



## Public Art / Public Realm Design Commission - Expression of Interest King Street

**Artist Fee: up to a maximum of £10,000**

**Submission deadline:** 10am on Monday 21 August 2023

### Invitation for Expression of Interest: King Street Public Art / Public Realm Commission

Expressions of Interest are invited by Bristol City Council (BCC) working with the Bristol City Centre Business Improvement District (City Centre BID) for an experienced artist or artist collective for a public art commission that will draw on and enhance the public realm, character and appearance of King Street.

The project aims are to increase local distinctiveness, improve the public realm and attract greater footfall to King Street.

#### Project Overview:

This project is part of Bristol City Council's High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme funded by BCC and the West of England Combined Authority's Love our High Streets project.

#### Project Aims

- Support the sustainable transformation of Bristol's city centre and high streets, and increasing the number of people visiting and using these places
- Support the creative, culture & events sector
- Help reconnect places with people - drawing out local distinctiveness, sense of place and belonging
- Re-establish the city's reputation for creativity and imagination

There is a wider programme of activity being funded in the City Centre and nine priority High Streets across the city. You can read more about what is already happening [here](#).

#### Public Art / Public Realm Design brief:

We would like to commission an innovative, creative approach to site/context specific public art that both respects the significance and heritage of King Street as part of the Old City of

Bristol and looks to its future. We welcome proposals for a standalone artwork and/or a work that integrates and helps to create a cohesive identity in the street.

Extensive consultation has taken place and needs, possibilities, desires and opportunities identified. In addition, King Street falls within a conservation area meaning there are certain constraints. For more information see P. 24 Area 3 - King Street [SPD \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/spd)

Ideas and opportunities include but are not limited to:

- art & design for planned street improvements such as seating, planters, licensable area perimeters
- artwork that tells the stories and refers to the heritage of the street
- artwork on an area of new road surface on Queen Charlotte Street at the intersection with King Street
- artwork that uses the rich literary and performance associations of King Street

Before 31 March 2024, King Street will undergo transport and public realm improvements as part of the pedestrianisation of the area. It is envisioned that some of these elements afford opportunities for interweaving and embedding public art. BCC is keen to have artistic / design input to inform the whole public realm improvement project. **\*Additional budget can be negotiated for artist / design fees and production if an artwork extends to include public realm elements.**

Highways improvements include:

- bollards to prevent vehicle access
- cycle racks
- planters and planting
- raised table road surface on Queen Charlotte Street
- building out the pavement at either end of the street to improve access and accommodate trees and planters

Street scene / greening plans being scoped include

- Greening - planting of trees, planters, planting schemes
- Creation of flexible space for cultural activity
- Seating
- Threshold / welcome features
- Enhancement to general street scene – through use of planters to create perimeters to café / bar seating areas and through artistic intervention

King Street falls within a conservation area and any improvements and additions need to preserve or enhance the character of the street and many buildings on the street are listed. Therefore, there are constraints and parameters that will mean certain types of artworks or interventions will not be supported:

- Wall art
- Works suspended over the highway at height

Working with internal BCC and external stakeholders and the support of BCC officers, the commissioned artist/designer or collective will develop a permanent artwork and/or cohesive design for the street that is interwoven with desired and planned street scene and greening interventions and/or a work that sits alongside these improvements providing additional interest and point of attraction to King Street.

Please read the appendix and [SPD \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://bristol.gov.uk/spd) for an overview of King Street. If you would like to be emailed the consultation findings please contact [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk) to request a copy of the report.

We are looking for creative practitioners/artists/designers whose practice involves working in the public realm or with innovative practices that can transfer to, and work with, urban design in a heritage context, place and place making. You will have a creative, innovative, and situation / context specific approach, be responsive to place and able to grasp opportunities to work with existing or developing assets and place. You will be experienced in working with, engaging and involving key stakeholders in the creative process. It is vital the end work draws on and builds local distinctiveness, reflecting the unique qualities and heritage of King Street and is designed with existing and future users of this place in mind.

