

Almondvale Park Restoration Project – Public Artist Brief 2015

1. Aims:

- To visually improve, brighten and upgrade 1 underpass and 3 under-bridge areas in Almondvale Park in Central Livingston, by creating permanent works of art on the walls/ structures in these locations.
- To increase opportunities for participation in the arts for young people, to improve the visual amenity of the area and to enhance the wellbeing of the community by making these shared places feel more welcoming and safe.

2. Objectives:

- To work with professional artists / arts organisation experienced in public art to aesthetically improve the underpass and under-bridges in Almondvale Park, Livingston.
- To work with artists who will facilitate a creative process of creativity and change in the community through a visual arts medium. Artists would be expected to work with local young people, to increase participants' artistic and environmental awareness, developing and using creative communication skills to identify themes of local interest.
- To increase the sense of community pride and art appreciation of residents, visitors and park users through participation or experiences in this project.
- To visually connect all 4 sites through revealing the sense of place and identity captured by using appropriate imagery, light, local heritage or contemporary local culture., in order to make a permanent change in the appearance of all sites.

3. Background Context:

Following recommendations in the West Lothian Local Plan 2009-15 to revitalise Almondvale Park (all the green space from the Civic Centre to the A899 flyover), the council will be investing £450,000 in the entire park over the next 2 years to create a more accessible, welcoming, wildlife-rich and fitting open space for the centre of Livingston. We have also been awarded £800,000 for the wider project by Sustrans. As our main funder, Sustrans' priority is to increase physical activity in the park and to increase active travel in the centre of Livingston. The will include pathworks, planting, thinning, upgrading and providing new features.

In their current condition, the underpasses have been identified as possible barriers to walking and cycling in the park, as they are intimidating places to be due to lack of light and unsightly graffiti. It's time to revitalise them! We'd like to do this as creatively as possible, to make them welcoming and to feel safe and to encourage people to use them. As well as thinning the surrounding vegetation and improving paths, we are keen to brighten up the underpasses through the use of colour, light and any appropriate visual art medium.

Involving local young people in the process will help to ensure the endurance of the artworks.

For more information on the future plans for the regeneration of Almondvale Park please see our webpage:

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/almondvalepark>

4. Artist's Role :

- To deliver a series of public engagement sessions using visual arts to inspire and enthuse local young people and other park visitors. Once selected the artist must propose a clear 'community engagement plan', which should detail times, locations, creative approaches and art materials intended for each session. This will be developed in discussion and agreement with the commissioning group.
- To facilitate creative community consultation in the development of the Almondvale Park project, including walking the site with members of the Almondvale Park team.
- To create design proposals based on community feedback and their own experience, skills and creative insight into the place as it goes through the phases of change and final restoration.
- To be open to the possibility of presenting a maximum of 3 creative options that would be appropriate for each site so that final selections can be agreed with the commissioning group.
- To work with local young people to design and create permanent, original artworks of high artistic quality in the outdoor locations specified, which are appropriate to the park and are also low maintenance.
- To consider the appropriate use of any visual art media and creative approach when planning the final designs e.g. creative outdoor lighting, luminous paint, graffiti style, stone work, concrete poetry/carving, metal inclusions, earthenware ceramic with durable outdoor glazing etc.
- To complete all artworks and installations in their selected medium at the selected sites in a manner that is permanent, weather and as vandal resistant as possible. The longer term endurance of the artworks must be considered at the outset, although temporary works may be included within the wider programme for participation reasons, the longer term visual art works must have a permanency to them and this should include the use of robust materials and protective flame retardants if applicable or anti-graffiti treatments for any wall based installations or murals.
- All designs for artworks must not obstruct or otherwise hinder essential structural functions of the underpasses and bridges. Each final design must enable essential future maintenance and structural assessments to continue to

be made by structural engineers and must meet with their approvals prior to fabrication and installations being carried out.

5. Project Team/ Partners:

The selected artist/s will need to meet with project partners and work alongside them according to the timetable of works for the rest of the restoration and constructions works expected to occur in the park.

Project partners include West Lothian Council's Community Arts Service, Open Space team, Transportation team, and Neighbourhood Environment Teams and West Lothian Youth Action Project.

Representatives from these partners will form the commissioning group, who will support and advise the selected artist/s in delivering the project. Local walkers and other park users, including young people will be potential participants and will need to be consulted and encouraged in taking part in the visual arts activities however their feedback will be used to generate further creative ideas which the artist will develop in their own unique style for development of final designs.

6. Proposed sites/ Locations of Project work:

The artworks must be situated in the underpass and under-bridge areas, as shown on in the photographs and in the accompanying map (Please see Appendix 1 on page 8).



Underpass 1 (see figure UP1 Appendix 1)



Under bridge 1 (see figure UB 1 Appendix 1)



Under bridge 2 (See figure UB2 Appendix 1)



Under bridge 3 (see figure UB 3 Appendix 1)

7. Community Participation:

Key groups must be consulted/engaged as part of this project. The anticipated groups are: Local schools (St Margaret's Academy, Toronto Primary, Howden St Andrew's Primary), West Lothian Youth Action Project, staff at the Civic Centre.

