

RIVER CONNECTIONS

Programme of Public Art for the River Ness 2012 - 2016



Children's Riverside Water Feature

Artist's Brief

The Highland Council is seeking to appoint an artist to work with students from Inverness College, UHI and secondary schools in Inverness on the creation of a Children's Riverside Water Feature, part of the River Ness Public Art project.

The Children's Riverside Feature is part of a wider public art programme that seeks to explore the River Ness' ecology, vibrant wildlife, heritage and culture. The River Ness flows for seven miles from Loch Ness to the Moray Firth and is one of the most significant features of the city, rich in biodiversity, history and culture.

The Children's Riverside Water Feature is one of a series of art initiatives to encourage people to experience and engage with the river as it flows through the city. This project will be informed by young people for young people.



1. Background



Background

The River Ness is renowned as the '*environmental heart*' of the city; attracting visitors to the city and enabling Highland residents to engage with its natural history. The River Ness required practical flood alleviation works and these have facilitated a unique opportunity for public art to sympathetically connect with the river, reflecting the importance of Inverness as the capital of the Highlands in Scotland.

The River Connections artwork programme will seek to develop works of high quality and engender a distinctive sense of place, enhancing the riverscape and increasing footfall.

The project has attracted major funding support from Inverness Common Good Fund, Creative Scotland, The Highland Council and HIE to deliver a public arts programme that integrates with the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme (RNFAS).

Further information on the RNFAS can be accessed from:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1210/environment/80/flood_alleviation_schemes



The *River Connections* Public Art Projects are:

- River Connections;
- The Gathering Place;
- The Trail;
- Artist – Designed Rest Spaces;
- Sculptural Destination
- **Children’s Water Riverside Feature – Young People’s Participatory Project**

The project has been commissioned by the Highland Council's Inverness City Arts Working Group who are:

- Cllr. Ken Gowans (Chair)
- Provost Helen Carmichael
- Cllr. Thomas Prag
- Cllr. Bet McAllister
- Cllr Graham Ross

The Project Management Team:

- David Haas, City Manager
- Sharon Barrie, Project Manager
- Cathy Shankland, Curatorial Manager

Children's Riverside Water Feature

This additional commission has been agreed by ICArts working Group to engage young people and families with the river and the city in a fun and informative way and to explore the ecology and rich cultural heritage of the river and the wider Highlands, including its myths and folklore.

The Children's Riverside Water Feature will be an interactive artwork, relating to the River Ness, informed by and for young people.

The Artist, working closely with an Education Co-ordinator and the Curatorial Manager, will work with students from Inverness College, UHI, and pupils drawn from Inverness secondary schools on the development of the artwork, the site-selection, production and installation.



Some initial mapping work has been undertaken as part of the project by Architecture+Design Scotland whose specialist Learning Programme team ran workshops with two local high schools (Inverness High School and Culloden Academy), as part of an initial information gathering process and to identify what the young residents of the city may like to see along the river. This material, in the

form of a short film and written document, is available to assist with informing the Artist's initial process.

Schools Mapping Workshops - Film by Emma Dove:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sfrPXGmFa8>

The Installation

The aims of the artwork are that it should be:

- Interactive and provide a sensory experience
- Include a water component to provide a tangible link with the River Ness
- Reflect the ecology, heritage, history, mythology and heritage of Inverness and the wider Highlands
- Educational, fun and informative
- Enable engagement with all children including those sensory or physical impairments
- Comply with current Health and Safety requirements
- Integrated with other commissions
- Completed by December 2017

The Process

The project will be informed by young people for young people.

- Inverness College students to be offered the opportunity to work on the project as part of their core studies. Students will work with pupils in researching previous relevant public art projects, developing ideas for a riverside feature, exploring potential sites and will connect with the artist in the design, development and delivery of the artwork
- All five secondary schools in the Inverness area should have the opportunity to be involved.
- The target groups for involvement are S1-3 pupils. Schools will be asked for pupil nominations, with 2-3 per school. Pupils would act as ambassadors for the project with the rest of the school.
- A Steering Group of students and pupils to be set up.
- The project should provide a learning experience that explores the collaboration of public art with other academic discipline - business, project management, technology, engineering etc. , thus contributing to the

Curriculum for Excellence;

- There is scope for students and pupils to be involved throughout the process and for their participation to be documented and their experience evaluated by Inverness College students in film, photography and sound recordings.

Artist's Process

Stage One - Outline Research and Proposals

The Artist, with support from the Education Co-ordinator and Project Management Team will:

- Work with students and pupils in the development of an artwork informed by and for young people
- It is anticipated that the Artist would initially embark on a Research Phase to explore the possibilities, become familiar with the broader timetable and at the end of this period, present a number of options for further development. This Research Phase would enable productive relationships to be formed with young people and for various lines of enquiry to be pursued that allow for a rich vein of material to emerge.

Stage Two - Detailed Proposals of Preferred Option

- The Artist would be expected to fully investigate diverse production and manufacturing processes and discuss these with students and pupils. This process would be supported to enable the Artist to develop a highly detailed costed plan for the work in line with the overall budget.

