



Mobile Art-Space

Design & Fabrication Brief



Mark Dion's *Mobile Gull Appreciation Unit* 2008

Deadline for submissions – Monday 5th April 2010



1. Introduction

Art at the Centre Swale are seeking design/fabrication submissions for a Mobile Art-Space.

The brief is open to artists, designers, architects, businesses, groups, organisations, or those working collaboratively.

There is a complete budget of **£26,000** to include all fees, materials, and fabrication / adaptation, and all incurred expenses.

1.1 Art at the Centre Swale – background

Art at the Centre Swale is a pioneering scheme that seeks to embed creativity within regeneration practice across the region. Using an innovative approach to Art-Spaces, public art commissioning and programming, Art at the Centre Swale will enhance the physical qualities of the existing public realm; contribute to the shaping of the new developments, add value to open spaces, and encourage the community to become actively involved in the changing landscape of Swale.

Community consultation has highlighted the need for a Mobile Art-Space as part of this ambitious project. The Art-Space will be a self-contained and flexible creative space that travels to priority areas across the Borough to bring engaging and high quality arts activity including artists' residencies and high profile *Art in the Public Realm* projects.

For more information please visit www.swale.gov.uk/aatc. Please see Appendices for Art at the Centre Swale Aims.

2. Aims

The mobile space design and fabrication will need to reflect the following:

- **Innovation:** To reflect quality contemporary design in the public realm.
- **Flexibility:** To accommodate a diverse range of uses from exhibitions to workshops to performances to research and administration work.

- **Accessibility:** To encourage local communities to engage in creative activity and contribute to regeneration practice.
- **Mobility:** to be relocated to different areas and therefore encourage “ownership” from communities.
- **Reflexivity:** To reflect the forthcoming changes to the landscape and the rich cultural heritage of Swale
- **Visibility:** A presence and focal point within the community for Art at the Centre Swale activities

3. Timetable

Deadline for submissions – Monday 5th April 2010

Shortlisting – Wednesday 7th April 2010

Meetings with shortlisted applicants – (TBC) Appointment and

Contracting – w/c 12th April

Deadline for Delivery – September 2010 (to be negotiated)

4. Fabrication

The fabric of the space could be a vehicle, prefab or new-build. Art at the Centre Swale will consider rental or purchase, adapting an existing space, or commissioning a new space.



As with Heather & Ivan Morrison's 'Tales of Space and Time' and Public Works 'Mobile Porch', the space will also become a work in itself, the interior used for projects, and the exterior to communicate the creativity, ambition, and vision of Art at the Centre Swale.

5. Design specifications

- High quality and reflecting innovative design
- Self-contained
- Resistant to vandalism
- Resistant to weather within potentially exposed landscapes
- Cost effective to transport
- Durable and requiring minimal maintenance
- Safe and not constituting a hazard to people or the environment
- Secure
- Incorporating an 'on-street' opening/awning to use outdoor space efficiently
- DDA compliant
- Fitted with relevant health and safety equipment and basic first aid provision
- 'Power ready' for external sources. Fitted with power points x 5 (min) + wireless broadband
- Equip with folding walls / screens to create interior spaces when required *{desirable}*
- Fitted with wall mounted or folding chairs and tables
- Administration area fitted with desk and office chair

Nb. No toilet facilities are required as the space will be located near to facilities, including utilities.

6. Conceptual specifications

The Mobile Art-Space should reflect the environment and/or cultural heritage of Swale, demonstrating a deep connection with place, and making connections for the participants and communities who live and work in Swale.

6.1 Swale Overview

Swale is situated on the North Kent coast, in a prime location within 40 miles of London and the Channel Ports. Swale has a rich industrial, maritime and aviation heritage, and traditional seaside resorts and areas such as Leysdown have become known for transient tourist population occupying colourful, noisy penny arcades and static holiday homes. The Borough also has a plethora of styles across the built environment.

The Borough is diverse, containing three distinct areas, in the form of Sittingbourne, the Isle of Sheppey and Faversham, and with a large rural area. Swale performs well in respect of many environmental indicators, and indeed, part of Swale's attractiveness as a place in which to live, work and invest is the high quality of its natural environment. There are extensive environmental and conservation designations, covering 75% of the land area of the Borough.

6.2 Mobile Space 'Tour'

The mobile space will travel to priority areas including:

6.2.1 Milton Creek Regeneration / Artlands

The Milton Creek Gateway Landscape Project is funded through the government's Thames Gateway Parklands and Kent County Council, and has been established as the Pilot project for *Artlands*; the two year Programme of high quality art in the public realm commissions that will run from April 2010 – March 2012 across North Kent. It establishes a framework for delivery of a range of environmental projects throughout the Milton Creek area in Sittingbourne. The Milton Creek Gateway Landscape Project focuses on enhancements to landscape, biodiversity and access within the wider Creekside corridor. A package of projects have been selected to receive funding for delivery within the next two years (by 31.3.2011), including public artworks and community engagement supported by Art at the Centre.

