

Pennine Prospects

Canal Connections Public Art Commissions

Brief to Artists

1 General Requirements

- 1.1 Pennine Prospects (PP) is seeking to appoint up to 3 artists to design, create and deliver 3 artists' public commissions as part of Canal Connections, the ongoing Interpretation Programme of the Rochdale Canal in the South Pennines. This programme is funded through the Government's RDPE Leader Programme and HLF Grant aid.
- 1.2 Pennine Prospects invites artists with appropriate experience to submit their CVs and a record of recent relevant commissions in response to this brief.
- 1.3 Submissions
 - CV
 - A statement about your artistic practice
 - Case studies including images of past work. This can include realised and unrealised commissions
 - The names and contact details of 2 client referees who can attest to your ability to work to time and budget.
- 1.4 Submissions will be assessed on the basis of
 - Appropriateness of past work
 - Ability to work within a fixed budget and to a tight timescale
 - Evidence of previous experience of this type of project
 - Value for money

2 The Brief

2.1 General Requirements

Pennine Prospects is seeking to appoint between 1 and 3 artists to carry out 3 public art projects to enhance and interpret the approaches to the Rochdale Canal at 3 locations including

Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Luddendenfoot. A further site at Sowerby Bridge is also being considered but this will only progress if a current bid for funds to Heritage Lottery Fund is successful.

The aim of the Canal Connections project is to signal the presence of the canal and all it offers, encourage people onto the towpath, and help people appreciate the impact of the canal on the social, cultural and industrial context of the area.

2.2 Background

This commission forms part of the wider Canal Connections project, a two year project focusing on the heritage of the Rochdale Canal within Yorkshire as it dramatically climbs over the South Pennines. The project aims to help people learn about the cultural significance of the Rochdale Canal, promotes understanding and appreciation of the Canal's place in the development of our communities and canal-side settlements.

It will provide opportunities for people to actively participate in the Canal's ongoing regeneration and harness the communities' passion for our past and celebrate the rich heritage of the South Pennines.

The overall Canal Connections Project seeks to tell the story of the canal's importance to the development of the area's industrial and social heritage concentrating on:

- **Documenting** the extraordinary engineering feat of building a canal over the South Pennines and the vision of those who conceived it;
- **Exploring** how the carriage of goods opened up the area to rapid social change;
- **Revealing** the lives of those who were employed both on the canal and in the industries that developed as a result of the trade that the canal brought;
- **Understanding** the development of the unique heritage assets such as the Great Wall of Todmorden, Guillotine lock, Gauxholme viaduct and the deepest lock in the UK at Sowerby Bridge;
- **Celebrating** the inspiring history of the restoration of the canal in the 1970s, capturing the stories of those who championed its restoration and who still actively support further development of the Canal today.

The Canal Connections Project will provide key improvements to the main gateways to the Canal including installation of interpretation and signage at key points along the length of the canal, improvements to physical access, and provision of a diverse participatory heritage learning programme, events programme and a range of volunteering and skills development opportunities. The individual activities will specifically target families, young people (16-24 years olds), schools and existing interest and community groups.

3.0 Public Art and Interpretation

3.1 What have we achieved to date

In mid 2010, PP, working jointly with British Waterways (now the Canal and River Trust) and local stakeholders, commissioned an Interpretation Strategy, carried out by consultants Imagemakers Interpretive Design & Consulting.

This strategy identified a number of key locations for interpretative panels and set out a design template for these. In addition a series of key 'town hubs' were identified and these were to include additional features offering physical, 3 dimensional interpretation of the canal.

Several of the interpretative Panels are now complete and in situ and the idea for 3 D town hubs process has been followed through already at 3 locations, namely:

- Todmorden – where a cast iron globe has been sited, tracing the trade routes to the rest of the world that were triggered by the coming of the canal to the town.
- At Summit Pound, a 3 dimensional symbol of the Pennine Watershed has been cast in iron and the surface decorated with words from Andrew MacMillan's poem "Watershed".
- At lock 39, a five metre long iron casting has been sited, representing the linear and intertwining nature of the canal and the road and rail links that run alongside it. The piece tells a brief story of the canal in embossed lettering, explaining how the canal was the M62 of its day.

3.2 Future Aspirations

From its experience to date and drawing from other sources, PP believes public art has a significant role to play as part of the Canal Connections project and these new commissions will reinforce that belief by the significance they bring to the access points. The aim is that future hubs will be achieved by the artistic commissions in this brief.

The commissioned artists will be asked to develop ideas and proposals that complement the existing and proposed canal interpretation material that is already in evidence on parts of the canal. See above and attached supporting information.