Stage Three - Execution (Fabrication/Production, Delivery and Installation)

- The Artist would be expected realise detailed designs for the final product, and to research and co-ordinate any production, delivery and installation, liaising closely with the Project Management Team.

Outcomes

- The creation of an artwork sited appropriately on the riverside, integrated with the other commissions, informed by young people for young people.
- Greater ownership, control of and engagement with the project by young people, thereby enhancing the connection between the river and city and the citizens of the future.
- Where appropriate, link the public art project with course content at HND and degree level
- Education of students and pupils in the 'contextual studies' aspects of public art.
- Education and awareness of procuring public assets and governance requirements

- Wider student/pupil experience in project management
- Artist more attuned with the vision of young people

Financial

- The Artist's fee of £10K shall be released in stages with the approval of the Project Manager.
- £3,000 will be released on commencement of the Contract
- £2,000 will be released at the end of Stage One - Outline Research and Proposals
- £3,000 will be released at the end of Stage Two - Detailed Proposals of Preferred Option
- £2,000 will be released at the end of Stage Three - Execution (Fabrication/Production, Delivery and Installation etc)

Selection

- The Artist will be a professional, experienced, practising visual artist creating contemporary, high quality work. A formal degree in art or design related subject from a recognised university is preferred. Refer to The Invitation To Tender - Instructions And Information On Procedures – Evaluation Criteria for details on selection.

Budget of £40,000 has been allocated for the total cost of the project.

The budget will be managed by The Highland Council Inverness City Arts Project Manager (reporting to the Inverness city Arts Working Group) in consultation with the Artist.

Support will be provided by the Project Management Team to secure relevant permissions should these prove to be required. For example, if sites are governed by conservation rules or if the Highland Councils Planning Department need to be advised.

Terms of Commission

Management & Support

The *River Ness Public Art* programme will be curated, managed and delivered by the Project Management Team and governed by ICARTS

Support for the Artist/s will be provided in the form of:

- Regular meetings to review progress and identify next steps;
- Liaison with the RNFAS Project Team and sub-contractors;
- Artistic guidance and feedback;

- Financial monitoring;
- Marketing, advertising and public relations;
- Introductions to community groups/individuals;
- Event organisation and delivery.

Facilities

Meeting rooms can be provided, on occasion, although these need to be booked in advance. There is access to a photocopier/printer.

Budget

The total budget for the commission is £40K which includes £10K for Artist's Fee and expenses and £30k for the cost of materials, production, installation & maintenance provision for any agreed ongoing maintenance, website or software support. This allocation will be managed by the Project Manager in consultation with the Artists. A detailed budget breakdown would be agreed with the appointed Artist once the Research Phase has been successfully completed and they have investigated suitable fabrication methods.

Governance

The Inverness City Arts Working Group (ICArts) has responsibility for the strategic vision for public art activity in Inverness. This group reports to the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) of The Highland Council. This group meets on a regular basis to ensure that the management and delivery of the public art programme meets the criteria of CIAC, in line with The Highland Council's Public Art Strategy:

<http://buff.ly/195N41Z>

Method of Work

The Artist will work closely with students and pupils in a process of lively dialogue about the city and the river to inform the design process.

The Artist will be required to work with the Project Management Team immediately upon award of contract, to collaborate with them and ensure that the artwork can be integrated with the rest of the public art programme -if appropriate.

Research and Development

The Artist will:

- Become familiar the river's ecology and history;
- Ensure that the artwork is informed by and developed for and with young people
- Liaise closely with the Education Co-ordinator and Curatorial Manager
- Participate in project meetings and actively liaise with the Project Management Team;

- Consider possible planning permissions and/or licenses for working within a Conservation Area and water environment (i.e. Marine Scotland, SEPA);
- Develop and employ sustainable processes and materials.

Production and Installation

The Artist will be required to:

- Co-ordinate production, delivery and installation of the artwork, liaising with the Project Management Team;
- Make site visits as required;
- Participate in press and launch events.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Artist will:

- Report regularly to the Project Management team;
- Contribute to the documentation of the project for use in reports and presentations as well as for the final project evaluation findings to key project partners including Creative Scotland;
- Act as positive ambassadors for the *River Ness Public Art Programme*;
- Provide regular feedback and attend meetings with the ICARTS Working Group at the invitation by the Chair;
- Produce blog entries for agreed website/s (including Creative Scotland

Suggested Timeline

- Education Co-ordinator appointed by end December 2015
- Student engagement to commence –...?- to allow interested students to integrate the project with core studies
- The engagement with schools and recruitment of pupils to commence late
- Evaluation Panel to meet and artist recommended to ICARTS WG ...
- Appointment of artist ...
- Detailed design plans ...
- Installation of artwork....
- A detailed timeline and work plan will be drawn up with Education Co-ordinator, PM, Curatorial Manager) and Education Co-ordinator once artist is in place.

For Further information:

Please contact cathy.shankland@highlifehighland.com (Cathy Shankland, Curatorial Project Manager), or call 01463 237114