

A breath of Fresh AIR

Cuningar Loop, Rutherglen, Scotland

Two Unique Artist Residence Opportunities



Artist Brief 1&2

Deadline: 14th August 2013 16:00



1. Introduction

As part of the Creative Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage funding for Year of Natural Scotland 2013, Forestry Commission Scotland has been awarded an artist residency to help develop the potential of our resources to engage more people creatively in thinking about nature and its care. We are looking for an artist with the inspiration and insight into the natural world to help us turn this vision into practice.

Two unique Artist In Residence opportunities will form part of an exciting project to develop a new inner city woodland park as part of the Scottish Government's Legacy commitments to the 2014 Commonwealth Games. ***A Breath of Fresh Air*** will see two artists or teams of artists appointed to support the detailed design of the new woodland park and raise awareness within the local community of what benefits access to woodlands green space can bring.

Forestry Commission Scotland is working in partnership with Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company and South Lanarkshire Council to deliver this ambitious project. It is excited to have the opportunity to introduce artists at this point, which it is felt will bring significant added value to the project as a whole.

2. Background

Cuningar Loop is a 27 hectare area of vacant and derelict land, set on a distinctive bend on the River Clyde marking the boundary between Glasgow and South Lanarkshire, at the heart of the Clyde Gateway regeneration area. The site has had a number of different industrial uses over the last 200 years, the 50's seeing it used as landfill for the Gorbals slum clearance. Since then it has been left to naturally regenerate creating a green space used by local residents for walking their dogs.

The ownership of the site has recently been transferred from South Lanarkshire Council to Clyde Gateway URC and a partnership has formed between these two organisations and Forestry Commission Scotland to develop 14 hectares of the site into a new woodland park with great opportunities for residents and visitors to get out into nature within the city, to get more active and to engage with a range of exciting community events and happenings which enrich lives and enrich the area.

The current proposals for the Park include:

- The creation of a new woodland park incorporating a range of paths, recreational areas (events hub) and outdoor pursuit facilities.

- A new pedestrian footbridge across the River Clyde linking the Park directly to the site of the Athlete's village which will then be converted into social and private housing in 2014/15 after the Games are over.

The £4.9m development of the Cuningar Loop woodland park is a flagship Forestry Commission urban woodlands initiative as well as being a major Commonwealth Games 2014 Legacy commitment and our proposition is:

'Get involved, get active and be inspired by your Cuningar Loop Riverside Woodland Park'.

Get Involved – It is critical that the community and stakeholders get involved with the regeneration and creation of the Park and help to give it a new life. Whilst FCS can regenerate the land, plant trees, design the activity areas and ensure it is a beautifully maintained inner city green area, the community itself must bring life into the Park and take it over as their own. *The artist residences are designed to help embed the importance of the park within the community and strengthen the link between people and place which does not currently exist.*

Get Active – This is a 2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy project and it is important that the Park provides opportunities to support and contribute to the bigger goal of healthier communities within a healthier Scotland. *The residences should aim to engage local communities with the natural world and highlight the benefits related to accessing woodland green space.*

Be Inspired – From the beautifully regenerated Park, the nature, the environment, the position beside the River Clyde and from the educational, learning and community events which take place in the Park, this is all about being inspired by the Park – it inspired me to get out more/it inspired me to join a walking group/it inspired me to volunteer to help regenerate my local area etc. *The residencies should inspire local communities to use the site more and connect with natural Scotland wherever they may be.*

Over the past 18 months much work has been undertaken to engage with the communities surrounding the site and the resulting information indicates that the site is unknown to most with little or no connection between residents and the site itself. This comes from many years of industrial use as well as it's isolated position. It is for this reason that we are very keen to engage more closely with those people who we hope will use the site on a regular basis once it is open.

A Breath of Fresh AIR aims to use art as a means of engaging and enthusing the public about the project and the wider benefits of visiting natural green spaces. Two separate unique residences have been

developed and artists are encouraged to apply for one or both of the opportunities depending on their skills and experience.

3. Scope of Residency

Residency 1

- On site installation - concept development.

This appointment looks to identify a suitable artist or creative practitioner who will support the Forestry Commission and existing design team in the development of a series of linked, **permanent** art installations within the Cuningar Loop Woodland Park. Two main installations will act as orientation points at the northern and southern gateways to the site and will be linked together via a series of related artistic interventions designed to guide the visitors along the new *Tree Route* through the site.

