

Faringdon Public Convenience Artists brief

After the refurbishment many local people felt it was a missed opportunity to use the central location for an artistic enhancement to the Town.. This is an opportunity for adding sculptural forms to the pillars, walls or roof structure.

Aims of the commission

- To design and fabricate unique and bespoke artworks that is relevant to Faringdon, and installed within the interior or exterior of toilet building (such as on walls or roof).

Objectives

- Create a unique and distinctive feature that is of high quality: work which is durable and easy to maintain and which integrates with the functional requirements of the immediate area.
- Embellishes an ordinary public facility to make it something different, attractive and unique to the town and to provide a welcoming surrounding to residents and visitors using the conveniences.

The works of art should reflect the character and distinctiveness of the area and, should be used to celebrate Faringdon in a contemporary but robust way. There is particularly desire to reference the quirky nature of Faringdon and its past and current residents, including Lord Berners and his many internationally acclaimed artist friends. The public convenience lends itself to natural and wildlife references and something missing here?

The commission budget of £5,000 is to create beautiful and unique (such as stone or ceramic) sculptures and motifs and to fit them to the public convenience which was refurbished internally in 2015The budget is inclusive of public engagement workshops, materials and the design, creation & installation of the artwork.

Artists' Expression of Interest should include:

- At least 6 images / examples of your previous work
- An Artist Statement detailing your inspiration and your work
- A CV with your full contact details and references of at least 2 previous commissioners of your work
- A short statement on why this project appeals to you
- Artists must have Public Liability insurance.

Once contracted, the artist will consult local residents, the steering group and Faringdon's Public Art forum, the Pink Pigeons Trust and then submit designs to Vale of White Horse District Council for approval. .

The Role of the Artist

- Research the area and its residents to identify relevant stakeholder groups
- Run workshops with local residents where appropriate
- Research ideas and themes for the main art works and record her/his

- design proposals in a written and/or visual format for initial approval
- When designs are approved the artist will be commissioned to fabricate, transport and install the work

Schedule

1. Brief advertised	December
2. Deadline for applications? from artists	21st January
3. Shortlisting/ application Assessment	
4. Artists Interviewed	February 2016
5. Contract selected artist	
6. Final designs submitted	April 2016
7. Approvals sought	
8. Fabrication/ creation	
9. Installation	July 2016
10. Celebration / unveiling	

Definitions

The Vale of White Horse Public Art policy states that "The council is committed to improving the physical environment through public art. The policy promotes incorporation of Public Art into building projects in the Vale as a percentage of the building costs. The District council will adhere to this policy in its own capital building programme as well as promote the policy with developers through the planning process." (p38, DC4 of Local Plan)

The work/s of art should reflect the character and distinctiveness of the area and be used to celebrate Faringdon in a contemporary but respectful way. Public art can bring together all aspects of a location to create a unique identity and sense of place. Public art can achieve this by referring to the history, archaeology or topography of a site or through emphasising and encouraging new functions, perceptions and uses of a space. Information on Faringdon's history can be found on www.faringdon.org.

Faringdon was home to Lord Berners until his death in 1950 and is often referred to as the "last great eccentric". His legacy may provide design inspiration and information for this project. Lord Berners and the Folly Tower have inspired Faringdon with a wonderful opportunity to develop its own public art collection that will be uniquely different: playfully surrealist; whimsically humorous; frivolously silly; surprisingly curious; madly metaphysical; not only attractive but also a real attraction. See www.faringdonfolly.org.uk and www.pinkpigeons.info for more information about Lord Berners and the Folly Tower.

Deadline

Send your applications by **21st January 2016** to:

abigail.brown@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Artists will be selected for interview at the end of February 2016.