

Pounds Park Public Art – Common Information

COMMON INFORMATION BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This brief is for two public art commissions to help shape a new Park in Sheffield's City Centre.

Pound's Park is a new city centre park with a focus on young people and play. Within the retail and commercial heart of the city centre the new green space is part of a new vision for the city centre in response to climate change, the future of the 'high street' and the issues of health and wellbeing highlighted by Covid 19.

Importantly Sheffield is trying to build a city centre that is open to, owned and cherished by everyone in the city. These Public Art commissions have an important role in engaging with the diverse communities across the city; helping to shape the new Park and create a city centre that makes everyone feel at home.

The commissions are open to individuals, organisations or groups established specifically to respond to this commission. There are opportunities for new partnerships, and collaborative and joint working.

We are particularly looking for artists that can engage with under-represented communities from across the city and bring new insights and new ways of working that can build and strengthen the cultural provision in the city. We encourage applications from artists of colour, or under-represented parts of Sheffield's community based on gender, class, sexuality and economic background, reflecting the issues of equality diversity and inclusion.

The commissions will be advertised widely and whilst Sheffield is the focus artists do not need to be from Sheffield. Artists may apply for one or both of the commissions.

The commissions are tendered by Henry Boot Construction Ltd who are appointed by Sheffield City Council as the Main Contractor for the work on the Park. The artists will be contracted to Henry Boot and work to their instruction but will be guided artistically by the Council's Public Art Officer and Client and Design Team.

The budgets are Metalwork Commission £108k and Engagement Commission £40k

Completion of the Park is targeted for the end of July 2022, although this is yet to be agreed with the main contractor. The public art work needs to be completed in stages before the completion.

The Park is set within the wider, ambitious development of Sheffield's city centre – see <https://vimeo.com/601704729> for a 'fly-through' showing this context.



Plan of Pounds Park (the pdf drawing HOG-SCE-Z0-XX-DR-L-0001 can be downloaded and looked at in detail)

1.1 Two commissions that work together

We have split the project into two commissions that will work side by side. We believe that this approach gives the opportunity to open both commissions to a wide range of applicants and to allow unique, creative and inclusive approaches.

The Metalwork Commission is for a substantial quantity of artist designed and manufactured metal work including lighting columns and pergolas. We are looking for the Artist to bring innovative design and craft skills to this work and importantly ensure that it reflects and engages the wide and diverse communities in Sheffield. The Engagement Commission will help create this wide sense of participation in, ownership of and belonging to the Park as well as enabling designs and artefacts to be embedded within the Metalwork.

It is important that applicants read both commissions and understand the implications and interface between them. Artists can apply for one or both commissions but this needs to be done through separate applications and with the understanding that they may be selected to work with another partner.

1.2 How the Brief is set out

This document *Pounds Park Art Brief – Common* provides information for both commissions

Pounds Park Art Brief – Metalwork gives details of the Metalwork Commission

Pounds Park Art Brief – Engagement gives details of the Engagement Commission

Separate drawings referred to in the text for the Metalwork Commission:

General Arrangement Plan HOG-SCE-Z0-XX-DR-L-0001 P05

General Lighting Arrangement HOG-ARUP-XX-XX-DR-L-21-01

Artist Brief Lighting Design HOG-ARUP-XX-XX-SP-MEP-002

1.3 Application

To apply please email andrew.skelton@sheffield.gov.uk You will be sent a link to a secure file transfer service. Once you have registered for the service (simply by creating a password and pin) the application questionnaire can be downloaded, filled in and returned.

The deadline for applications is Monday 10 January 2022 at 17.00

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Pounds Park

The new park is on what is currently a carpark between Rockingham Street and Carver Street with Wellington Street as its southern boundary. The land was previously the home of the central fire station which was demolished in 2010.

The work is funded by the Governments 'Getting Building Fund' through the Sheffield City Region and parallel funding from the 'Transforming Cities Fund' for associated highways improvement works on Rockingham Street.

The development is part of Sheffield's Heart of the City project which is an ambitious redevelopment of the city centre. see: <https://heartofsheffield.co.uk>

It is anticipated that this will be a much used, noisy and exciting part of the city centre. The Park provides new routes through the site, grassed and planted areas, seating and will have a kiosk café. The extensive play equipment will include two timber pyramid towers, 11m and 13m in height, with linked slides, climbing logs, a sand pit, rill, water pumps and gates. A large climbing boulder is a central feature of the Park and its design will look to provide for climbers of all ages and abilities.