It is anticipated that the communities linked to the wider network of Commonwealth Woodlands, situated around the city of Glasgow, will play a role in developing the concepts for each intervention.

The artist will work closely with staff from both Forestry Commission Scotland and Clyde Gateway to understand the aspirations of the project and with local residents and organisations to ensure the options presented reflect the views of the future site users.

The artist will be expected to:

- Spend time with staff from partner organisations, in particular the identified project board, to fully understand the requirements of the project.
- Interact with a range of local community members and identified groups to engage with to understand the local context of the site and the history and heritage associated with it.
- Visit a range of other Forestry Commission projects to gain insight in to the work carried out by the organisation on a wider level.
- Become familiar with initiatives such as FCS woods for health and Branching Out and with the benefits that access to woodland can bring from a social, economic and environmental perspective.
- Be prepared to get involved in activities and contribute fully to meetings related to the project.

To outline what is expected as outputs, it is anticipated that the artist would:

- Create a range of concept proposals (Minimum 4) for the two main installations and linking interventions, including models and visual representations where appropriate, inspired by the partner organisations ethos and ambitions for the project as well as the views of the local community,

- Produce a public display of the options to allow feedback on the preferred option.
- Work with the project board to identify the preferred option for development,
- Work with the design and construction team to develop tender documents and installation requirements to allow the chosen works to be fabricated and installed as part of the wider project (to be funded outwith the residency).
- Ensure that the proposed installations are designed in a way which is durable, requires minimal ongoing maintenance and reduces the opportunity for vandalism or miss-use.

Residency 2

- Off site community engagement and awareness raising.

This opportunity seeks to identify a creative practitioner who will embed themselves within the local community, involving and engaging them in the development of a range of works over a 4 month period.

The project aims to engage the communities of Rutherglen and Farme Cross, those closest to the proposed woodland park, in the benefits that access to natural woodland green space can bring and to understand the current relationship between those communities and the green-space on their doorstep. It is anticipated that the successful artist will engage with a diverse range of residents from across the identified area in a way which will encourage participation and stimulate interest in the wider project.

No specific artistic medium has been identified for this project as it is felt that a range of techniques could be used to achieve the required level of engagement. Artists tendering for this opportunity must outline why they feel their chosen medium will have the maximum impact in relation to the project requirements.

The artist will be expected to:

- Spend time with staff from partner organisations and in particular the identified project board to fully understand the requirements of the project.
- Interact with a range of local community members and identified groups, delivering a range of interactive / participatory workshops.
- Visit a range of other Forestry Commission projects to gain insight in to the work carried out by the organisation on a wider level.
- Become familiar with initiatives such as FCS woods for health and Branching Out and with the benefits that access to woodland can bring from a social, economic and health perspective.
- Be prepared to get involved in activities and contribute fully to meetings related to the project.

- Ensure that equalities and diversity related opportunities are embeded throughout the residency and that every opportunity is made to reduce barriers to participation,

To outline what is expected as outputs, it is anticipated that the artist would:

- Organise a range of interactive / participatory workshops with local community members and identified groups.
- Create a range of temporary works which are inspired by the local community.
- Showcase the work of both the artist themselves and those who contributed to the workshops in a range of locations which will draw attention to the project and raise the profile of the benefits of access to woodland green space.
- Relate the works to the unique offering of the new Cuningar Woodland Park and it's setting in such a densely urban area.

4. Community Interaction / Involvement

Interaction with the local community is seen as an essential element of the Breath of Fresh AIR project and all artists applying for the opportunity must be able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for this element of the work and their proven track record of producing quality works which both reflect the views of the community and engage community members in a way which benefits the wider project.

The artist will be expected to deliver a range of talks and participatory workshops throughout the residency at times to be agreed with the project manager.

5. Terms of Residency

5.1. Experience

Artists tending for either residency must be able to demonstrate a proven track record of delivering community based residences where community interaction and participation features highly. It is also expected that the appointed artists will appreciate the benefits of nature and be passionate and effective communicators.

The artist will have or be willing to have full disclosure if required to work with children.