The Aims of the Artworks programme:

- Contributing to a multi-layered interpretation of the canals
- Offering alternative visual ways to enhance understanding and the enjoyment of the canal network
- Drawing people towards and onto the canal network as a pedestrian amenity
- Encouraging exploration
- Encouraging return visits by offering a stimulating and different experience
- Broadening the appeal to include children and young people

Content and Artistic Approach

- The artworks may focus on or contribute to a part of the story of the Rochdale Canal
- Tactile and literary elements within the experience will be welcome
- Offering humour and/or playfulness is an option
- Whilst we want the works to contribute to the overall narrative of the canals, we are not looking for a dry transcript of history
- Conversely, this is not an open invitation to make an unrelated sculpture trail

- Works should acknowledge the contextual built form of the canal system and sit comfortably in that context
- Materials and manufacturing processes must be appropriate for a low/no maintenance regime and must be extremely robust to acknowledge the risk of damage both by friendly use and vandalism
- The projected life of the artworks must be at least 20 years and preferably more
- The quality of crafting is likely to be important to the audience and to the longevity of the work
- The Issues of public safety must be considered within the proposals
- Good ideas well executed will be the priority

3.4 The New Sites

3.41 Hebden Bridge



The location at Hebden Bridge is in the vicinity of lock 9, Black Pit Lock, and adjacent to the Aqueduct where the Rochdale Canal crosses the River Calder at Hebble End just south of the river's confluence with the Hebden Beck. (Google map co-ordinates 53.740286,-2.014429) This site overlooks the river and there is also a view down Home Street towards the town and the A646. Immediately adjacent is the Little Theatre, Riverside Junior School and within 40 metres is the Trades Club, a well used music venue, and the Post Office.

The north side of the canal is seen as the most appropriate location as it is sunny and carries the most pedestrian traffic.

It should be born in mind though that the artwork should not be an obstacle to pedestrian movement and general public safety.

To date the client group has been exploring the scope for a sculptural bench but we are open to alternative suggestions.

Themes in Hebden Bridge must be related to the Canal but there is also scope to include parallel issues such as the industrial and social history of the town.

3.42 Mytholmroyd



The location at Mytholmroyd is in the vicinity of lock 7, Broad Bottom Lock, adjacent to the A646 Burnley Road. (co-ordinates 53.734140, -1.991468)

There is a small cut in the boundary wall to the canalside providing a pedestrian link from the towpath to the grass area than banks down to the highway and footpath.

The towpath and surrounding grassed area is quite generous at this point and is also several metres above road level, making it much quieter than the highway footpath.

The area is tree lined on the South side and the northern view extends to Red Acre Wood.

Mytholmroyd is the birth place of the late poet laureate, Ted Hughes and it has been agreed that the theme for this location will be Ted Hughes and his work. The artist will be expected to use imagery emerging from his work and this includes foxes, crows, trout, eels and pike.

The area is also known as Hawk's Clough and this introduces other image scope. The Artist will in any case engage with the local consultation group which includes representatives of the Elmet Trust, a charitable company whose purpose is to promote and celebrate the life and works of Ted Hughes.

There is scope to work at high level or integrate with the boundary wall. In any case the intent is to make this a more welcoming place to linger and enjoy the surroundings. There is an existing bench and this can either be integrated into the overall layout or be replaced if the artist's proposal merits it.

3.43 Luddendenfoot



The site at Luddendenfoot is located beside the road bridge where Station Road crosses Tillotson Holme on the Rochdale Canal. (co-ordinates 53.721886, -1.944913.)

The site is currently a small copse between the car park and the canal itself, tight up to the bridge. There is not a great deal of flexibility regarding the site as it is landlocked by land outside the ownership of the client and its partners.

The scope here is for something interpretive, sculptural and freestanding and that acts as an introduction for people entering the canal network at this point or walking past on the towpath.

The walk should intrude into the visual envelop of people passing in either direction and should acknowledge that there are residential properties across the canal from here and that recent development means there are several hundred residents within 200 metres of this place.

3.5 Project Budgets

Each location has a designated art project budget of £20,000 to include all artists' fees, fabrication, transport and installation costs.

Please note that the funds for Sowerby Bridge are not yet secured.

3.6 Project Management:

- The artists' first point of contact will be Geoff Wood, Director of Working pArts Ltd.
- Working pArts will enable any engagement with the Project Steering Group including key stakeholders and the subgroups for each location
- Working pArts will oversee the administration of the project including all the following:

- Arrangement of artist engagement workshops with project working group
- Arrangement of ongoing artist consultation programme with the Client Officers, local residents, and other appropriate consultees, such as the Health Centre in Mytholmroyd, local businesses in Luddendenfoot, the TIC at Hebden Bridge, etc.
- Presentation of final designs to the Client Steering Group
- Overseeing detailed design, fabrication and installation of the artwork by the artist
- Preparation and submission of planning application (as applicable)
- Budget administration and monitoring
- Arrangement of launch event/unveiling ceremony
- Arrangement of evaluation meeting and feedback report

3.7 PP already has an experienced Steering Group overseeing the Canal Connections Project but have supplemented this with small subgroups for each location so that there are embedded local champions for each project.

