissions received after this point will not be considered.**

**We cannot return submissions.**

**All proposals are to be sent to BCC Housing Department, via email or post marked F.A.O. Tim Triance, Project Co-ordinator:**

**E: [tim.triance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tim.triance@birmingham.gov.uk)**

**P: BCC Housing Department, Strategic Housing division, 49 Villa Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. B19 1BH**

## Additional Information

### Research and Development Phase

Commissioned artists will be expected to carry out a period of Research and Development (R&D) which will enable selected artists to develop their understanding of working in the public realm in all its forms, explore working with schools, undertake a detailed tour of the area and develop a more detailed understanding of other activity happening in the area that might enhance the artistic activity and provide a new context in which work could take place.

The R&D period will involve the following activities:

**Day 1** (a.m.) – Introductions and meeting with co-ordinators, local authority officers and school representatives to discuss regeneration and local issues.

**Day 1** (p.m.) - Artists presentations 30mins including background and previous projects, and proposal.

**Day 2** – Consolidation of previous days discussions, and sharing of information to initiate programme.

**Days 3,4,& 5**

Walkabouts Aston, Lozells, Newtown.

Revisit proposals in light of previous 2 days discussions.

Initial meeting with school representatives.

Develop programme for individual projects.

Discussions around practicalities of delivery, and evaluation of outcomes.

Initial planning for documentation, showcase event, and web site.

A venue and lunch will be provided for the first two days of the R&D period. In addition AV equipment will be provided to facilitate presentations.

### Address for Communication:

**F.A.O. Tim Triance, Project Coordinator**

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