Extensive consultation has already been undertaken with internal BCC and external stakeholders and the commission brief is a result of those discussions. We wish the process of this commission to continue and broaden conversations and dovetail with other initiatives. One of the exciting aspects of this commission is that the public art/design scheme can be integrated with other public realm improvements including street scene and greening or sit alongside them in a cohesive and connected manner.

An informal information and Q&A session is available on site at 12pm Monday 14 August in King Street and online at 11am on Wednesday 16 August, to help inform your expression of interest. To book a place please email with your preferred date and any access requirements to: [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk)

We welcome expressions of interest from across the creative and design disciplines and interdisciplinary approaches between artists, designers and their chosen collaborators. We are open to expressions of interest from individual artists, designers, collaborations, or artist collectives. If applying as a collaboration or collective, please ensure you outline how you will work together to ensure a joined approach to outcome delivery.

#### **Budget breakdown:**

**Total project budget: £62,500.00**

**£2500** - An initial fee of **£500** will be offered to a maximum of 5 shortlisted artists / collaborations / collectives to develop a design proposal to present and be considered by the Creative Commissioning Panel

Artist Fee: **£10,000** - inclusive of all artist fees, stakeholder engagements, design development, production, and installation & maintenance plans. We have estimated the fee

based on an assumed requirement of between 20 – 30 days' work. **\*Additional budget can be negotiated for artist / design fees if an artwork extends to include public realm elements.**

The Public Art production budget available: **£43,000.00**

**To be managed by BCC.**

The production budget is inclusive of: all production fees; contractors design development, feasibility, production, fabrication and installation of artwork to include all materials, access equipment, protection where appropriate i.e. anti-vandalism treatments. Production budget does NOT include artist fee. **\*Additional budget may be available for production if an artwork extends to include public realm elements.**

The above amount excludes Value Added Tax, which shall be added where the Artist is registered for VAT. It is the Artist's responsibility to inform the Client if they are registered for VAT purposes and to supply a VAT invoice.

**£2,000** – an amount to be held for marketing, promotion and communication – **Managed by City Centre BID.**

**£5000** an amount to be held for ongoing future maintenance of the artwork and decommissioning if necessary. **Managed by City Centre BID.**

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

The commission is open to artists or artist collectives. We welcome applications from artists from any location/region but if two or more EOIs / final designs score equally priority will be given to an artist/collective based in Bristol or surrounding area, or who have a lived experience or connection to Bristol

**Delivery timescales are fixed, therefore interested artists should be confident that they can meet the project timetable set out below.**

#### **Insurance**

The Artist will be expected to hold Public Liability insurance to a minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity insurance to a minimum value of £5m

#### How to apply and submission process

Artists are invited to make an Expression of Interest to [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk) by 10am, Monday 21 August.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an informal conversation with the Culture and Events Development Officer, please contact [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk)

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**The Expression of Interest should be no more than 3 pages of A4 in total, use a minimum font size of 11pt and should include the following:**

- Your name, contact details, address, and preferred pronoun
- A statement outlining:
  - your experience and suitability for this work
  - how your creative approach lends itself to King Street or what approach you would take to the commission
  - any connection to, working knowledge of Bristol and/or your motivation for wanting to work in the city
  - if applying as a collaboration/collective, who your creative partners are and outline how you will work together to ensure a joined approach to delivery
- a written description of your design idea or direction/approach and a drawing if appropriate - if you are shortlisted this doesn't have to be the idea you finally submit
- Your day rate and an overview of timeline and tasks to manage the project as you've described it
- Examples of previous relevant projects - images and / or website links to include an example of a commission or project that involved collaborating with a range of stakeholders, such as Council, businesses, community organisations, residents etc.
- A referee who can talk about a commission you have undertaken in the public realm or a public setting

\*At Bristol City Council, we value the diversity of the city we serve. We therefore welcome expressions of interest for this opportunity from Artists from all sections of the community. If you or someone you are supporting needs this information in a different format or if you would prefer to submit your Expression of Interest in a different way such as a video or sound file, please email [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk) so we can make sure this opportunity is open to you.

