

ARTISTS BRIEF FOR PUBLIC ARTWORK

at South Quay Shed, Whitstable Harbour

May 2024



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Canterbury City Council is seeking an artist or artist collective to transform the wall spaces at [South Quay Shed](#) in Whitstable Harbour.

The commission can involve either

- (a) Creating a large-scale two-dimensional artwork on a single wall space
- b) Devising a series of 'accents' (i.e. smaller artworks) across several walls

South Quay Shed (SQS) was converted into a sustainable commercial site in May 2022 and houses a range of independent food, drink, and retail outlets. Whitstable Harbour is a working industrial and fishing port owned by Canterbury City Council and is administered by the Whitstable Harbour Board.

This public art commission offers an

opportunity for an artist or artist collective to create an artwork that is vibrant, eye-catching, and appeals to a broad range of audiences and ages. The artwork should reflect the unique historical and cultural context of the site and should engage and inspire passers-by who use this space.

We are looking for an artist who is open to collaborating with the community that uses space and are particularly keen to hear from artists who live, work, or study locally in East Kent.

**SOUTH
QUAY
SHED**

SOUTH QUAY SHED

The SQS building is a multi-unit commercial space consisting of 12 self-contained units spread over two floors, as well as two external units, all of which are currently occupied by local businesses. The building's original concrete frame has been preserved, and recycled groyne timber sourced from Herne Bay Sea defences has been used in its renovation.

The ground floor of SQS features food court-style seating, a council-run bar, four retail and five food outlets, along with an internal courtyard.

On the first-floor mezzanine deck, visitors can find an exhibition of a model of the harbour as it was in 1923, three retail and one food and drink outlet, a balcony, and fully glazed front elevations that offer stunning views of the working harbour throughout the year.

SQS is fully accessible to wheelchair users and is dog-friendly, making it a welcoming space for all. Operating hours are from 8am to 5pm on weekdays and 8am to 8pm on weekends. The building is also known for hosting events, such as live music performances and food and craft workshops.



PROPOSED SITES FOR ARTWORK/S

We envisage the selected artwork(s) will either be painted directly onto a wall or applied using adhesive vinyl. We recommend applicants visit the site to get a feel for the available wall spaces.

If you have any questions, please email michelle.butler@canterbury.gov.uk



INDICATIVE TIMETABLE 2024

Opportunity Live	Monday 20 May
Deadline for proposals	Midnight Monday 10 June
Notification of shortlist decision by	Monday 17 June
Interviews of shortlisted artists	W/C Thursday 20 & Friday 21 June
Decision and appointment of successful artist by	Monday 24 June
Submission of detailed project proposal and first payment	By Monday 15 July
Installation	Monday 22 & Tuesday 24 July
Project Completion and final payment	W/C 29 July

THE BUDGET

The appointed artist will receive £3,000 to cover the artist's fee, community meetings, materials, and installation. The fee will be paid in two instalments, on signature of the agreement and completion of the work.

MANAGEMENT

The artist will be commissioned and contracted by Canterbury City Council. The council's Culture Development Officer will support the artist during the design process, introduce them to key stakeholders, and oversee milestones for delivery such as concept, detailed design sign-off, installation and handover.

The artist will be expected to hold public liability insurance to a minimum value of £5m and public indemnity insurance to a minimum value of £5m.

CONSIDERATIONS

- The artwork must be minimal maintenance
- Canterbury City Council would give a minimum of two weeks' notice period for removal of the artwork if necessary
- The subject matter of the artwork must be appropriate and relevant to its surroundings

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for this opportunity, you will need to provide:

- A completed application form (see below, relevant questions marked 0 to 5)
- Links to your previous work that are most relevant to this project.
- All applications will be assessed by a selection panel formed by the council’s External Develop Team.

- Where indicated, your answers will be marked 0 to 5, with 5 as the highest mark. If you do not complete all sections of the application process, your application will not be considered.
- Please send the completed application to **michelle.butler@canterbury.gov.uk** SOUTH QUAY SHED PUBLIC ART in the subject heading.

The deadline for proposals is **midnight Monday 10 June 2024**

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The selection panel will review all submissions received by the deadline **midnight Monday 10 June 2024** and determine a shortlist of artists or artist Collectives.

The panel will conduct online/in-person interviews with the shortlisted Artists.

Please note that the council reserves the right not to appoint any of the applicants if none of the submissions are considered suitable and may approach others to submit proposals

SELECTION CRITERIA

CRITERIA 1
Evidence of capability to produce high-quality projects
Assessment:
Written submission and images, online profile, references
.....

CRITERIA 3
Suitability of the artist’s approach to this commission
Assessment:
Written submission, initial proposal, interview
.....

CRITERIA 4
Originality of ideas
Assessment:
Written submission, initial proposal, interview