4.0 KEY REQUIREMENTS

The projects for Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Luddendenfoot must be delivered by November 2013, during which time all physical work will be completed. The work at Sowerby Bridge is subject to a pending bid to HLF for funding and is likely to be completed in 2014.

The key stages and milestone activities to be delivered over this period are seen as the following:

4.1 Collaboration with Public Realm Designers

The immediate public realm surrounding each project will be subject to environmental improvements and the artist(s) will be expected to collaborate closely with the design and implementation team for the these works, based at Calderdale Council.

4.2 Overseeing detailed design, fabrication and installation of artworks

- It is most likely that the fabricators will be contracted directly to the Client with the Artist acting in a design supervisory role, but this may vary, especially if the artist undertakes that fabrication of the work him/herself.
- The artist should maintain a written and photographic record of the project including all their input.

- It will be the responsibility of the consultant to prepare planning applications where necessary and to ensure sufficient time is allowed to achieve a decision so as not to effect the timely delivery of the overall scheme, but the artist must collaborate by providing all visual material, plans, drawings and detailed written description of the proposals.
- On completion of the installation works, the Client may wish to stage a launch event/unveiling ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the project, and the artist will be expected to attend and support this.

4.3 Timetable of the Project

Mytholmroyd & Hebden Bridge – November 2012 – October 2013
 Luddendenfoot – January 2013 – October 2013
 Sowerby Bridge – December 2013 – 2014 dependant on successful HLF bid

4.4 Timescale for Artist Response and Programme timetable

Return response by 5.00pm 23rd November 2012 by email to Geoff Wood at address below

Interviews week beginning 3rd December
 Appointments made Dec 10th

Local consultation to complete by Jan 14th 2013
 First Concepts by Jan 28th 2013
 Final Concepts by Feb 25th including costings
 Planning Submission Marc 4th
 Planning Determination April 29th
 Agree fabricators and or book foundry March 18th
 Let fabrication contract April 30th
 Fabrication Complete August 6th (14 weeks)
 Prepare Foundations July 23rd
 Installation period August 13th – Sept 20th

5 Submission and Supporting Information

Please complete those boxes below that are relevant and attach the following:

- Up to date CV including names and contact details of 2 referees.
- Brief statement about your working methods and motivations.
- Details including illustrations (jpegs) of relevant works, no more than 20 images please with written descriptions of each project.
- A short written response to this project opportunity (1 side A4 max, 12 point text) suggesting how you might approach it, and how you will ensure that the programme dates are met and how, in principle, you see the budget breaking down, i.e. % fee/% fabrication/% installation and foundations.
- Do not exceed 5MB with your full submission.

5.1 How will we assess the submissions.

- Track record of appropriate work and artistic excellence 60%
- Evidence of ability to work to budget 20%
- Evidence of ability to work to tight timescales 20%

There are currently three commissions with a fourth coming on stream if funding bids are successful. We reserve the right to appoint 1, 2, 3 or even 4 artists.

5.2 Artist's Basic details (* marked boxes must be completed or submission will be rejected)

Name:	*
Contact details :	
Address:	*
Phone:	*
Fax:	
Mobile phone:	*
E-mail address:	*
Website:	

Are you or is your company a * :	
Sole trader?	
Partnership?	
Private limited company?	
Public limited company?	
If your business is a public limited or private limited company, please supply the following details:	

VAT registration number (if registered):					
Company Registration Number:					
Date of Registration:					
Registered Address:					
Date your company was formed or started trading:					
Name of (ultimate) parent company (If this applies):					
Date of incorporation in the U.K.:					
Please give the names and addresses of each of the senior members of your organisation (for example sole trader, partner, director or company secretary):					
Does your company or any of its senior members have any outstanding debts with any Local Authority e.g. Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Trade Refuse Charges or Commercial Rents?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No		
Yes	No				
Have any of the senior members of the firm (for example a sole trader, partner, director or company secretary) been involved in any firm, which has been liquidated or gone into receivership?*	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No		
Yes	No				

5.3 Insurance

Please give details of insurance cover currently in force as indicated below.

	Insurer	Policy Number	Extent of cover	Expiry Date
Employers Liability *				
Public Liability *				
Professional Indemnity *				

Name and Address of Artist

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Dated

5.4 Project Manager Details

For all enquiries and submissions please refer to

Geoff Wood
Director
Working pArts Ltd
Shoulder of Mutton
70 Towngate
Midgley
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