

Public Art Brief for Peterborough City Centre

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INTRODUCTION

Vivacity, in partnership with Peterborough City Council is seeking to develop a programme of public art within the city centre which both supports the Peterborough City Council Public Realm Strategy and promotes its cultural offer to both local residents and visitors to the city. The ambition is to create art works which are visually striking, reflect the cultural identity of Peterborough and explore the theme of routes and trails across the city. The programme will engage local residents and business in the creation of art works which will result in a visually stimulating welcome to users of the city centre.

We wish to appoint artist(s) to work with the architects, designers & planners to develop designs for integrating sculptural / structural lighting and / or other public art into the redevelopment of a key arterial route between the city rail station and the main city centre. The initial consultancy will then lead to the implementation of designs (Phase 2). A sum of £5,000 is available for initial consultation / design work with the project team. Vivacity has then set aside artists fees of £75k (exc VAT) towards the integration of public art into the scheme which, pending discussions with the redevelopment project team could be supplemented by project funds e.g. funding designated for lighting and installation etc.

Context:

Peterborough is a changing city. Over the last 3 years there has been significant investment in the arts and heritage in the city resulting in the development of Vivacity, the new culture and leisure Trust. Three Arts Council national portfolio organisations have developed strong relationships in the city (Metal, Eastern Angles Theatre and New International Encounters) adding to the mix of small to medium local arts organisations such as Creative Peterborough, Beat This and Peterborough Sings. The city has a growing arts festival which is part of a European network – ZEPA and has recently been successful in receiving a Creative People and Places grant from ACE.

Peterborough also has an amazing history to draw upon as possible inspiration for new art works. The city is the only place in England with a physical record of over 3,500 years of continuous occupation, beginning in the Bronze Age and spanning some 140 generations. Vivacity's Flag Fen is home to the conservation of 8 bronze age boats, a find of international significance ([Flag Fen Must Farm boats](#)).

In terms of public art, the city also has a history of investment. As a new town in the 70's and 80's Peterborough invested in a number of sculptures by emerging artists including pieces by Antony Gormley, Sir Anthony Caro and Barry Flanagan. The intention is to reinvigorate this work by beginning a programme of newly commissioned public art which can expand across the city as funds are identified over the next 2 – 5 years. This brief forms part of a longer term vision for public art which could extend to the inclusion of art works as part of each new regeneration development.

THE SCHEME

Peterborough City Council (PCC) is about to embark on the regeneration of Bourges Boulevard - a key arterial route around the city centre. This route dissects the pedestrian route between the railway station and the main shopping precinct. The redevelopment scheme is designed to improve pedestrian access and transform the appearance of Bourges Boulevard as an important gateway to the city centre for all transport users. Some initial concept drawings are attached to this brief but identifying the right artist to inject visual stimulus into this scheme is crucial in order to generate art work to create our inspiring gateway.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR FINAL ART WORKS

- Create routes and trails around the city through the creation of art works, lighting etc
- Celebrate the heritage and cultural offer of the city
- Creatively engage the community in developments within their own city-centre

- Maximise on regeneration schemes taking place within the city centre (Bourges Boulevard primarily)
- Provide a creative and visually stimulating welcome to Peterborough
- Support the city's bid to become an Environmental Capital either through materials used or subject matters explored
- Continue the ambition of investing in emerging artists either through direct commissioning or through possible mentoring opportunities
- Engage new audiences in culture and leisure, through the creation of new art works

PUBLIC ART OUTPUTS:

FOR CONSULTATION PERIOD: £5k fee (November / December 2013)

- Be an active member of the redevelopment project team
- Explore options for the integration of sculptural lighting and / or public art into the scheme
- Sharing of best practice of design and integration of public art with the team and wider stakeholders
- Development of concepts (designs and associated costs) for the art works

FOR FINAL ART WORKS (Jan – Oct 2014): £70k

- Formalisation of concept drawings with accurate costings
- Development of inspiring public art for the city centre that is adopted and celebrated locally and regionally
- Active engagement opportunities for the public through workshops and consultations with artists and local groups
- Creation of temporary and low cost public art interventions which generate interest and support the development of the concepts for the permanent works.
- Increased awareness of the cultural offer in the city

DETAILS OF THE SITE(S) FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND CREATION OF PUBLIC ART WORKS

Primary site: BOURGES BOULEVARD:

Bourges Boulevard is a dual carriageway which bisects Peterborough city centre, severing the railway station and associated strategic brownfield opportunity sites from the commercial core. The scheme consists of a series of local network improvements that will overcome this major constraint to development and improve network operation by deterring through trips. The scheme includes the signalisation of two junctions and the introduction of two at-grade pedestrian crossings that link development sites, as well as a series of significant public realm improvements. This scheme is part of a wider city centre transport and regeneration strategy.