The landscaping, designed by Council's Landscape Architect team, follows the themes set in other recent schemes with the use of high-quality natural materials including local sandstone, distinctive herbaceous and wild steppe style meadow planting, and nearly fifty new trees.

2.2 Public Realm and Public Art in Sheffield

The Park, designed by the Council's Landscape Architect team, continues the themes of Sheffield's award-winning public realm over recent years creating delightful and appropriate streets and spaces that support sustainable travel and

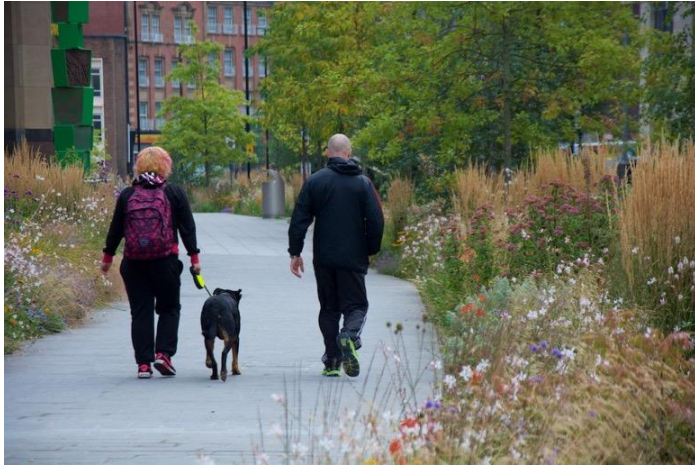
address climate change. These schemes include a unique approach to sustainable urban drainage which slows and mitigates the flow of water into the wider systems whilst supporting beautiful wildflower and prairie planting.

The public realm also references the city's setting within the Peak District with its distinctive gritstone edges, fast flowing water and flora and fauna bringing these themes into the city centre itself. see: <https://www.theoutdoorcity.co.uk> for a sense of the relationship to the outdoors both within and beyond the city.

Public Art is an important part of these works with artwork integrated into the streets and spaces of the city bringing creativity, high quality design, craft skills and materials and helping to create a city that is distinctive and owned and cherished by local people and visitors.

Through these commissions we want to continue this theme of providing artwork that lifts the public realm creating something joyful, unique, distinctive and beautifully made.





2.3 City of Makers

Important to these commissions is the strongly held sense of Sheffield as a city that makes things – a city of makers. This is rooted in the heavy industry that once exported steel and products throughout the world but also in the craft traditions that gave birth to, supported and continued alongside this heavy industry. Today Sheffield has a thriving community of artists and craftspeople making, amongst other work, great films, theatre, music and craft beer.

A key requirement of these commissions is the involvement of children and young people as **makers** of the Park and we are looking for both artists to enable this in meaningful and tangible ways. Whilst we are aware that there are practical limits to actual artworks by children we want the Park to bear the mark of their hands and for them to be able to say 'Look I made that!'

2.4 The Fire Station heritage

The site of the Park was previously the home of the central fire station which was demolished in 2010. A remnant of this red brick building built in the 1980s will remain visible in the substation on Rockingham Street.

The Park is named after John Charles Pound (1834-1918) who was Sheffield's first Fire Superintendent and laid the foundations of our modern fire service. The heritage of the fire service should be a theme within the artwork and in developing both the engagement and metalwork the artists should engage with National Emergency Services Museum (based in Sheffield).

see: www.visitnesm.org.uk

2.5 Henry Boot Construction Ltd

Henry Boot Construction have been appointed by Sheffield City Council to coordinate the design and delivery of Pounds Park.

Henry Boot Construction is an award-winning regional construction services provider and part of the 130-year-old Henry Boot Group of Companies. Henry Boot, the son of Sheffield-based farmer, launched his own building firm in 1886 and initially worked as a sole trader. From these humble roots, Henry Boot has grown to become one of the leading property and construction groups in the UK. The family values that have helped the company succeed are still integral to the business today.

see <https://www.henrybootconstruction.co.uk>

The company is committed to rigorous health and safety through the design process and on site and to sustainable and fair procurement.

see <https://www.henrybootconstruction.co.uk/about-us/downloads-policies>

3.0 MANAGING THE COMMISSIONS

3.1 Contract

The Artists for both commissions will be contracted to Henry Boot Construction Ltd.

