
Living with a Changing Coast
Artist Brief
Public Art for Poole, Dorset

INTRODUCTION

The Living with a Changing Coast (LiCCo) project led by the Environment Agency in Partnership with the Borough of Poole Arts Service and Wave Arts Education / SoundStorm Music Education team, are seeking to appoint an artist, or collaboration of artists, to undertake a commission focused on sea level rise. This commission is being funded by the LiCCo project through two of its partners, the Environment Agency and National Trust.

Supplementary funding has been made available from WAVE Arts Education Agency. This looks to build on a SoundStorm/Cultural Hub project called 'These Shrinking Isles', which explored potential challenges for diverse coastal communities in the UK from climate change. That project linked young people and musicians in Bournemouth/Poole with coastal communities in the Gaelic-speaking Outer Hebrides.

Wave funding on this project is for schools outreach work, as described below.

THE LICCO PROJECT AND BACKGROUND

LiCCo is a Cross-Channel European funded project to help coastal communities understand, prepare for and adapt to future changes to the coastline in England and France. It aims to:

- increase awareness of the predicted impacts of coastal flooding and erosion due to climate change and sea level rise amongst coastal communities and visitors;
- help 'at risk' communities adapt to coastal change.
- highlight, through various media, how the coast has evolved in the past and how it is likely to continue to change from now up to the year 2100.
- Provide local people with information on coastal change issues so they can have more 'informed' conversations' in local decision making on coastal flooding and erosion issues.

Led by the Environment Agency (EA), there are seven coastal study areas in England and Normandy, France. Poole Harbour is one of two study areas in the south-west of England. In the Poole Harbour area the project is particularly focussed on Wareham, Swanage, Studland, Brownsea Island and Poole.

The project will run until September 2014. The engagement programme for the Poole Harbour site includes exhibitions, presentations, community reminiscence and future scenario events, coastal change walks and the development of an educational package for 7-13 year olds.

It is anticipated that this public art commission will run partially in parallel with these other activities - but will be completed before the end of July 2014 - and have carefully considered and tailored cross-over with them. The Environment Agency's Principal Engagement Officer will serve as the primary contact during the research and development stages of this commission.

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THE BRIEF

An artist or artists' collaboration is sought, to create an imaginative and site-specific artwork for the public realm, on land within the Borough of Poole adjacent to Poole Harbour. The artwork is being commissioned as a timeless, permanent intervention for the site (once identified). It will need to have at its heart the concept of change and shift in relation to climate, particularly focused on sea level rise reflecting past, present and future rise indicating the recent increasing trend, predictions, prevailing uncertainty and future local impact on a global concern.

It is important that the artwork reflects the predictions set out in the three epochs (time zones) for 2030, 2060 and 2100. By doing so it will compliment local decision-making tools like the Poole & Wareham Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy which takes into account predicted changes in sea level up to 2110 and sets out recommendations for new and improved coastal defences to protect local communities. It should also bring in the issue of storm surge which would compound the impact of sea level rise and is particularly damaging when it occurs at the time of a high tide.

One idea that could be explored as part of the development of the artwork is whether the installation could link with readings being taken by the tidal gauge located at the RNLI building at Poole. A QR code could be included on the piece so that visitors could access this information as well as other useful information relating to sea level rise and coastal change e.g. the LiCCo website.

It will be the responsibility of the artist to work with the Project Panel to identify potential, appropriate locations for this intervention within the outlined site boundaries as described above. This will be an essential, early process necessary for the success of this commission.

It is hoped that, through this commission, an educational and inspiring artwork will be created for the locality, which provides a new place of interest for Poole, for those interested in the local culture and environmental issues. It is also anticipated that the work will be installed and unveiled well within the timetable of the LiCCo project and serve to inspire future environmental art projects in the Poole.

This commission could include the following, though this list is not exhaustive:

- Stand alone sculpture
- Land form
- Integration with existing structures / landscape / hard landscaping / street furniture
- Audio / visual digital installation (as part of above interventions)

Reporting to a Project Panel (named below), the artist is required to produce a design for the arrangement, form, configuration, scale, materials, and finish to all of the built elements of the artwork, including any necessary groundwork. This is an open brief, which it is hoped will attract a wide-ranging response from professional artists working in materials, which could include the following:

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Hard and soft landscaping	Metal
Wood	Stone
A/V Digital Technology	Lighting

A maintenance schedule will be requested from the successful artist to accompany the completed artwork.