The artist must develop a short series of arts based participation workshops that will both inform and inspire participants to engage in the arts and use the park as a community space. The outcome of the workshops should be the generation of ideas and inspiration for the main themes of the final series of artworks.

The artist will potentially deliver workshops in the above community venues or outdoors as applicable. The artist will need to confirm details of the outreach sessions by producing a 'community engagement plan' in agreement with the commissioning group.

8. Expected Project Timescales:

Consultation participation/ inspiration phase: Oct-Dec 2015

Creation / installation phase: Jan-Mar 2016

Celebration / launch: Mar-Apr 2016

9. Total budget:

The total project budget is £27,000.00 and is non-negotiable. This includes all fees for all preliminary design, consultation, participation art workshops, art materials, construction/installation costs associated with the project and any required planning applications.

The anticipated budget breakdown is projected below, there will be some flexibility regarding allocation of funding per site pending proposed changes suggested by the artist and subsequent approvals from the commission group:

- a) Artist retaining fee for future meetings with commissioning group and lead officer for the life of the project: £1000.00
- b) Under pass 1
 - i. Workshops and public engagement sessions: £750.00 (Minimum of 3 full day sessions or 6 half day sessions)
 - ii. Design fees: £1750.00
 - iii. All art materials, planning application, fabricating/painting and installation, (including vandalism treatments as appropriate) fees: £3500.00
- c) Underbridge 1
 - a. Workshops and public engagement sessions: £750.00 (As above)
 - b. Design: £1750.00
 - c. Art materials, planning application, fabricating/painting and installation (including vandalism treatments as appropriate) fees: £2000.00
- d) Underbridge 2
 - a. Workshops and public engagement sessions: £750.00
 - b. Design: £1750.00
 - c. Art materials, planning application, fabricating/painting and installation (including vandalism treatments as appropriate) fees: £2500.00
- e) Underbridge 3
 - a. Workshops and public engagement sessions: £750.00
 - b. Design: £1750.00
 - c. Art materials, planning application, fabricating/painting and installation (including vandalism treatments as appropriate) fees: £4500.00
- f) Planning application fees as appropriate and publicity costs: £1000.00
- g) End celebration materials/entertainment/refreshments at a bespoke launch event and project digital leaflet/map limited paper print run: £1000.00
- h) Project contingency: £1500.00

10. Artist's copyright and ownership of the work:

The artist will be the owner of the copyright to the work and will share photographic rights with West Lothian Council and Sustrans.

11. Application/bidding Process:

Please see the full requirement of documents requested below. Each applicant is asked to submit all of the requested documents for evaluation through the Public Contracts Scotland Tenders portal, please register to access the portal at:

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

and search for this project code: project_4701 under ITTs

All applicants need to submit the following:

- A. Letter indicating your interest in this project and why your skills are most suited to meeting the project brief.
- B. A copy of your most recent CV and CV's of all artists who intend to engage
- C. A Sample Visual Arts Portfolio – 10-20 labelled digital images in jpeg format.
- D. References – 2 reference contacts regarding your work in the community and on public realm projects.
- E. A proposed methodology of your approach to the project.
- F. Proof of public liability insurance or an indication that you will have public liability insurance if you are the selected candidate.

12. Application Deadline:

By 12noon on Monday 28 September, 2015.

Thank you for your interest in working with us, however only artists selected for interviews will be contacted. If you have not received an invitation for interview it means that your application was unsuccessful.

If selected for an interview, you/ your team will be asked to prepare a 20 minute power point presentation as part of your interview. This should cover images of your past artworks and examples of community engagement practices and how this experience may be relevant to you developing our current project.

The selected artist will be awarded the contract through Public Contract Scotland Tenders.

Interviews will be held on: Friday 9 October 2015 at Howden Park Centre, Livingston.

The interview panel will be made up of:

- 1 representative from NETS,
- 1 representative from Community Arts
- 1 representative from the Youth Action Project
- 1 representative from Sustrans
- 1 representative from Livingston Art Association

Selection criteria will be:

1. Clarity and presentation of requested documentation.
2. Proof of experience of working in the public realm and public engagement activities.
3. Appropriateness of artistic style for the project as related to the brief and demonstrated by the portfolio images.
4. A proposed methodology for developing the project on 4 sites. The recommended approach is to think potential ideas which can be used as starting points for development if you are the successful candidate.
5. Anticipated value for money.
6. General understanding and approach to the brief as presented in the letter of interest.

13. Contact:

For more information or to discuss the project in more detail, please contact Becky Plunkett on 01506 776542 or becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk
Or Camille Archer on 01506 773 871 or Camille.archer@westlothian.gov.uk

More information about Public Art in West Lothian and a downloadable pdf of this project brief see the West Lothian Council Public Art Page:
<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/publicart>

Appendix 1.

Almondvale Park - map showing underpass and under-bridge locations

X = underpass

X = under bridge

