

Frequently Asked Questions - King Street Public Art Commission

1. Is March 2024 a hard deadline or can it be extended?

The deadline of March 2024 for completion and installation of the artwork is a fixed deadline that cannot be extended. The culture & events programme and street scene and greening is part externally funded and therefore BCC have to adhere to the funding criteria and timelines.

2. Does the production budget need to cover all feasibility reports, applications for permissions and licences and include Risk Assessments and Method Statements for installation?

Yes, the production budget of £43,000 is the total sum available for all feasibility, production, fabrication and installation and must include all necessary reports, surveys, (e.g. ground works surveys, structural engineering) applications for permissions and licences (e.g. planning permission, highways licences), installation etc.

3. Can artworks be fixed into the ground, or should they be self-supporting?

It is possible to explore both self-supporting and fixed installations, both of which may require structural engineer reports, ground surveys etc.

4. Does the artwork need to have a physical presence, or can it be digital for example?

The artwork does not need to have a physical presence. We are open to proposals of any art form or design. We welcome innovative, creative site-specific responses that will enhance and preserve the character of the street and look to its future.

5. Does the artwork have to integrate with the public realm designs / interventions?

The artwork can be standalone and entirely separate or it can be a work or design that integrates with or can be incorporated into public realm improvements. We are looking for a work that will attract footfall, respond to the site/context and celebrate, enhance and preserve the character of the street. We wanted to keep open the possibility that an artwork or artistic approach might also connect, integrate or be incorporated to public realm interventions.

6. Could an artwork make creative use of paving or road surfaces?

Much of the existing paving in the street contributes to the heritage and character, however there are new build outs planned as part of the transport interventions to make the street more inclusive, accessible and welcoming, which will have newly paved areas and these could create a possibility for a creative use of paving, inlaid elements etc. There will also be a 'raised table' which is an elongated speed bump on Queen Charlotte Street where it intersects with King Street. This is planned as a tarmac surface, however a design could be applied through use of tarmac, applying paint, thermoplastics etc subject to necessary approvals.

7. Will the artist be responsible for managing applications for any necessary permissions and licences, drawing up risk assessments and method statements etc?

The artist will be responsible for all necessary licences, permissions, and statements. BCC officers will work with the artist to guide and advise as to the various necessary processes to obtain the correct licences and permissions. The production budget can be used to cover the costs involved and to employ professional services when and if necessary.

8. Can you clarify how the production budget will be managed?

The production budget of £43,000 will be held and managed by BCC in liaison with the artist. However, if for example fabrication or installation costs will be incurred by the artist studio then this can be invoiced for separately to the artist fee. Alternatively, various elements may need to be outsourced to a contractor. Internal transfers for costs for licences and permissions can be made directly.