5.2. Timescales

The residences are expected to take place as part of the 2013 Year of Natural Scotland, with residency one taking place between September and December, lasting up to 4 months and Residency 2 between November and February, lasting up to 3 months.

The appointed artists will commence their residency by attending project steering group meetings and working with the identified project support team to identify organisations and individuals who will form part of the participation element of the residency. Opportunities will be arranged with members of the client team to visit and experience activities being delivered by the project partners across the local and wider area. It is anticipated that the artist will spend a minimum of three days a week within the identified community area linked to the residency.

5.3. Support and Administration

The project will be led by Project Manager Tom Wallace and supported by Community Links who are a community focused charity with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the community work within the area identified for both residences. Your support workers at Community Links will act as facilitator for workshops and will provide the first point of contact between the artist and the residents and organisations within the area. Community Links have supported the delivery of all consultation related to the Cuningar Loop project to date.

5.4. Facilities

A dedicated workspace / studio will be provided for the artist within the community and will be available to use as a base for personal studio time. In addition to this meeting space will be identified within partner organisations who will form a key part of the stakeholder group with whom the artists will be expected to engage with throughout the residency. Some of these facilities will need to be booked in advanced and this will be possible through support provided by Community Links.

5.5. Budget

Residency 1

£8000, over 4 months excluding Travel & Subsistence to be agreed with the project manager

Residency 2

£6000, over 3 months excluding Travel & Subsistence to be agreed with the project manager

In addition the following finding is available to support the project:
£5,000 for expenses (T&S)
£4,000 for production/materials/installation
£2,000 for specialist support if required.
Additional funding will be secured for final installations in discussion with the successful candidate.

5.6. Monitoring & Evaluation

The artist residencies will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout their lifecycle and the impact of the works will be monitored as part of a wider monitoring and evaluation programme for the woodland development. The successful artist(s) will be required to record and report on the range of people with whom they have engaged and a sample of follow up meetings will be held with participants to gauge their feelings on the project. Once the works have been completed a range of techniques including telephone surveys, on site surveys and community workshops will be used to understand the impact of the residency on those accessing the site or living within the local area.

5.7 Equal Opportunities

Forestry Commission Scotland is committed to equal opportunities and we welcome applications from people from all backgrounds. Our procurement guidelines ensure that we maintain fair and equal opportunities for all to provide us with the services we require. We are also committed to ensuring the work produced is accessible to the audiences visiting the site and an Equalities Impact Assessment will be developed with the successful artists prior to their commission commencing.

6. How To Apply

Please apply in writing including:

- A covering letter, no longer than two sides of A4 paper, indicating: Which residency(s) are you interested in and why, along with your experience or working with communities in a residency setting. You must highlight why your approach will have the greatest impact on the project and our target audiences.
- A one page programme which outlines how you would propose to spend your time.
- Appropriate supporting material demonstrating the quality of your work and experience in the field:
 - Our preferred formats for supporting materials are:
 - **Audio** – (Max 2 files) please upload your material to [Soundcloud](#) as a private track. To do this you will need to sign up or have a Soundcloud account. Where possible you should make the track available for download so we can review it offline if required. Please

share it with us by adding the email address specified in the programme guidelines.

- **Videos/Moving Images** – (Max 3 videos) we request that you upload your material to [Vimeo](#) and, if appropriate, make the video private. You can share a video with us by adding the email address specified in the programme guidelines.
 - **Photographic Material** – Maximum of 10 images can be emailed to us via the email address specified in the programme guidelines.
- The total size of your email and attachments should not exceed 10MB.
 - Please remember, within the cover letter, to detail the additional supporting material/s you have submitted and where and how we can access them.

Email applications are preferred however hard copies may also be submitted by the same deadline. Please clearly label your submission: 'A breath of fresh AIR Residency (number 1 or 2) and send to:

Tom.wallace@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Or

Cuningar Loop
Clyde Gateway URC
Bridgeton Cross
Bridgeton
Glasgow

Deadline for submissions: **4pm, 14th August**

Interviews: will be held on the 22ND and 26TH of August at the Clyde Gateway offices, Bridgeton, Glasgow. It is anticipated that up to 5 artists will be invited to interview for each residency. The interview panel will consist of members of the Cuningar Project board.