

Public Artist Brief for The Blue Bell Centre – ‘WAY FINDING’

Knowsley Arts & Heritage Service and NHS Knowsley seek to commission high quality, permanent piece(s) of ‘Way Finding’ public art for the new Blue Bell Centre, Bluebell Lane, Huyton, Knowsley.

Background

The new Blue Bell Centre is “set to be the greenest new health centre in the UK” helping to reduce the NHS carbon footprint and set an example for future NHS building projects. It is funded through the LIFT initiative, a joint venture between the public sector and private company Renova. JM Architects design includes solar panels, a wind turbine, a rainwater recycling system and a ‘green’ roof.

It is therefore a requirement of the commission that the artwork/s should aim to use environmentally friendly & sustainable materials sympathetic to the design ethos of the building, where possible.



Image of new centre: JM Architects

The new centre will encompass:

- Ground Floor - Primary Care Trust reception.
- A Pharmacy and other facilities.
- First floor - shared waiting room for 4 new GP's surgeries, each with a separate reception desk.

Commission Location & Themes

- Artwork/s could be sited on interior walls & corridors spanning outward from the central reception area.
- Need to have 'same but different' approach to create a 'family' of designs with four distinct groups within that 'family'.
- A specific theme hasn't been established, although sustainability should be a key element. Some work has already been done with local groups on the

history and heritage of the area, which will be made available to the artist. Local young people produced a series of drawings that have been applied to hoardings to brighten up the building site perimeter for passers by.

- Artist will need to consider any other themes/elements suggested by the doctors & staff who will be based there.

Design Considerations

The intention of the Commission is to aid the patient flow from the main Ground Floor lobby to the First Floor and their GP's reception.

The Way Finding artwork should help make each GP's area distinct from each other. Using a common theme to be established with the centre users, each area should be instantly recognisable and the artwork will visually guide patients to the right area.

A vibrant colour scheme has been identified by the architects and GPs, for areas such as the reception desks and sink splash backs in treatment rooms. The artist's will need to consider this colour scheme in relation to the Way Finding scheme. Information on separate statutory signage (ie. doors and external large sign) and the colour scheme will be supplied to the artist.

The piece must consider infection risk, health and safety requirements, withstand wear and tear (as far as possible), be easy to clean and low maintenance.

To create work that can be detached (if wall mounted) when required, to allow for general maintenance & redecoration of the building.

The artist will involve the local centre users and staff in the design development of the Way Finding artwork/s. The Public Art Manager will support the artist in identifying and liaising with community groups to work with.

Budget

The total budget for this commission is **£6000**. This amount is to cover all planning meetings, community engagement workshops and consultation process, site visits, transport, materials, design and creation of the final work/s and its installation on site.

The chosen artist will receive a contract with phased payments. A budget breakdown will be required from the artist.

Timetable (Provisional)

Late Feb	Artist Callout
Early March	Recruit & Contract artist
Mid March	Site visits, planning meetings
March/April	Community engagement phase
April	Design development (1 st – 19 th April Easter holiday)
Mid May	Finalise & sign off design
May/June	Fabrication
June	Installation
12 th July	The Blue Bell Centre opens

Artist skills & experience required

- Original, high quality ideas for interpreting health & well being messages and local identity through art.
- Experience of successfully managing public art commissions to timetable and on budget.
- The ability to effectively engage a range of people in the development of the design.
- Ability to liaise with other agents e.g. partners and contractors, to ensure the safe and successful installation of work
- Knowledge of health and safety requirements in a healthcare setting.
- Current CRB disclosure (Within 3 years)
- Public liability insurance cover up to £5 million.

How to Apply

Please supply:

Your current CV & contact details

Contact details for 2 referees

Up to ten images of previous work with image details

A brief outline of your relevant experience & approach to the commission

The application should be clearly marked '**Blue Bell Centre - Way Finding Commission**'

Post to:

Jo Dry
Arts and Heritage Team Leader
Knowsley Arts & Heritage Service
Prescot Museum
34 Church Street
Liverpool
L34 3LA

Alternatively Email to:

Carolyn Murray - Public Art Manager
carolyn.ash@blueyonder.co.uk

The closing date for applications will be Mon 22nd February 2010. Any application received after the deadline will not be considered. If you would like any of the images/documentation returned please include an appropriate SAE.

If you have any queries please contact:

Carolyn Murray - Public Art Manager Tel. 0151 727 2785