

Eco2 Public Art Commission



Description:	An Innovative signature artwork for Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant
Based:	Sleaford Lincolnshire
Available Budget:	£40 000
Timescale:	Registration of interest 2nd September 2013
	Shortlisted interviews 10th October 2013
	Completion February 2014

Brief for artists, Designers and architects

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Who is eligible to apply?

Applications can be from individuals or teams.

The artists, Designers or architects selected will be expected to design, construct and install their proposal or manage that process and, if shortlisted, will need to demonstrate that capability.

For these reasons the commissions are most suitable for professional artists, architects and designers and unlikely to be suitable for students.

Students, less experienced artists and architects may apply as part of a team.

Context for the commission

At a time when the global environment is under pressure and local economies need to respond to an international recession, North Kesteven District Council has entered into an exciting partnership with Eco2 to build a Renewable Energy Plant near Sleaford in Lincolnshire. The project is just the most recent of centuries of innovative partnerships in the town, reflecting its position at the centre of the seed industry and agriculture.

artsNK is seeking to commission a new signature artwork that celebrates this new initiative, adding a significant new piece to the Sleaford and District collection, and linking this new project with the town's history of innovation, agriculture, industry and commerce and renewable energy.

Background

The small market town of Sleaford, to the south of the Cathedral city of Lincoln, has a long and important connection with the land, with agriculture and specifically the seed industry. This project brings this connection to a new level, harnessing technical innovation to connect with the area's farmers in the development of a straw fired bio mass energy production plant.

North Kesteven in general and Sleaford in particular have a strong reputation for being at the forefront of arts delivery in rural areas through their development of a highly regarded arts development service, funded as part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio, building a collection of high quality public artworks over the last two decades. What all these projects have in common is the development of innovative artworks of quality that celebrate local themes and stories. North Kesteven consistently brings together ambition and innovation with local relevance and distinctiveness.

This commission offers us the opportunity to create a signature piece for this exciting new renewable energy site as the "jewel" to sit at the centre of the town's collection.

Kirkby La Thorpe

Kirkby la Thorpe is a small village located 1.5 miles (2.4 km) east from Sleaford. Historically, it is of interest for having three medieval village sites within the parish, mentioned in the Domesday. It is home to a lively Primary school and a Grade II listed parish church.

Eco2 Innovation

The Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant is a straw-fired power station nearing completion just outside Sleaford, near Kirkby La Thorpe in Lincolnshire, renowned as the "bread basket" of England.

The premise is simple. By completing the circle and generating power from the leftover stubble from local farmers, the cost of energy can be reduced and the negative impact on the environment locally and globally can be lessened.

The plant will generate 38 MWe, which is enough to power 65 000 homes, at the same time as saving a massive 230, 000 tonnes of CO2 per year. In terms of the local economy, the plant will create 30 jobs with an additional 50 jobs created in the supply chain. Contracts for local farmers to supply straw are likely to be worth in the region of £10 million per year.



Connected to Communities

Their project is not just about power generation and farming. There will be a direct link with the town created by running a pipe connection to the new Sleaford Leisure Centre, to NKDC Offices and on to William Alvey C of E School to transfer hot water created by surplus heat. In addition, the town's football club and bowlers will also benefit from free heat, reducing more and more of the town's amenities' reliance on fossil fuels.

Sleaford's public art collection

This commission offers the opportunity to create a new signature piece to be sited at the entrance to the plant, adding to the existing public artworks in the town.

The story starts with one of the country's leading sculptors, William Pye, who was commissioned in 2002 to create a piece under arstNK's "Wellsprings and Waterways" scheme, celebrating the role water has played in the formation of the landscape and settlements. William created a water piece, sited in the pump sump at Cogglesford Mill, arguably the town's first power plant.

The piece is beautifully integrated with its environment. Located at ground level in a walled enclosure, it uses the (filtered) river water to create a

cascading sheen over the highly polished stainless steel surface, bringing together the form of the sculpture, the reflection of the location and the water of the Slea Navigation, built to transport the town's seed produce to the rest of the world.

William Lasdun

Our second River Slea inspired piece takes the Navigation as a means of transporting the local seed and agricultural produce as its theme. William Lasdun's piece, commissioned in 2004 and actually sited in the bed of the river, is fabricated from stainless steel and inspired by sail forms on masts that can be dropped to go under bridges as found in inland barges.



Alan Potter

The floor mosaics by Alan Potter, located just outside the Leisure Centre, reflect his modern interpretation of traditional Roman mosaic techniques and style. They are very pictorial, illustrating three power sources: Man, toiling to pull the barge, Animals, who replaced him when technology allowed, and then Wind, harnessed by the inland sailing barges and the Windmills to grind the corn and other machinery.



