

**Shared Space Ahead. Brief for artist commission**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Confluence is inviting applications from artists with either a performative or combined arts practice to undertake a commission to create and produce a socially engaged and site-specific artwork in Haverfordwest. The commission, which is part of a three-year programme to test new models of regeneration and collaboration through the arts, responds directly to a master-planning exercise and a theme to investigate how people and traffic navigate and share public space in the centre of Haverfordwest.

**2 BACKGROUND** *Confluence* is a creative collaboration between PLANED, spacetocreate, iDeA Architects, Transition Haverfordwest and Pembrokeshire County Council that aims to devise and test newand imaginative ways of working in Haverfordwest, which will bring the community together to inspire and shape the process of urban planning design and regeneration.

Alongside artist residencies and commissions *Confluence* is running a town laboratory - an evolving programme of experimental and creative projects, bringing stakeholders together in new constellations, inspired by exemplary practice in the arts, urban design, planning and regeneration with the aim of re-imagining the town and:

* Developing innovative models of working together
* Creatively engaging the community with regeneration opportunities associated with the River Cleddau, which runs through Haverfordwest, and with the immediate environs in the town.

Our vision is that in ten years time the ancient port of Haverfordwest will have been re-imagined as a vibrant and distinctive market town, reconnected with its river, in full flow and chargedby the creativity of its people.

**3 PLANNING CONTEXT**

A Master-planning study of Haverfordwest is being undertaken by planning consultants for Pembrokeshire County Council during the autumn of 2015. *Confluence* is running a series of workshops in parallel with the master-planning exercise, as part of its own experimental arts and regeneration laboratory. Facilitated by iDeA Architects, the ‘Big Map’ workshops aim has been to involve local people and organizations in building a ‘people’s vision’ for the county town.

The data collected in the workshops is being processed and passed on to the planning consultants with the aim that this will benefit the Master-planning exercise, enabling contributors to feel included in consultations as a part of the process of developing a new plan.

The Big Map has revealed some interesting themes. One of these is the concept of ‘shared space’ and the commission provides the opportunity to take this further, engaging with the community in new ways that explore the concept in a major public space in the town.

**4 THE COMMISSION**

Confluence aims to involve the community in the regeneration process by commissioning a temporary site-specific artwork in a key public space in Haverfordwest. The work will be undertaken in two stages enabling the artists/arts practice to examine the status quo, test public opinion and create an opportunity to re-think our relationship to navigating and inhabiting the town Centre. The location for the commission is Castle Square.

**The present scenario**

Castle Square is situated in the centre of the town, surrounded on three sides by retail premises in historic buildings with Victoria place and the High St passing through the square on the fourth.

Despite some effort to improve the public space with seating and paving, the square appears to lack purpose and quality, surrounded by drab facades and poorly designed shop-fronts that give a poor impression of the town

Beyond the visual impression, some key issues mitigate against the square becoming a memorable place where people can linger and enjoy social interaction, commercial activities and events. These include:

* The road and traffic control that divides the square and is currently a barrier to pedestrians.
* Lack of trees and soft landscaping
* Existing spatial design is geared around late-night policing and management
* The town’s one-way road system encourages unnecessary vehicular traffic through the square and inhibits the use of the space for performances and public events

**See Attachments. Photographs of the site and site location map**

**5 AIMS**

The commission aims to examine the status quo and to demonstrate an alternative, thought-provoking and disruptive response to the accepted norm, that will engage the public and involve the local community in experiencing ‘shared space’.

The artwork in development would provide local community and stakeholder groups the opportunity to participate in and engage with an exploratory test-bed, and gain an understanding of what ‘shared space’ means and the ways this could influence how we navigate through our town.

A long- term aim would be to encourage new ways of thinking, leading to decisions and initiatives that benefit Haverfordwest as a place to live, learn, work and play and to visit.

The commission is structured in two stages giving a socially engaged arts practitioner the opportunity to

* Develop their initial concept with input from the partnership.
* Devise a group to work with from within the town community.
* Collaborate with iDeA Architects in exploring different ways of using public space and re-thinking how we might like to inhabit the Town Centre in the future.

In **stage 1** the artist will explore the issues, and work up preliminary ideas around the use and potential for sharing public space, with particular focus on Castle Square. The stage will complete with an interim presentation to members of the *Confluence* partnership and invited stakeholders for discussion/ agreement and approval.

In **Stage 2** the artist will refine and further develop the selected ideas into a proposal that could

* Engage local people across sectors in re-assessing the purpose of Castle square
* Involve stakeholders and /or local groups in the development and delivery of the artwork
* Create a high-quality temporary artwork that is relevant to the context and engages a wide diversity of people in Haverfordwest

The potential benefits of the artwork could be:

* To change people’s perception of how we inhabit and share public space.
* To focus perception of the historic built environment as an asset in Haverfordwest.
* The creation of a programme of events that could take place in Castle Square.
* The longer-term environmental and economic benefits that could ensue.