6.2.2 Leysdown – *Rosetinted*

Rosetinted - Vision for Leysdown is part of the Government's Sea Change programme, which is designed to reinvigorate England's coastal resorts through investment in culture and heritage. This project at Leysdown sees artists, the community and design professionals come together to create an ambitious and innovative vision for change in the town. Swale Borough Council successfully achieved £36,000 from the programme and its partners, and commissioned artist Rosa Ainley to develop a Vision and costed delivery plan. The document has outlined a programme of deliverable activities across 2 years, as well as the wider long-term capital works. Art at the Centre will play a key role in engaging communities in the changing landscape of Leysdown, as well as delivering a number of the projects as part of the Vision.

6.2.3 Queenborough & Rushenden Regeneration

Art at the Centre Swale will be closely aligned with the advancing Queenborough & Rushenden regeneration schedule which is advancing at a pace with preparatory works currently commencing at Neats Court. Over the next two years, the majority of the development sites will be underway which presents a significant opportunity for Art at the Centre Swale to engage communities and artists in these significant works.

7. Project viability and value for money

The project should be clearly planned and can be delivered within the applicant's capacity. The budget should be realistic and the costs should be reasonable.

8. Eligibility

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

9. Role of the applicant

The appointed applicant will be responsible for the concept and fabrication of the work in consultation with Art at the Centre.

The commissioned artist / company will be expected to provide regular updated reports on the progress of the project. Please note that any costs for travel and accommodation incurred by the applicant are included in the overall commissioning fee.

The project will be documented at key fabrication stages using photography and film for Art at the Centre Swale's marketing purposes and to ensure lasting legacy. The successful applicant will take part in press and marketing opportunities.

Art at the Centre will consult on the Shortlisted designs via websites to begin a dialogue with local people about the aesthetic and concepts. An image of the shortlisted design will be made available for this process.

8. Submission Requirements

Please note that submissions must be received by post in order to be considered. We cannot accept applications by email.

If you wish to be considered for the commission please submit information as follows:

- a. Short written outline of your proposal
 - Maximum of one side of A4
- b. Sketch of proposal
 - Maximum of one side A4
- c. Outline budget with a breakdown of design fees, fabrication costs, expenses etc.
- d. Up to ten images of previous projects
 - These must be submitted either as digital files on CD/DVD or as printed A4 images.
 - Digital files must be in JPEG format or QuickTime/MediaPlayer movies of not more than 30 seconds duration each.
 - Digital files and printed images must be labeled with your name and a number corresponding to a printed list.
 - No other image formats are acceptable.
- e. List of images

The list of images should identify the images and include the following details:

Artist's or Company Name, Number, Title, Materials, Date, Location and Commissioner (if relevant).

f. Curriculum Vitae / Organisational biography

This should be headed with your contact details including: name, full address, telephone, email and contact details of 2 professional references. Artists may wish to include a brief statement about your artistic practice if you feel this is helpful. It should cover no more than two sides of A4.

Please submit your application as a hard copy to:

Nicole Mollett
Lead Artist, Art at the Centre
Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street, Sittingbourne
ME10 3HT

9. Further information

Further information can be obtained from Nicole Mollett:

NicoleMollett@swale.gov.uk

+44(0)777 0640692

10. Appendices

Aims of Art at the Centre Swale

Aim 1: To develop an exemplary model of how art can become an integral part of the regeneration process

Aim 2: To stimulate involvement and engagement of local communities in the regeneration process

Aim 3: To establish a greater reputation for quality art (both public art and arts activities)

Aim 4: To facilitate and enhance artists' collective presence as a creative industry

Aim 5: To recognise and capture the existing qualities and identity of the area

Aim 6: To forge partnerships and create networks

Swale Borough Council overview

Our goal is: "To achieve a transformation in Swale's economic, social and environmental profile, so that it is one of the best places in Britain in which to live, work, learn and invest". This goal is both ambitious and broad in scope. Continuing regeneration investment and a shared agenda between partners working in Swale give us the opportunity to capitalise on the Borough's potential and to achieve the step change that our overall goal demands. Culture is a key element of the 'Regenerating Swale' corporate priority, and the Economic Development and Cultural Services Unit aims to achieve a vibrant Borough, where cultural vitality contributes to Swale's distinctive communities and their health and wellbeing.