

A Turning Point?

Context Document – Open Call for Proposals from Artists

Participatory Art in the Public Realm

Salisbury City Council

June 2022

Context & Overview

The administration of Salisbury City Council have established a new budget in 2022/23 to explore the role of public art in the city and in this first year are seeking to use the budget to commission a participatory art project. This project will use the creative arts to investigate what is important to the people of Salisbury and how it can be reflected through art in the public sphere.

As a result of this project the Communities Manager and Administration will be developing a public art strategy for 2023 - 2025

Salisbury City Council wishes to consider ‘Public Art in its broadest sense as *“art that is in the public realm”*’.

“Usually, but not always, public art is commissioned specifically for the site in which it is situated. Monuments, memorials, and civic statues and sculptures are the most established forms of public art, but public art can also be transitory, in the form of performances, dance, theatre, poetry, graffiti, posters and installations.”

(The Tate - <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/public-art>)

Salisbury City Council also wishes to encourage and develop Socially Engaged participatory art in the dialogue of the city. (See the definitions below)

Objectives

Through this project Salisbury City Council has the following aims

- Improving health and wellbeing by commissioning artists to generate collective experiences, participatory creation and healthy, social, activities which give people the opportunity to learn and share skills.
- Developing audiences for, and increasing participation in, art and art practice in the city, particularly where engagement and access is low or barriers are present.
- Support of the local creative and social economy by providing opportunities for local freelance artists who have socially engaged practice

- Developing a public art strategy over the next 2 years that is informed by experience of art practice in the city and the voices of residents.
- Developing Salisbury City Council's distinct, high quality and evidence-based approach to socially engaged public art.
- Engaging residents in public dialogue

Lead Artist/Artists

Salisbury City Council is seeking an independent artist or artists to deliver a participatory arts project in settings across the city with participants of varying ages and abilities.

The right artist will be able to evidence their socially engaged practice and have extensive experience of delivering work in a community context.

The artist will consider dialogue with participants to be central to their working practice and be able to work flexibly with them to shape the outputs to reflect their views and ideas, enabling creative outcomes that give voice to the participant's response to key themes.

They will have a meaningful connection to the City of Salisbury either as a local resident or through their professional work in a community context.

Ideally the artist(s) will be able to work via a range of media and will have the ability to travel across the city to deliver workshops and/or events.

We are particularly interested in artists who can offer a project through two or more media or art forms.

We welcome applications from artists from a range of background and/or with lived experience of marginalization. We are interested in exploring barriers to participation in public events and dialogue.

Socially Engaged Arts

Through this brief Salisbury City Council is demonstrating its interest in developing relationships with socially engaged creative practitioners.

In this context 'art' and 'artists' are understood to include all artistic forms including writing, dance, and music.

Salisbury City Council adheres to the broad definition of socially engaged art, as art that can

"Can include any artform which involves people and communities in debate, collaboration or social interaction. This can often be organised as the result of an outreach or education program, but many independent artists also use it within their work..... The participatory element of socially engaged practice, is key, with the artworks created often holding equal or less importance to the collaborative act of creating them." (The Tate - <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/socially-engaged-practice>)

This work should be seen in the context of the Council's work to develop an asset-based approach to community development over the next 5 years.

Timetable

June 28th	Brief launch
August 1st	Application Deadline
22 nd and 23 rd August	Selection Interviews
22 nd September	Commissioning Deadline
1 st Oct – 19 March 2023	Project Delivery Period
April 2023	Reporting and Review period

Budget

£8500 total including materials, as required by the proposal

Estimated day allocation – 20 – 24 days