SITE HISTORY & LOCATION

The coast line between Poole's Old Town and Baiter Park – within the Ward of Poole Town - has been identified as having potential for the 'siting' of this artwork. This includes Poole Quay and the expanse of parkland comprising of Baiter Park and the Whitecliff Harbourside Park, which are owned and managed by the local authority. This area covers 30 hectares and adjoins Poole Harbour's Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Project Panel would seek to firm up the exact, appropriate installation site in liaison with the appointed artist, once recruited and following the engagement stage described below.

It is also envisaged that the artwork will become an extension of the Poole Heritage Trail, which currently takes in the Holes Bay, Poole Old Town and Visitors Quay areas of the Borough and will invite further exploration along the shoreline of Poole Harbour. It is hoped that the artwork may be included in a new Poole Harbour Trail walk www.pooleharbourtrail.org.uk which the LiCCo project is considering exploring as part of its programme of work.

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Creative schools engagement to help the artist in developing the themes and aspirations forms an important part of this brief during the concept design stage. The artists will be expected to work in 3 local schools, at which one day workshops will be held.

The subject of these workshops will centre on climate change and rising water levels, which could link in with the current schools' syllabus. Work will be produced by pupils (drawings / models), in response to the children's ideas, which could then go on exhibition in the schools. A selection of this work will also be publicly exhibited as part of the artist's concept design exhibition (described below).

It is also desired that identification of an appropriate site for the artwork installation takes place as part of the schools work. We are interested to hear particular ideas the artist has around facilitation of this.

Schools engagement could be achieved through workshops, visits, talks, presentations or exhibitions and will serve to drive the ideas and concepts behind the final artwork's creation and implementation.

The artist will be expected to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Panel, LiCCo, WAVE, educational establishments and other stakeholders throughout the duration of the commission. However, the final work produced during the detailed design stage will be the work of the appointed artist.

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DESIGN ISSUES / CONSTRAINTS

The artwork must:

- Have a minimal pollution impact in both the immediate and wider vicinity.
- Be designed, manufactured and installed using sustainable materials, processes and techniques wherever possible.
- Be robust, durable and low maintenance.
- Utilise materials and techniques which can withstand a marine environment
- Not unnecessarily distract or interfere with the operations of any nearby, harbour side or highways area or residencies.

SELECTION CRITERIA

We will consider applications from artists with demonstrable track records in:

- Having undertaken the creation and installation of robust and imaginative artworks for a range of external situations, especially in marine and park environments.
- Having worked in partnership & consulted with, and been responsive to the needs of a range of stakeholders including local communities, schools, environmental agencies and public sector partners.
- Creative and innovative approaches to engaging and schools.
- An awareness of / interest in climate change and rising water levels
- Successfully negotiating with a range of partners

ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN ISSUES

Issues of accessibility are central in decisions regarding the siting of the artworks and interpretation for the work, which will also be required as part of this brief.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation will need to be provided as part of this commission, which provides information on title, concept, installation date and name of the artist. This can be aesthetically integrated into the artwork or provided as a separate element fitted near to the artworks and with a close relationship to them.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Your initial submission, for expression of interest, should include the following:

1. A letter stating:
 - Why you are interested in the project
 - How you would apply your existing knowledge, skills & experience.
2. Your CV
3. 12 images of your work. Please send **hard copies only** of these and an S.A.E if you would like these returned to you.
4. The contact details of referees from two schools/educational organisations for whom you have worked with in the past three years.
5. Evidence of current, enhanced DBS/CRB clearance (dated within the past three years).
6. An indication that you will be available to attend an interview on 18th March 2014 and, if appointed to deliver 3 X schools workshops in the week commencing 24th March.

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APPOINTMENT TIMETABLE

Submission Deadline: 5.p.m. on Tuesday 11th March 2014
Interviews / appointment: Tuesday 18th March 2014
Schools Workshops: w/c 24th March 2014

INTERVIEW

At interview, short-listed artists will be asked to give a 20-minute presentation of their past work and an initial response to the site and project. We are not asking for proposals at this stage but a discussion about how past work relates to this opportunity and thoughts on the approach that might be taken. Each short listed artist will have 50 - 60 minutes for presentation and questions.