**The Role of the artist**

The appointed artist will:

* Devise and deliver a durational and experimental temporary artwork that reaches a wide audience, including those who do not normally engage with contemporary art and artists
* Produce a site-specific artwork of excellent quality, with public value.

In addition the artist will be required to:

* Deliver an agreed programme and timetable for the performance/ events in conjunction and agreement with the Partnership
* Provide written proposals and method statements where necessary for safe operational working with the public and with vehicular traffic.
* Include learning and engagement opportunities for local people in the planning, development and production stages of the work.

The artist will be expected to:

* Provide regular reports on the progress of the project to the team and attend meetings as required

**Connections and resources**

The key points of contact for the commission will be the designated Artistic Director and the *Confluence* delivery partners. Close liaison with iDeA Architects is envisaged in terms of developing the concept into a proposal, and with the Events safety advisory group and PCC Highways with regard to safety in use, and in arranging permissions for logistical traffic/ health and safety operations as required.

## Your experience

Artists are expected to have a minimum of 5 years’ experience delivering socially engaged projects in the public realm. The commission is open to a range of practitioners and arts practice and relevant experience from applicants would include

* Time-based media artists
* Installation/ visual artists
* Cross art-form practitioners
* Collectives / partnerships

You must demonstrate a commitment to high quality and artistic merit. Quality and merit relate to innovation, creativity, vision, originality and the power to communicate and interpret ideas, as well as to the highest possible standards of delivery in all aspects of a project's development and implementation.

**Finance**

The fee for the commission is £22, 000 inclusive of VAT. This fee includes an interim payment for work up to and including the first stage, to be negotiated with the selected artist/ arts practice prior to drawing up and signing the contract of engagement

The remainder of the fee includes materials and travel, transport costs and accommodation and all engagement activities. It is envisaged that the artist/ practice spend between 4-6 weeks in Haverfordwest, developing the concept, with a further 6-8 weeks undertaking the project and working with the community, between January and June 2016. (12 weeks in total)

Costs associated with publicity, event licenses, and venue hire shall be covered by the partnership outside of the fee.

**Contract and Reporting Structure**

Your contract will be managed by PLANED the lead, on behalf of the Confluence partnership and you will invoice PLANED in instalments for the commission fee.

The partnership will provide:

* Close liaison with the Events safety advisory Group (PCC)
* Liaison with statutory authorities such as PCC highways, and Dyfed Powys police.
* Help identifying community groups or members of the public.
* Advice on the use of venues and sites.
* Marketing and PR.
* Assistance with event management.
* Feedback, monitoring and evaluation as part of an overall monitoring and evaluation plan for the project.

**Copyright and ownership**

All artworks and research products from the commission will remain the copyright of the artist. The Confluence partnership will reserve the right to use images and other material for promotional purposes.

The artist will be expected to:

● be involved in the publicity and public relations for the Project

● allow their work to be documented by film, photography and writing and for creative documentation to be displayed on the Confluence website, and used in the project evaluation

● commit to equalities procedures and take part in monitoring and evaluation.

**Insurance and safeguarding**

The successful artist will need a current DBS check and be able to provide proof of Public Liability Insurance prior to the project commencing.

**6 APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Eligibility**

Applications are considered from individuals and partnerships. The process is open to those who are UK or International residents. We are committed to equal opportunities for all and the submissions will be judged as seen, purely on merit and without prejudice.

**Application/ submission requirements**

Your proposal should comprise:

**Short project description and outline of your proposed research direction.**

This should expand with an outline budget, which includes estimates for final artwork/event costs. (Maximum of two side of A4)

**Up to ten images of your existing work.**

These must be submitted either as digital files. Digital files must be in JPEG format or QuickTime/ Media Player movies of not more than 30 seconds duration each.

**List of images.**

The list of images should identify the images and include the following details: Artist’s Name, Number, Title, Medium, Date, Location and Commissioner (if relevant).

**Curriculum Vitae**

Your CV should be headed with your contact details including: name, full address, telephone, and email. It should include a brief statement about your artistic practice, on no more than two sides of A4. Please include contact details of 2 referees.

**Timetable**

The deadline for submission of proposals noon on Friday 27 November 2015

Presentations/interviews Friday 08 January 2016

Late applications will not be considered.

**Selection**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview, to give a presentation

To expand on the following:

● the concept for the proposed intervention/project/artwork

● the concept for community engagement

The panel will be made up of an invited group comprising members of the Confluence partnership and other stakeholders.

**7 CONTACT DETAILS**

Please contact Kevin Thompson, iDeA Architects kevin@idea-housekit.co.uk or on 07816 847429, and send your application by email to kevin@idea-housekit.co.uk