Improving accessibility across Bourges Boulevard, regulating traffic flows, introducing at-grade pedestrian crossings and good quality public realm will significantly improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists and fully integrate the identified development opportunities to the west of the dual carriageway with the city centre commercial core. The re-development of Bourges Boulevard is essential to creating an integrated transport system in the city which will encourage fewer car journeys and increase levels of walking, cycling and public transport.

The proposed scheme will improve connectivity throughout the area, unlock the identified development sites and deliver wider economic benefits. The scheme is also anticipated to reduce congestion in the area by discouraging through traffic and removing u-turning traffic from Bright Street roundabout.

The proposed scheme consists of the following elements:

- Signalisation of the junction between Bourges Boulevard and Station Road (access to the railway station). This will enable the addition of a right turn out of the station which will reduce u-turning trips at the Bourges Boulevard / Bright Street / Mayors Walk Roundabout.
- Implementation of an at-grade pedestrian north of the Bourges Boulevard / Station Road junction.
- Implementation of an at-grade pedestrian crossing between the Bourges Boulevard / Bright Street / Mayors Walk roundabout and Westgate.
- Provision of an off-road pedestrian and cyclist facility alongside of Bourges Boulevard to encourage sustainable transport along the route, again lessening congestion on an otherwise heavily utilised section of road.
- **Creation of high quality public realm to stimulate development.**
- Implementation of a 30mph speed limit throughout the length of the scheme (20mph is also being considered)
- Reconditioning and installation of an existing sculpture on the Bright Street roundabout

The development team have identified a number of opportunities for the integration of public art into the scheme. These are detailed below. However, these are merely ideas and are not set in stone. The team are keen to hear from artists who bring different perspectives on where and how to integrate the works to gain most impact.

- Central reservation from Crescent Street roundabout to Bright Street roundabout. This is a stretch of approx. 400m and requires lighting / furniture to deter people from crossing at alternative sections to the designated pedestrian crossing points.
- The corner of station road and Bourges Boulevard
- Integration into the planters (as a secondary and not primary focus for the art works)
- Temporary applications to the pedestrian footway over the Boulevard (as a secondary and not primary focus for the art works)

Total Budget for final art works: £75,000 (exc VAT) to include planning, artists fees and expenses, designs, workshops and fabrication / installation. ***Additional funding may be made available through negotiations with the Project Development Team.*** This will depend on how the integral the art work is to the overall redevelopment scheme e.g. budget for light installation may be supported financially from existing lighting budgets.

Secondary site: LONG CAUSEWAY

Peterborough City Council are currently working on the public realm works in Long Causeway. The proposed work will include repaved areas, up-lighting of the street trees and public furniture renewal etc.

Current draft plans include creating a meeting area outside Queensgate (Peterborough's major indoor shopping centre) - formed by curved seating and a space that could have inlaid decorative paving. The space is multi-purpose and could accommodate an outdoor event. Two paired trees could be provided north and south of the seating for symmetry and visual impact. As part of this brief, the development team would be keen to work with the successful artists to explore ideas for the inclusion of art work(s) into this public realm. This could create continuity of design across the different public realm schemes. However, the budget for works on Long Causeway would be separate to the outlined above for Bourges Boulevard. Images of Long Causeway are at the end of this brief.

ARTIST ROLE: Artists successful in being commissioned will be required to

Engage with local stakeholders, design, produce and install public art which

- Connects to the local area, its history and cultural offer
- Provides opportunities for each piece of work to be conceived as an integral part of the overall scheme

- Engages the local community in the development of designs, concepts and / or in the fabrication

Commissioned artworks will need to:

- Be original, and of high quality
- Reflect and celebrate the theme of routes, trails and way-finding
- Be fit for purpose, robust, secure, comply with relevant health and safety requirements and be low maintenance
- Adhere to highways authorities requirements
- Be granted planning permission before fabrication starts.

Artists must look to produce low cost, temporary interventions during the 2nd phase design process to generate interest and engagement in the programme and public art in general.

Artists will be fully involved in the application for planning permission for art works.

