



Rainhill Eco Garden - Call out for artist

WHO: Visual & Public Artists

BACKGROUND: The Rainhill Eco Garden project at Exchange Place, Rainhill Village is organised by Rainhill ECO (*Environmental Community Organisation*), a volunteer group dedicated to improving green spaces in Rainhill.

The proposed land at Exchange Place in the village, previously had cottages on it, but since these were demolished the area has been left as a grassy area with a few trees. Rainhill ECO plan to improve this space by creating a wildlife eco garden. The garden will be built from environmentally friendly recycled materials and will be a haven for wildlife and a relaxing place to sit and take time out, there will also be annual community events and school groups are already involved in various aspects of the garden, including the creation of a mosaic sundial and a bug hotel.

The project is still in its early stages, however, planning has been approved, subject to conditions and funding secured.

WHAT: We are seeking expressions of interest from Visual and Public Artists who are interested in working with the group and the local community to produce a piece of permanent artwork to be installed in the garden. The work will act as a kind of backdrop between a planting bed and a mosaic sundial. It will measure approximately 6 to 7 metres in length and 1 metre in height, although this can vary and be influenced by the materials and design, to a certain extent.

The garden plan (available from Rainhill ECO) shows the position of the proposed artwork, bordering the circle in the center of the garden.

Rainhill ECO would like volunteers to be involved in the progression of the artwork in some way whether this be through creative workshops or another method suggested by the artist.

THE DESIGN: The group envisages this piece of work will be in-keeping with the ethos of the garden in its use of recycled materials and its design. The piece will also reflect the nature of the wildlife/eco garden as a relaxing community space in the heart of the village. Rainhill ECO has an interest in work which reflects in some way the heritage of Rainhill, such as its links with the Rainhill Locomotive Trials but are open to wider ideas brought by the artist.

The artwork will need to:

- act as a focal point in the garden, it will be installed as a backdrop to a ground level planting bed
- be visually light weight with minimal solid sections, to allow clear views through to the garden and the stone focal point to the rear
- be constructed with recycling/environment as a key priority, using recycled materials where possible
- be relatively maintenance free, and be suitable for an outdoor space/all weathers
- be relevant to the garden, its position in the village and the heritage of the area
- have given consideration to health and safety
- be able to withstand possible vandalism and not be designed in a way which would encourage climbing or sitting on the feature
- capable of construction & installation within the budget & time frame set out below.

EXPERIENCE: The artist will need to have experience of:

- producing artwork/public art for an outdoor project
- taking responsibility for the installation of the artwork
- working with a wide range of people including local community/school groups
- managing and working to a budget
- working to a deadline
- ensuring issues of site suitability and health and safety are considered
- have public liability insurance to cover work with members of the public and to cover installation in the garden

BUDGET: The budget is £10,000 to include VAT

Within this budget the artist will need to:

- produce initial designs in consultation with the group, within the theme of recycling awareness
- coordinate and promote donation of re used materials for the project from the community
- involve the community in some way (Rainhill ECO have in mind 6 workshops, these could be used for design development).
- provide information for the approval of the final design from the local authority should this be required, e.g. Planning and Health & Safety
- fabrication of the art piece including supply of materials other than those donated
- transport the work
- install the work in the garden, with below ground fixings and ensuring vandal resistance
- production of 3 small recycled metal trophies for proposed recycled artwork competitions (preferably with a strong design and construction involvement of the volunteers)
- permit the use of project related images and designs for publicity use

This budget will cover all artist's costs associated with the design, transportation and installation, to also include all artist's fees and expenses.

TIMESCALE: The work will need to be fabricated and ready to be installed in the garden by Friday 29 August 2014.

HOW TO APPLY: Please send your expression of interest along with your thoughts on how you would approach this commission. Also include a web-link(if available), an artist's statement, CV which should include details of relevant experience in relation to the brief, full contact details and 2 referees (including email and telephone numbers ideally). Please also include up to 10 images/photographs (if large files please supply as hard copies or on disk) of other work you have done to help the group get an idea of your style of work (unless good quality images available to see on website, in which case provide web address).

APPLY TO: Mandy Whitehall, 93 Mooreway, Rainhill L35 6PD.

Email: rainhillecogarden@outlook.com

Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 2nd May 2014

Rainhill ECO group will then produce a shortlist of artists from all expressions of interest, and invite those on the shortlist to come for an informal interview.