Richard Bett

Local artist Richard Bett took his inspiration from one of the town's earliest entrepreneurial innovators, industrial modernisers and developers, Kirke and Perry. Richard looked to their Wyvern Motif, that can be seen on the gable end of the adjacent building which is just one of the many they built, whilst they also supported and brought about the building of the railway that

replaced the Navigation as the link for the area's agricultural produce and seeds to the rest of the world.



Plant commission in context of this collection

As a collection, the public art in Sleaford reflects the area's connection to agriculture, to power generation and to the environment. It is also a celebration of innovation and the harnessing of new technologies.

What we are looking for

The Commissioning partnership, comprising Eco 2, NKDC and artsNK, is looking for a high quality, original and site specific landmark feature that reflects the themes of this brief. We are also looking for security and confidence that the piece can be produced and installed within the agreed schedule and within budget.

We are looking for bespoke, exciting proposals that are new and innovative, that will extend the public art experience in the town and signpost this important new initiative.

We do not want to over prescribe what the piece will be, preferring to trust to the creativity, experience and expertise of the selected artist or designer to produce the best possible piece for this opportunity and location.

We welcome proposals from artists across all areas of practice suitable for the location.

Obligations of the selected artist

The selected scheme will need to be achievable within the £40 000 budget available to include all costs and fees.

The piece will need to be robust enough to survive the challenges of the location, require either minimal maintenance or have an agreed maintenance schedule for a minimum period of 10 years that is provided for within the overall budget

The selected artist will be expected to play a part in presenting their proposals, explaining the concept and approach, and inputting into a community and education programme that will help create wider awareness, understanding and appreciation of the project and the wider arts programme.

The selected artist will be expected to play a part in the marketing and publicity of the project, providing information, documentation images and other material relevant to their proposal for the Commissioning partnership to use in mainstream publicity and marketing as well as inputting into web and social networking platforms.

The selected artist will have responsibility to work with the commissioning partnership to ensure their proposal gets all relevant permissions, building and planning consents.

The selected artist will provide all necessary engineering specifications for the design, materials and installation of the proposed artwork within the overall budget.

The selected artist will need to provide evidence of public liability insurance and professional indemnities, undertaking and providing evidence of risk assessment and method statements for each stage of the project.

Obligations of the Commissioners

The commissioning partnership will work together to support the commissioned artist to create the best, most suitable and appropriate piece for the opportunity and the site.

The partnership will provide the artist with information and support required for him or her to complete the commission within the agreed timescale and budget, including making available any existing related site surveys, plans, and drawings.

The partnership will liaise with NKDC Planning Department to assist with the process of getting the artist's proposals through the planning procedures.

The partnership will coordinate marketing and publicity as well as local consultation and education activity in order to contribute to increased understanding and ownership of the piece.

What you need to do

There is a two stage process to be considered for this commission.

Stage One

Part 1 – Expressions of Interest

In order to be considered for short listing you need to send the following:

1. A letter stating who you are, who is in your team (if relevant) together with CVs for each person stating their relevant experience in producing art work, installations, or structures in public places.
2. Your contact details and preferred method of communication – telephone, email etc.
3. A short (less than 400 words) statement saying why you or your team would like to be considered for the commissions, including a ballpark figure for the costs of implementing your proposal.
4. Up to 10 Images of previous work with short descriptions, locations and illustrative breakdown of the £40,000 budget.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

ALL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MUST BE DELIVERED BY HAND, BY POST OR COURIER ONLY (EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED) BY

5PM on Monday 2nd Sep 2013

Important Note: images should either be printed at no smaller than A5 or on a CD-ROM in Jpeg format – with clear descriptions which relate to each image in both cases. If you wish to have your images returned please enclose a self-addressed envelope.

SEND TO: Muriel Marr artsNK
Third Floor, The NCCD (National Centre for Craft and Design)
Navigation Wharf
Carre Street
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7TW

For Queries and questions only email nick.jones@litc.org.uk

Shortlisted Applicants will be notified by Friday 6th September 2013. If you have not heard by the end of this date then unfortunately, on this occasion, you have not been shortlisted – if there are large number of expressions of interest, it may not be possible to contact all unsuccessful applicants for up to 3 weeks after this date.

We will put all applications on display for one week in Sleaford to raise awareness of the scheme and illustrate the range of responses to the opportunity.

Part 2 – Submitting Proposals

Up to 5 artists or teams will be shortlisted for the second stage

An honorarium of £500 per shortlisted party will be available to assist with the preparation of detailed proposals. Should shortlisted applicants wish to visit the site during September site visits can be arranged with the organisers.

Shortlisted applicants must submit their proposals by 5.00 pm Friday 4 October 2013. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to present their proposals to the selection panel on Thursday 10th October 2013 at a venue to be confirmed (Likely to be in NCCD). Shortlisted proposals will also be exhibited to the public.

