

Project Brief – Ham Woods Sculpture

Commissioners – Stepping Stones to Nature and Take A Part

Project Partners – Take A Part, Stepping Stones to Nature, Friends of Ham Woods, Neighbourhood Regeneration, NHS, Plymouth City Council Parks Services

Take A Part and Stepping Stones to Nature, two community based projects aimed at engaging communities have joined together to commission an artist or collective of artists to create a piece/s of public art using the materials found within the nature reserve of Ham Woods in the Ham area of Plymouth.

Background to the project

Ham Woods is a 35-hectare nature reserve within an urban environment. The site sits between the Parkway and the neighbourhoods of Honicknowle, North Prospect and Pennycross. The neighbourhoods that border Ham Woods sit high on the social deprivation register and tend to see a lack of engagement in their local green spaces. However the opportunity that the woods offer for improving physical and mental health are huge.

Since 2009, Stepping Stones to Nature has been working with local residents in the Ham Woods area to encourage them to use the woods more and to identify opportunities to improve access and enjoyment. To date, with the support of volunteers, over 2km worth of new paths and bridges have been installed and we are in the process of creating interpretation boards, installing benches and waymarkers. There have also been numerous free activities for children and families such as bushcraft and wildlife events to build their confidence and knowledge of the space.

We now have a small and dedicated group (Friends of Ham Woods) of local residents and stakeholders, who are working with Stepping Stones to Nature to advise and oversee ongoing improvements and encourage wider community participation.

The Commission

This is a new and exciting commission for Plymouth which aims to bring together art, nature and people.

Take A Part and Stepping Stones to Nature seek to commission an artist or collective to develop piece/s of public art in Ham Woods that invokes the idea of playfulness in nature and is fun and engaging.

The artist must be able to work closely with local residents to encourage their ownership of the artwork and ensure its sustainability (as the area is subject to anti-social behaviour).

The work created must utilize natural materials sourced from within Ham Woods (fallen trees, stones, earth, plants etc). The project has no budget for maintenance and the artwork must therefore be durable, sustainable and able to weather or adapt over time.

Commission aims

- To bring many different sections of the community together through the creative process (e.g. Friends of Ham Woods, local schools, youth centre etc)
- To deliver a work that engages in the community as part of the process of creating with work (ie., consultation, production, etc) and develops their ownership of the work
- To use materials only found within the woodland setting to create the work – stone, wood from fallen trees, earth, leaves etc – in a creative way
- To invoke in the work an idea of playfulness in nature, which adults and children can engage with

Artistic Engagement

1 Artwork

The project would like to develop the concept around a natural piece of permanent work. The artist must engage creatively with the local community. Residents will bring to the project local knowledge, wisdom and experiences which must clearly influence the artwork. The work must be themed around idea of playfulness in nature and be fun and engaging.

2 Community Engagement

The artist must engage local people in a process that will develop confidence, networks and inspire participants to reflect and share.

We will expect the artist to carry out local site visits and creative community-based consultation with community groups, woodland users, schools, dog walkers etc in the area.

The activities should enable participants to develop new skills and explore, document and share their experiences through the creative process in a friendly, sharing, empowering, creative, productive, visual, rewarding and fun way.

Examples of local organizations that could get involved/should be engaged: (The commissioner will provide contacts.)

- Friends of Ham Woods
- North Prospect Community Partnership
- Lark Children's Centre
- Mayflower Primary School
- Honicknowle Youth and Community Centre
- Honicknowle Comnet
- Shakespeare School
- All Saints Academy
- YMCA
- GAS (Arts Group Swilly)

3 Reporting

The artist must also have good reporting and engagement relationships with the curators and partners throughout the duration of the project.

Timescales and budgets

Due to funding constraints, this project must be delivered by March 2012. Total budget for the project is £25,000 including all travel, accommodation, development time, construction and installation costs, artist time and fees. A schedule of payment will be worked out between the artist and commissioners once the work has been commissioned.

It is imperative to note there is no ongoing budget for maintenance of the work produced.

Delivery

The project must be completed and the artwork installed by March 31 2012.

Management

This commission will be overseen and managed by Zoe Goss, Project Coordinator, Stepping Stones to Nature and Kim Wide, Community Curator, Heart of Efford Community Partnership/Take A Part.

Once commissioned the management body will expect a detailed delivery proposal from the Artist. The day-to-day project management of the work will be supervised by Zoe Goss, Project Coordinator.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Take A Part and Stepping Stones to Nature will provide evaluation forms for the overall Ham Woods project that will feed into the larger evaluation of the overall project. It will be essential for artists to engage in their own

evaluation of the process and provide information such as blogs, comments and research and open feedback to the commissioners.

For more details about Ham Woods and organisations involved:

Stepping Stones to Nature –

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/natureconservation/natureprojects/steppingstones.htm>

Take A Part – www.affordtakeapart.org.uk

Ham Woods (information about project developments to date, profile of the woods, consultation information) -

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/natureconservation/natureprojects/steppingstones/sshamwoods.htm>

Applicant Schedule:

Expressions of Interest (with images of past work, CV and proposal) returned by November 21 2012.

Applicant interviews (by selected panel of community members and curators) in Plymouth during week of December 5.

Work to commence by January 2012.

Completion date by March 31 2012.

For an informal chat about the commission please contact Kim Wide, Community Curator for Take A Part via takeapart@hotmail.com.

To Apply:

Please send applications to:

Kim Wide
Community Curator
Take A Part
c/o April Cottage
Combeinteignhead
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 4RE or via takeapart@hotmail.com