

Artist brief

Public art for a new office complex for the automotive industry Milton Keynes,

1. Project Summary

PHP Architects and Lewis (Ayr) Ltd are inviting an artist to develop an artwork for the external courtyard and amenity space to a new office building in Milton Keynes.

2. Building design and development

The new building's geometric design was partly informed by the site and part by the client's involvement with the automotive industry. The design seeks to evoke the combination of sleek curves intersected by straight-lines and planes of current car design to create a high quality, fluid form, where more of the detail is revealed the closer you get to the building. The occupier of the building will be Volkswagen Financial Services.

A feature of the design is a sheltered amenity court, where the occupier will hold outdoor events, and staff can enjoy lunches on fair days. Much of the area will be either high quality hard landscaping or lawn, which will blend into wildflower meadow planting to the north edge, with trees and taller herbaceous planting providing a screen to the car parking.

The Amenity court has been selected as the ideal location for the installation of both permanent and temporary Public Art.

3. Public Art

In Milton Keynes we consider Public Art as any work of visual art, craft or design produced by an artist, designer or maker and sited in a location that is freely accessible to the public. Most importantly the Arts and Public Art Strategy for Milton Keynes (2014 - 23) states that public art commissions should be:

- Artist specific
- Place specific
- People specific

4. Commission Aim & Objectives:

Aim: To design an artwork for the external courtyard to the new office building that offers visual focus and interest whilst integrating with the development design.

1. That the artwork provides a visual focus between the car park and office building for users of the space
2. That the artwork design is sensitive and reflective of the building design
3. That the artwork is durable and maintained with ease and at low cost (life expectancy minimum of 25 years)

5. Budget

The Commission has a budget of £100,000 fully inclusive of artist fees, design development, fabrication, enabling/groundwork and installation

6. Site opportunities and constraints

The amenity courtyard is the main entrance for staff entering from the car park area and viewable for visitor from the reception and atrium area; as such the artwork will be highly visible and accessible. Additionally it will be seen from all sides from open plan offices which front onto the space, these offices are on three levels.

The specification for ground works and/or electrical supply need to be specified and agreed by pHp to enable them to be installed whilst the build is in progress.

Scale – to be appropriate to the scale of the courtyard and be observed from multiple directions and levels from around the building

7. The Commissioning Panel and management

The Commissioning Panel is made up of representatives from PHP architects, Lewis (Ayr) Ltd and Milton Keynes Council. The art commissioning process is being managed by Milton Keynes Council on behalf of PHP architects and Lewis (Ayr) Ltd. Lewis (Ayr) Ltd. will be the commissioner and issue all contracts and associated payments.

8. Selection process

The commissioning panel are inviting expressions of interest from artists with a track record of designing and installing public artworks. From this the panel will select up to 3 artists to visit the site and to meet with the architects and commissioning panel. Shortlisted artists will then be paid a fixed fee of £1,500 each to develop at least three outline proposals for artworks.

The Commissioning panel will then select their preferred artist and design idea for development to a final artwork using the following criteria:

- a. How the designs considers people and place
- b. How the design relates to the building and surrounding area
- c. Durability and maintenance requirements

It should be noted that the commissioning panel are seeking imaginative proposals in response to the site rather than literal interpretations of the buildings use.

9. Timescales

Action	Dates
Expressions of interest closing date	13 June
Shortlisting	17 June
Site visit and research day	Week 23 June
Presentation of sketch designs to commissioning panel	Week 14 July
Appointment of chosen artist	Week 21 July
Design development, specification of enabling and ground works to PHP Architects	Sept 14
Final design sign off	TBA
Production/fabrication	TBA
Installation	TBA
Completion and handover	TBA

10. Insurances

The selected artist will be required to have the following insurances in place:

- Public Liability Insurance £5,000,000
- Professional/Products Indemnity Insurance to cover the costs of the commission.

11. Making an expression of interest

The following documents must be provided to the Project Manager by the closing date:

- a) 5-10 examples of previous projects (pdf or jpg file types only)

- b) A cover sheet providing basic information about each project (date, client, budget, materials, scale etc – as appropriate)
- c) Curriculum Vitae including qualifications, and experience of delivering public art commissions
- d) Letter outlining your approach to developing public artworks, confirmation of your availability against the timescales stated, agreement to have your application data retained by Milton Keynes Council and partners for consideration on future projects, and any other information you deem appropriate
- e) Contact details (email and telephone) for 2 referees, stating what relationship exists between the artist and the referee – note: preferably these should be from recent commissioners

Expressions of interest should be submitted by 5pm, 13th June 2014 to:

**Louise Izod,
Public Art Officer,
Saxon Court
502 Avebury Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 3HS**

Email – arts@milton-keynes.gov.uk