### **Programme and Timetable**

14/08 & 16/08	online informal Q&A / King Street site visit
10am Monday 21 August	Deadline for Expressions of Interest to be submitted
w/c 28 August	Shortlist of maximum 5 artists notified – design development period - £500 fee
10am Monday 18 September	Design proposals submitted by shortlisted artists
w/c 18 September	Shortlisted artists interviews / presentations to Creative Commissioning panel

w/c 2 October	Selected artist notified (after internal BCC feasibility checks and sign off)
2/10 – 30/10 October	Further stakeholder engagement, consultation, appointed artist to finalise designs
w/c 30 October	Agree final design/proposal
November 2023– January 2024	Preparation works, fabrication
February – 31 March 2024	Installation, promotion, launch.

## Management and Support

Artists will be commissioned and contracted by Bristol City Council. The commission will be led by BCC officers from the Arts Development & Economic Development teams who will broker access to other council departments. Day to day project management and liaison will be with the Culture & Events Development Officer who will support you from briefing, introducing you to key stakeholders, overseeing your engagement and milestones for delivery such as concept and detailed design sign off, up to installation and handover.

Where possible and if competitive, there is the aspiration to source local suppliers and businesses for production and fabrication.

You will invoice Bristol City Council and the commission budget will be managed by BCC.

## Supporting documents

Heritage and context of King Street

[SPD \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) P. 24 Area 3 - King Street

If you would like to be emailed the consultation findings please contact [artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:artandthepublicrealm@bristol.gov.uk) to request a copy of the report.

## Selection Criteria:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Stage - EOI

Up to a maximum of 5 artists will be shortlisted to develop their design proposals for a fee of £500 each. The shortlist selection will be made based on the following criteria using the scoring system outlined below:

- Demonstrated artistic ability, experience and track record of creating high quality, innovative work in public spaces and / or heritage contexts
- Quality and appropriateness for the site of outline design idea/approach
- Connection to, working knowledge of or motivation to work in Bristol
- Demonstration of engagement and involvement of stakeholders in the artistic process
- Demonstrated ability to work within a given timeline and budget
- Fee / value for money - we are committed to fair and reasonable rates of pay for artists as set out here:

[Guidance on fees and day rates for visual artists 2022.pdf \(a-n.co.uk\)](#)

We welcome applications from artists from any location/region but if EOI's score equally priority will be given to an artist/collective based in Bristol or surrounding area, or who have a lived experience or connection to Bristol.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage – 5 x Shortlisted artists – design competition

1 artist/collective will be selected from a maximum shortlist of 5 artists based on the assessment of their design proposals and presentation.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the designs using the scoring system outlined below:

- Concept / Design - Artistic quality and innovation and it's suitability to the heritage context of King Street
- Engagement – how are stakeholders and users considered or involved in the artistic process and/or outputs.
- Timeline – feasibility of production
- Value for money - budget demonstrates excellent value for money/ provides other creative/design employment opportunities / demonstrates that local suppliers have been researched / maintenance – plan and costs involved

Shortlisted artists/collaborative partnerships/collectives will be invited to attend a meeting (in person or online) with the commissioning panel. This is provisionally set for Wednesday 20 September. If you are unable to make this date, we will endeavour to accommodate a different date. The final decision will be made within 10 working days of the panel meeting, to allow internal feasibility consultations. We intend to notify the selected artist in the w/c 2 October 2023.

If the final panel decision is between 2 or more artists who have scored equally priority will be given to an artist/collective based in Bristol or surrounding area, or who have a lived experience or connection to Bristol.

**\*Bristol City Council reserve the right not to appoint any of the applicants if none of the proposals are considered suitable/feasible.**

Score	0	1	2	3
Rationale	Unacceptable - not been answered or the answer raises serious doubts.	Partially answered but reservations remain about the clarity / robustness / credibility of the answer.	Acceptable – answered to a satisfactory standard.	Excellent – fully answered and exceeds satisfactory standards.