The selection panel will include:

Mike Lock (NKDC), Cllr Lindsey Cawrey (NKDC) Nick Jones (arts NK), Rhys Clark (ECO2) and a representative from Kirkby La Thorpe and Sleaford Councils.

Selection and commissioning production

The preferred scheme will be selected and the successful applicant notified by Tuesday 15th October and commissioned to go on to fabrication.

The project should be fabricated and installed to be unveiled in February 2013, the final date to be confirmed.

What do I need to submit if shortlisted?

Before developing a proposal please re-read this brief and associated links to understand the context and location.

Your proposal to be submitted for exhibition and presented to the panel in person should take the form of a scale model or Marquette but can be supported by drawings; photographic images or montages; models; digital

images; computer renderings or animations etc. - any format as long as it clearly communicates your proposal to the panel and you can leave a 'hard copy' version with the panel.

In addition...

- A 600 word written description of the proposal with any explanatory notes you think will help and your contact details.
- proposed budget breakdown for the project

Applicants are asked to include within their figures for each commission all fees, materials, production costs, delivery, installation, foundations, any travel and accommodation, items that may arise from a 6 month 'snagging period' and contingency.

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How The Commissioning Process Works

The artist or architect selected to undertake the commission will be heartily congratulated and be given a two-part contract and a final budget will be agreed for the project.

The first part of the contract will be a development phase where 20% of the available budget is paid in order to develop the concept to a detailed design and cost all elements of production and installation.

Subject to agreement with the project supervisor the second part of the contract will become active and the remaining 80% of the available budget will be paid in 3 staged payments – the final payment being after the final installation and a 6 month 'snagging period' and hand over and acceptance of the structure or installation to Lincolnshire County Council.

The contract will also include a detailed agreed timescale of payments against milestones. It is intended that all of the installations will be complete by February 2013.

The budget/contract value to include:

- All materials and production costs.
- All professional fees.
- Delivery and installation **including any necessary ground works and fixings**

- any costs associated with items necessary to obtain permissions
- All accommodation and travel expenses.
- Items arising during a 6 month snagging period post installation

The contract will be issued and managed by artsNK on behalf of the commissioning partnership.

Selected artists will be expected to be open to workshop visits during the construction phase and be willing to work with artsNK to assist with a programme of local consultation, public promotion and awareness

Maintenance

- The commissioned designs will need to be as maintenance free as possible
- A maintenance schedule must be provided detailing all materials, fixings, finishes etc and the time periods after which they should be checked or refurbished however...
- The reality is that the installations and structures will receive very little maintenance and therefore should be designed to endure for long periods (years) without the need for maintenance.
- Careful choice of materials at the outset (see above) is critical.
- Moving parts requiring regular lubrication, short lifespan lighting units, and fixings which corrode may not be suitable and would need careful thought and agreement.

Finishes

- High specification paint finishes must be capable of being reproduced on site and will have to be set out in a detailed maintenance schedule (which will be required only when winning design is being commissioned).
- All finishes will weather and colour will fade relatively quickly – consider how your design will look after 2, 5 and 10 years and plan for this.
- Renders and other applied finishes must be capable of withstanding wide temperature ranges without cracking.
- Consider industrial and marine related products rather than domestic.

Foundations and Engineering

- There are existing concrete bases which form part of the entrance
Depending on the nature of the proposed structure and installation some of these existing foundations *may* be suitable, subject to confirmation by a structural engineer and site owners.
- Additional concrete foundations may be possible but again this would be subject to design advice.

- 100% construction from heavy materials such as brick and stone will result in larger and more complex foundation designs (and increased cost) which may, over prolonged periods, become subject to cracking due to gradual erosion of the sand base in some locations. Light weight materials and construction might be preferable.
- **Larger installations and structures may require the services of a structural engineer and these costs should be factored into the final budget for the finished design.**
- A structural engineer in the area will be suggested by the project co-ordinator at the commissioning stage.

Power and Utilities

- If power is essential to your design you may wish to consider solar, wind or other alternative energy sources and high efficiency, low energy consumption components.
- You may wish to consider maximising the use of natural light.

Permissions

- Depending on the nature of the design permission may need to be sought from the following bodies prior to the final design being commissioned:
- Lincolnshire County Council Planning Department (there is a fee of around £190)
- The Building Control Department of the NKDC

Web links

Eco 2

http://www.eco2uk.com/en/our_projects/project_detail.asp?project_id=9

Sleaford Art

<http://www.artsnk.org/>

<http://www.williampye.com/>

<http://rbs.org.uk/index.php?/artists/william-lasdun>

<http://www.richardbett.com/index.htm>

<http://www.alanpotter-artist.co.uk/>

Related projects

<http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/bathing-beauties/structures-on-the-edge/>