

West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society Public Art Commission

Tender to commission the appointment of an artist to design, produce and erect a Public Art feature at the corner of Shankill Road/Northumberland Street Junction

WBA&CS is calling for expressions of interest for a new public artwork from experienced and suitably qualified artists or design teams. The total budget available for the artwork is £72,500.

**The deadline for expressions of interest is by 4.00pm, on Friday 25/01/2013.
Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Applicants are requested to read the full content of this document carefully as it contains important information pertaining to all stages of the commission.

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1. APPLICATION PROCESS

Stage 1: The purpose of Stage 1 is to invite Expression of Interest applications with outline concepts from artists/design teams from which a suitably selected and qualified panel (Public Art Steering group) can short-list artists to work up detailed design proposals. The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest and outline concepts will be STRICTLY 4.00pm, **Friday 25th October 2013**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Stage 2: The Public Art Steering group will short-list a maximum of 4 artists/design teams who will be invited to work up detailed design proposals for presentation to the public art selection panel. Artists short-listed for Stage 2 will be notified by week commencing 4th November 2013 and forwarded a detailed brief and design contract. Detailed designs, including Marquette's if supplied, will be presented by artists in person to the Public Art Steering group on **25 November 2013**. The successful artist/design team will be notified the following week.

2. Background – Public Art feature for Shankill Road/Northumberland Street Junction

The provision of a Public Art feature that will be known as “Conors Corner” after the local artists William Conor who lived and worked in the area. The project will be based on close community consultation and involvement during the design and production of the final piece. It is very important that the final piece of public art would mean something to the people of ‘the local community’ by instilling a sense of pride in the area. The public art will also celebrate excellence within the district and become an iconic landmark for the Shankill area. The provision of a piece of public art at this location comes at an exciting time for the area as other community art initiatives are currently being developed, which will complement the new proposed “Conors Corner” art work. This new art feature will be the main visual attraction to local people and others who travel and visit the area as it will be situated on vacant ground on the main arterial route from North Belfast to West Belfast.

Theme of the Public Art piece

We would like to see the creation of an iconic piece of public art as a main visual feature to Shankill Road. The concept is to have an arts based feature that would promote and also attract a wide range of people to engage with the local community and the local environment. This would be a symbol of a shared space to which all sections of the community have contributed and to which they feel a sense of ownership. The piece should reflect and celebrate the contribution made by William Conor who worked and lived in the area in nearby Fortingale Street and the value of his artistic work especially as an artist during the War years of 1914 to 1918. This would address some of the issues around community pride and perceptions and would allow people to express their sense of identity, various traditions and cultures but in a respectful manner.

The whole project would be carefully managed by the artist involved who would ensure that respect and non-offence would be key and that in the end all people would feel that they have had a positive role to play and take community ownership in the creation of this art piece.

3. ARTIST'S BRIEF

WBA&CS aims to commission a substantial iconic public art piece that is; innovative, unique, timeless and elegant to celebrate excellence in promoting the memory of the works and images of William Conor and the period in his life that contributed to his formative work as a war artist.

Commissioning Public Art does not mean merely providing the public with the most obvious and fixed solution, for this would prohibit the possibility of truly innovative art. It involves a process of dialogue and expanding horizons in the sense that people cannot express a desire for that which they have not yet experienced. However the fear of controversy has too often been an inhibiting factor in the commissioning process. The pressure to play it safe, to do what has been done before can seem overwhelming and can impact negatively on the vision and ambition of a project.

WBA&CS believe that an effective public art work does not patronize or placate its public and the instantly popular option must be balanced against the desire to promote and motivate with the demands of enduring quality, creativity and professionalism.

Available Services: The Council technical service division and other statutory agencies will advise the artist in regard to nearby services i.e. electricity and water supply for any artist wishing to incorporate light or water as part of the art works, although this is not a pre-requisite of the brief. Any work involved in extending the services to the site will be part of the overall budget.

Materials: The brief does not specify the materials to be used, but the artwork is intended to be permanent and of high quality. Therefore should be made of high quality, durable materials which require minimum maintenance.

Other Considerations: The artwork will be subject to planning approvals which WBA&CS will apply for. The successful artist will be expected to provide satisfactory drawings and elevations to satisfy planning procedures; planning permission fees is included in the overall fee for the commission. On completion of the project, the successful artist will be required to provide an engineer's certificate to satisfy the Department of the Environment and the Council that the artwork has been designed, constructed and installed in accordance with current engineer's standards and judgments.

