

THE GATHERING PLACE

FACT SHEET



The Gathering Place is part of River Connections, the River Ness Public Art programme. The programme has been commissioned by the Highland Council.

ARTISTS: SANS FACON + KHBT

The project is an artistic collaboration between the art practice Sans façon and the creative studio KHBT

Sans façon is an international art practice that responds to the relationship between people and place. Current projects include: Watershed+, Calgary, Canada; Seattle CSO Art Master Plan, Seattle, Washington; Limelight: Saturday Night, fourteen cities worldwide, You Are Here, Sheffield, UK.

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

KHBT has established Studios in Berlin and London that enable them to provide clients with full architectural and design services. Through their conceptual process they create works of local and international significance by pushing the boundaries of common practice in architecture, art, urbanism and design.

<http://www.khbt.eu/>

DESIGN: a tilting pier which descends slowly towards the river the more people who walk along it. The pier will provide a viewpoint giving spectacular views of the river and the city and river wildlife. It will return to its resting position when not populated.

The Artist's Brief was informed by consultation with community groups and schools who desired a place on the river to gather.

SITE: Ness Bank - River Walkway outside Eden Court

MATERIALS: Wood cladding over steel frame. The artists are investigating the viability of reclaimed timber and materials sourced in Scotland,

LENGTH: Approx. 18m – 20m- This is shorter than the original length of 30m which was required at the previous location of Friars Shott which is a tidal area of the river.

SAFETY FEATURES: All health and safety requirements will be in place and conform to Planning Dept. specifications as planning permission will be required.

A barrier of toughened glass or other suitable material will be constructed around the platform as a safety feature at a height to meet or exceed Health & Safety requirements.

A locking mechanism will be in place to ensure that the pier cannot be used in severe weather conditions, flood or when not in use for other reasons.

FINANCE: The £300,000 project has funding approval from Creative Scotland of £120,000 (40%), The City of Inverness Common Good Fund £110,000 (37%), Highland and Islands Enterprise £60,000 (20%) and The Highland Council £9,000(3%). Partnership funding cannot be used for other council services. Much of it represents an investment in Inverness which will be lost to the city if the project does not go ahead.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is expected that the artwork will have a considerable impact on the local economy, being an attraction to visitors and residents alike and generating spend in the area. It is estimated that the artwork could pay for itself in 2 years.

ARTWORK: The project will complement the existing artwork and architecture at Eden Court and be part of a tourist trail of features and attractions.

GOVERNANCE: Inverness City Arts Working Group, delegated by the City of Inverness Area Committee, manages The River Ness Public Art project. Joint Chairs are Provost Helen Carmichael and Cllr Thomas Prag with Cllrs Graham Ross and Bet MacAllister making up the committee. The Project Team is led by David Haas, City of Inverness Area Manager.

CONSULTATION: Public consultation has been a part of the project at every stage and ICArts has been responsive to public opinion, particularly in the development of the commissions and in the siting of the artworks.