PROJECT RECRUITMENT AND MANAGEMENT PANEL

BoP Public Art Officer (Project Manager)	Nicky Whittenham
BoP Elected Member, Public Art Working Group	Cllr. Charmaine Parkinson
EA Principal Engagement Officer (LiCCo Poole Project)	Lisa Pearce
WAVE / Soundstorm Director, Poole and Bournemouth	Dan Somogyi
Poole Harbour Commissioners, Chair	Richard Lacey
Senior Planning Officer and Urban Designer	Aliis Kodis

CONTRACT

The successful artist will be issued with a contract from the Borough of Poole, on behalf of the Environment Agency and Wave. A draft of this contract will be available at interview.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The artist will be managed by BoP Public Art Officer in liaison with the Project Panel.

PROJECT TIMETABLE

The Artist will commence the work immediately after selection and undertake a Concept Design Stage followed by a Concept Design meeting with the Project Panel in w/c 21st April 2014. There will follow a public exhibition of concept designs during the w/c 28th April 2014 at which feedback from the community will be sought.

Informed by this, there will follow a Detailed Design stage and meeting in w/c 26th May 2014 at which the artist will present final designs to the Panel for sign off.

It is yet to be confirmed but is anticipated that installation will take place no later than the end of July 2014.

OUTPUTS AND DESIGN AGREEMENT PROCESS / TIMETABLE:

1. Successful artist appointed: w/c 17th March '14
2. School Workshops to take place: w/c 24th March '14
3. Concept design meeting (see below): w/c 21st April '14
4. Public exhibition of concept designs: w/c 28th April '14

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5. Detailed design meeting (see below): w/c 26th May '14
6. Installation of artwork: end of July '14 at the latest.

Stage 1 – Concept Design

Further to appointment and following a Concept Design Stage, the Artist will be asked to present their initial thoughts and work in progress to the project team at a Concept Design meeting.

This meeting will involve discussions of:

- Schools' engagement
- Identification of sites
- Concept based on generated themes
- Initial design proposal(s)
- Technical & maintenance issues

The meeting is for evaluation by the Project Panel. This process is intended to assess the initial practicality, workability and affordability of the proposals at an early stage in the process and to address and resolve any fundamental concerns.

Following this meeting a public exhibition of the concept designs will be held, at which local people will be invited to feedback on the artist's work so far. The exhibition should show how the artist has interpreted the ideas and themes generated through schools' engagement and demonstrate how these are to be visually referenced in the final work.

Stage 2 – Detail Design

Based on ideas generated during the above process a Detailed Design stage will follow, leading to a meeting at which the artist will be asked to present detailed designs for the commission to a standard where accurate costing and a timetable for the finished scheme can be made. The detailed designs will include:

- Sketches to illustrate the scheme, fully annotated with materials, fixing methods, and any other relevant information.
- A written description, with a clear rationale behind the overall concept and explanation of each component.

Stage 3 – Manufacture and installation.

Following sign off of designs by the Panel, manufacture and installation will take place.

BUDGET AND FEES:

The maximum overall budget for the project is £6,000 (exclusive of VAT, where applicable). Materials, fees and installation will be included in this sum and no additional expenditure arising will be entertained. The artist's fee for the Concept and Detailed Design Stages, artwork interpretation and installation of all components is included within the overall budget. The artist will be expected to find the fees for any associated licenses or additional fees from the project budget. All meetings will be in Poole.

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FURTHER READING / INFORMATION:

The links below will take you to further reading and information that will come in useful in relation to this project:

- LiCCo Project information at www.licco.eu which includes a range of resources and Poole Harbour specific information.
- Borough of Poole Our Streets and Spaces Strategy (OSAS)
<http://boroughofpoole.com/planning-and-buildings/planning/ldp/supplementary-planning-documents/our-streets-spaces/>
- The Poole & Wareham Flood Risk Management Strategy <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/121331.aspx>. We would particularly suggest that you read the consultation document which includes figures on sea level rise.
- www.waveartseducationagency.org.uk and www.soundstorm-music.org.uk

SUBMISSIONS.

Please ensure submissions (marked clearly with reference LP601), reach us by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 11th March 2014 and are addressed to:

Nicky Whittenham
Public Art Officer
Poole Museum
4 High Street
Poole
Dorset
BH15 1BW

Please contact Nicky on 01202 262616 or at n.whittenham@poole.gov.uk if you have any other queries, concerns or requests for further information.

**Please do not email submissions as these must be sent in
hard copy format to the above address.**