Site Visit, Workshops and Public Consultation: Artist's short-listed to submit detailed designs will be expected to attend a site visit before submitting their final design (See Section 6 for details of eligible expenses). **The successful artist will be expected to run as part of the commission a total of 8 half day community education workshops to involve key groups, stakeholders and members of the community in the public art process through Community/Education Workshops to ensure ownership of the final piece.** Through the workshops, the artist will have the opportunity to inspire all those

involved and pass on their knowledge and experience. A process of this nature is a learning experience for everyone.

Through these workshops, local people will have the opportunity to be part of the public art process and sketches and photographs etc will be documented and retained for posterity in a number of formats. All age groups in the community as well as community/voluntary organisations and key stakeholder groups will be encouraged to be involved.

It is envisaged this community participation in the project will promote engagement, endorse ownership and encourage a greater sense of civic pride in the local community which in turn will allow for a more positive expression of the local environment.

WBA&CS staff and volunteers will organise the workshops and facilitate venues in consultation with the artist. There may also be the requirement for the artist to attend additional meetings regarding the public art programme, these will be kept to a minimum and scheduled in consultation with the artist. Artists' fees for undertaking these workshops and meetings are included in the overall commission fee.

4. PUBLIC ART SELECTION PANEL/STEERING GROUP

The public art selection panel will have representation from local community groups, representative from the funders the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, NIHE and the Department for Social Development.

This panel will be responsible for all short-listing and selection procedures as well as overall management of the project.

5. STAGE 1. - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must include the following:

5.1 Public Art Commission application form.

5.2 An Artist's CV setting out relevant experience of successfully delivering other similar Public realm artworks. The CV should run to no more than 3 pages.

5.3 Examples of previous work (no more than 10). Artists are advised to submit both hard copy and CD/DVD representations of their work.

5.4 A written outline of the artist's or group's concept and statement of intent for the site, and proposed materials. This should not exceed 500 words. Artists may if they wish submit outline drawings or sketches, although WBA&CS DO NOT require detailed designed proposals or maquettes at Stage 1 as these will be requested from artists who are short-listed for the Stage 2 process.

5.5 Names and contact details of two referees.

5.6 Provision of a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for return of proposal, if required.

Please note:

Artists who will be working with a sub-contracted fabricator are strongly advised to submit a joint proposal with their intended fabricator at Stage 1.

6. NOTES ON BUDGETS, FEES AND EXPENSES FOR SHORT-LISTED ARTISTS

6.1 **£500.00** will be paid to up to 4 artists successfully short-listed for Stage 2 for the William Conor artwork, in order to work up a detailed design proposal and create a maquette and/or computerised 3-D model. This fee will include any postage or courier costs involved in transporting the maquette.

6.2 All travel costs to facilitate expenses associated with a site visit and to make a formal presentation of the final maquette and for computerised 3-D model to the public art selection panel are included in this fee.

Please note that any additional costs will have to be met by the artist.

6.3 The successful artist/design team will be responsible for the design and creation of the art work including planning permission costs, foundations and final installation within the budget of £72,500. The budget of £72,500 will include any further artists design fees, expenses, foundation costs, materials, insurances, production and manufacturing, engineer's reports, community consultation/workshops and installation fees, transport costs, and other necessary fees in order to finalise the installation of the public art piece. The successful artist/design team will be required to sub-contract and project manage all associated work for the public art piece, and to liaise with WBA&CS or their appointed representative in providing information required to secure all required statutory approvals such as planning and technical approval.

6.4 The overall fee also should include any re-landscaping of the site and additional lighting that the artwork may require.

6.5 Short-listed artists/ design teams will be expected to submit an itemised project budget that identifies all costs, including contingencies. It must cover all disbursements, design, documentation, materials, foundation costs, manufacturing and the delivery to the site of the finished art work, including all health and safety requirements.