The Project Manager will set timescales and the interface with other contractors and be responsible for obtaining the approval of design proposals at each stage and will notify the Artist when this has been given.

3.2 Working with the Project Team

The artistic direction and guidance will be given by the Project Team who will also make decisions on these issues. The artist will be required to work with this wider Project Team which includes the Council's Public Art Officer, Design and Client team.

The Artists will attend Project Team meetings as agreed and will be required to produce sketches, detailed drawings and reports as necessary for the project. The Council is still largely working remotely and meetings will be both remote and in person as appropriate.

Project Team:

Simon Collins	Design Coordinator, Henry Boot Construction Ltd
TBC	Project Manager, Henry Boot Construction Ltd
Andrew Skelton	Public Art Officer, SCC
Michael Brearley	Landscape Architect, SCC
Jenneffer Dennis	Cultural Project Officer, SCC
Neil Jones	Client, SCC
Matt Hayman	Client, SCC
Gary Wright	Project Manager, SCC
TBC	Artist Metalwork Commission
TBC	Artist Engagement Commission

3.3 Two stage commissions

Both commissions will be run in two stages:

- Stage 1: Research and outline design
- Stage 2: Detailed design and implementation

3.3.1 Stage 1: Research and outline design

The Artists will work closely with the Project Team to design an outline approach and programme. For the Metalwork Commission this will include early decisions on locations and the interface with other contractors. For the Engagement Commission this will include a programme of activities with communities. It is essential that both programmes are developed together so that the engagement is embed in the physical outcomes in the Park.

The Artists will also submit full budget and implementation plans at this stage for approval by the Project Team.

The commissioner will obtain planning and other permissions which may be required.

On approval of the design by the Project Team and the granting of the appropriate permissions the Artists will embark on Stage 2.

3.3.2 Stage 2: Detailed design and implementation

The Artist is required to implement the work, as agreed in Stage 1.

Completion of the Park is targeted for August 2022, although this is yet to be agreed with the main contractor. The public art work needs to be completed in stages before the end of August 2022.

4.0 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The commissions are open to individuals, organisations or groups established specifically to respond to this commission. There are opportunities for new partnerships, and collaborative and joint working.

Artists can apply for one or both commissions but this must be done through separate applications and with the understanding that they may be selected to work with another partner.

We encourage applications from artists of colour, or under-represented parts of Sheffield's community based on gender, class, sexuality and economic background, reflecting the issues of equality diversity and inclusion.

4.1 Application Process

To apply please email andrew.skelton@sheffield.gov.uk You will be sent a link to a secure file transfer service. Once you have registered for the service (simply by creating a password and pin) the application questionnaire for the commission you want to apply for can be downloaded, filled in and returned via the Sheffield City Council SFX secure file transfer system.

The questionnaire will only stay in your SFX Inbox for two weeks so please download the questionnaire and complete it and then return it before the deadline via the SFX file transfer using the Send Files tab.

The SFX system keeps your information safe and allows large files to be sent but please try to keep your files as small as possible and make your submission clear and easy to navigate.

If applying for both commissions please complete both Questionnaires.

4.2 Evaluation and selection

This is a fixed price tender and the submissions will be evaluated on quality (in the broad sense of what the artist can bring to the commission) rather than price.

The marks awarded for each answer are detailed in the questionnaire.

Following evaluation of the questionnaires the top three scoring candidates for each commission will be invited for interview and the winning tenders decided.

Applications should be submitted by 17.00 on Monday 10.01.22

w/c 15.11.21	Commission tendered
10.01.22 at 17.00 hrs	Deadline for Applications
w/c 24.01.22	Interviews
w/c 31.01.22	Appointment

5.0 CONTACT DETAILS

Questions relating to this brief should be addressed to:
Andrew Skelton, Public Art Officer
Sheffield City Council
T: 0114 205 3784 E: andrew.skelton@sheffield.gov.uk