Artists will be required to attend project team meetings and meet with architects and planners to ensure the art works maximise on and integrated into the redevelopment schemes.

Artists must oversee installation of all works and submit relevant risk assessments.

Selected artist/s will need to submit a budget breakdown showing allocation of monies across the various elements of the commission.

Artists will be required to provide a detailed maintenance programme for each piece of work with associated budget projections.

Planning process

The artist and Vivacity may need to attend a pre-application meeting with Peterborough City Council prior to lodgement of a planning application. Vivacity will prepare the planning application document with the assistance of the artist and in collaboration of the PCC project team. The project will only proceed if planning approval is obtained. Vivacity will cover the costs associated with planning approval.

Installation

The artist will be required to liaise with Vivacity and Peterborough City Council to coordinate the installation of the artwork and will need to include the installation fees incurred by PCC in their budget unless otherwise negotiated with the project team.

Any sub-contractors employed by the artist to assist with fabricating and/or installing the work must be accredited professionals and be paid from the commission fee. Method statements for the installation must be prepared and submitted prior to any installation works commencing.

Commissioning Agency

Vivacity will commission the artist and the artist will report to Vivacity. Upon installation the artwork will become the property of Vivacity / PCC who will be responsible for its maintenance.

Vivacity will reserve the right at any stage not to proceed with the project, or to proceed on a different basis from that anticipated in this document.

The selected artists will be required to sign a contract with Vivacity.

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE: Nov 2013 to October 2014 (subject to change)

Phase 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| - 17 th November | Deadline for expressions of interest |
| - Wk/c 18th November | Proposal presentations & Interviews with shortlisted artists |
| - Late November / Dec | Meetings with project team, development of concepts |

Phase 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| - Jan / Feb 2014 | Further development of designs with community engagement |
| - Late Feb / March | Submission of final designs |
| - April / May | Planning permission (where required) |
| - May - October 2014
permission) | Fabrication and installation phase (pending planning |

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Expressions of interest are invited from artist/s with experience of developing external art works for the public realm through the engagement of the local community.

A panel of stakeholders will consider the applications and shortlist using the selection criteria below. People on the interview panel are likely to include the

- Sarah Haythornthwaite, Arts Service Manager, Vivacity
- Shelagh Smith, Chair of the Board, Vivacity
- Simon Machen, Head of Planning, Transport and Engineering, Peterborough City Council
- Graham Woodward, Associate Director, Head of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, ATKINS

Artists will be selected based on their

- Track record in producing and installing high quality, innovative public art which is distinct to it's local area / setting
- Experience of working effectively with architects, planners, key stakeholders etc
- Understanding and experience of engaging the community (local residents and businesses)
- Experience of developing programmes of individual pieces of work which are underpinned by a strong theme / connectivity.
- Ability to create works which support and build on existing regeneration schemes.
- Experience of planning processes relating to the creation of public art.
- Experience of delivering projects on time and on budget
- Ability to carry out risk assessments and ensure health and safety requirements are met during all stages of a project
- Experience of considering longer term maintenance requirements including the production of effective maintenance schedules.

How to apply:

Please supply the following:

- An expression of interest indicating your relevant experience and general approach to the commission
- Current CV (max 3 pages) & 2 referees contact details
- Up to 15 Images of relevant work, with image details
- Proof of current CRB disclosure and public liability insurance cover up to £5 million

Ideal formats for both text and image files - PDF's, PowerPoint or JPEG image files. We are unable to accept submissions by email. Please send an SAE if you wish your work to be returned.

Please send your application on disk or memory stick with one hard copy, including your contact details to:

City Centre public art scheme, c/o Sarah Haythornthwaite, Arts Services Manager, Vivacity, Key Theatre, Embankment Rd, Peterborough, PE1 1EF

If you have any general queries please contact

Sarah Haythornthwaite on sarah.haythornthwaite@vivacity-peterborough.com or 01733 864 634

Application Deadline: 17th November, 5pm

We will notify you of the outcome of your application, but due to the high level of interest anticipated for this opportunity unfortunately we are unable to give individual feedback at this stage. Thank you for your interest in this exciting public art project.

VIVACITY CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST:

For further information on Vivacity (Culture and Leisure Trust), please visit www.vivacity-peterborough.com

IMAGES OF THE SITES:

BOURGES BOULEVARD – from Crescent roundabout



View from entrance to the footbridge at Queensgate shopping centre exit, opposite Station Approach



Inside the footbridge across Bourges Boulevard



Long Causeway