7. APPLICANT/S SELECTION CRITERIA for SHORT LISTING AT STAGE 1.

Applicants will be evaluated against the following selection criteria:

7.1 Relevant experience and success in delivering high quality and innovative public realm artworks, with a track record of having delivered projects within prescribed time-scales and budgets. (40 points)

7.2 The strength and merit of the artist's/design teams concept and statement of intent and its relevance and suitability to the site. (30 Points)

7.3 Evidence of previous collaborative working with local communities and relevant stakeholders in the delivery of public realm projects (30 Points)

7.4 Proven ability to manage Public Art projects of a similar scale and budget (20 Points)

8. ARTIST/DESIGN TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful artist/design team will be responsible for:

8.1 Liaising with WBA&CS CONSULTANT on all aspects of the project

8.2 Providing all necessary drawings, elevations and other such drawings required for the securing of statutory planning approvals.

8.3 Documenting the project design and specifications

8.4 Supplying and funding all materials required for the project, including foundations, artwork materials, as well as all transport and works safety requirements

8.5 Ensuring appropriate work site safety procedures are undertaken throughout the preparation of the foundations and installation of the public art.

8.6 The fabrication and installation of the works;

8.7 The provision of a structural engineer report for foundations and final installation, satisfying planners and the Council that the foundations and artwork comply with current engineering standards.

8.8 Completing the project within the timeframe and budget provided;

8.9 Contributing to marketing activities such as photo shoots, allowing use of concept drawings, providing artist statements and any other reasonable activity requested by BSCR to promote the project.

8.10 Contributing to reporting and evaluation at the conclusion of the commission;

8.11 Attending Public Art Steering Group meetings when required;

8.12 Providing WBA&CS with operating and maintenance instructions and costs;

8.13 Conducting a series of artist led workshops with local community groups and key stakeholders.

8.14 Regularly updating the PROJECT CONSULTANT on project development;

8.15 Provision of an integrated artist's statement as part of completed art work.

8.16 A Lifecycle maintenance budget for the commission.

9. WBA&CS's RESPONSIBILITIES:

WBA&CS is responsible for:

9.1 Monitoring the project through the Economic Development & Regeneration Manager and Public Art Steering Group;

9.2 Providing the artist/design team with support through the Economic Development & Regeneration Manager and the Public Art Steering Committee;

9.3 Overall Project Management and supervision;

9.4 Drafting the Commission Agreement and Contracts;

9.5 Primary artist/team contact;

9.6 Providing community contacts;

9.7 Project marketing and reporting;

9.8 Advising the artist/team if in the future the art work needs to be relocated or intentionally modified, or destroyed;

9.9 Facilitating community relationships as requested and as suitable;

9.11 Overseeing the budget for the project;

9.12 Obtaining planning permission.

10. PROJECT TIMELINE

KEY DATES FOR WILLIAM CONOR ARTWORK

Time table for Public Art Project

Event	Date
Advert for expression of interest	Week commencing 01/10/2013
Deadline for receipt of Expression of interest	Before or By 4pm on 25/10/2013
Short listing of artists from detailed design Phase (Stage 2)	Week commencing 04/11/2013
Letters to shortlisted artists with detailed artist brief and tender documents	Week commencing 11/11/2013
Detailed design phase of short listed artists	Completed by 15/11/2013
Site visit for short listed artists	To be arranged with artists.
Presentation of detailed design proposals and maquettes to Public Art Selection panel	Week commencing 09/12/2013
Recommendations to Council re appointment of artist for commission	Week commencing 16/12/2013
Deadline for completion of Project	Week commencing 30 April 2014

11. OWNERSHIP

The Public Art Work becomes the property of WBA&CS after installation by artist/design team and acceptance by WBA&CS. A contract for this project will provide for the appropriate care and maintenance of the work, artist's copyright and acknowledgement.

12. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The successful artist will be engaged by WBA&CS and the payment schedule will be as follows:

- 5% will be paid upon submission of the Planning Application;
- 35% will be paid upon signing of contract once Planning Approval is secured;
- 30% will be paid upon completion of the artwork;
- 30% will be paid upon acceptance of work by WBA&CS and the completion of the reporting requirements to WBA&CS.

13. SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest responding to this brief and addressing the appropriate selection criteria should be forwarded by recorded delivery in hard copy by 4pm on Friday 25/10/2013 or by hand (if delivered by hand applicants should ensure they get a receipt):

Expression of Interest for William Conor Art Project

Project consultant
George Newell
East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Ave
Belfast
BT5 4FP

Late, faxed or emailed submissions will not be considered. The Public Art Selection Panel and WBA&CS decisions will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

14. CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Applicants may contact the Project consultant for further information by email.
gnewell_bacs@hotmail.com

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