

Public Art Commission

Artist Brief

Loughborough University wishes to commission a public artwork to mark the entrance to a new halls of residence complex. The new development will be named after Claudia Parsons, a pioneering engineer, intrepid traveller, and author. She was one of the very first women in England to graduate in engineering and later became the first woman to ‘circumnavigate the globe by car’. (See https://www.wes.org.uk/sites/default/files/u82/Magnificent%20Women%20Claudia%20Parsons_0.pdf).

The work could have a functional role, whether that be some form of structure or seating, or it could act as a beacon or a form of way marking. It could act as an information point or a place of rest or contemplation. Equally it could simply be an interesting sculptural work that sets itself apart from the environment that surrounds it, and in this way becomes a recognisable focal point for users of the area.

The commission will be undertaken by an artist working to the brief set out in this document. At this stage, artists are invited to submit an expression of interest in the commission, based on the information provided. Shortlisted artists will then be paid a fee to prepare worked-up proposals from which a final artist will be selected. The work will be unveiled in June 2019.

1. Background

Loughborough is a residential university and the hall experience is a critical feature. Recent growth in student numbers has placed pressure on the hall system to a point where fresher students are the overwhelming majority in the residential cohort. Recruitment has consequently been scaled back to protect the hall experience and student balance. At the same time, demand for high quality self-catering accommodation (as this would be) continues to grow and the halls that offer this are vastly over-subscribed.

Loughborough is recognised nationally and internationally for work in all aspects of sport and is now designated as one of the UK’s six national Elite Training Centres. To further our world leading strategic ambitions we need to offer high quality, accessible, short stay athletes’ accommodation in close proximity to the training environments, with appropriate facilities, and in particular a high quality nutrition centre for performance athletes. As such the level of provision and quality of these halls of residence will be extremely high.

We have appointed David Morley Architects and Colour Landscape Architects to take forward the scheme, please review the Active Campus Performance Specification (available on request).

2. Aims and Objectives

We are keen that the artwork is original and of high quality and becomes a recognised gateway feature for visitors and users of this area. Our key ambition is that the work is original, that it is artistically strong, that it acts as a recognisable feature within the environment, and that it is durable and fit for purpose. We do not want to be prescriptive, and as such our main concern is the commissioning of a high quality work of art that is enjoyed and engaged with by students and other visitors to the campus. However, the halls are named after Claudia Parsons, and this interesting history offers scope, if of interest, for an artist to take inspiration from. We are also open to the work being functional, which could include it acting as a point of rest or a point of contemplation or even as an information point.

The work will be located at the main entrance route to the new student village and will be seen by thousands of students as they navigate this route. A landscape architect has been involved in the design of the new area and the plans attached show the location for the work.

As such we have identified some key practical requirements:

- the work is produced to the highest artistic standards;
- the works are robust, durable and fully accessible;
- the works take full account of the architectural and landscape setting in the design process; and
- the works contribute to the cultural assets of the campus.

Consideration needs to be given to access – visual and physical – to the sites and any detailed works needed. The shortlisted artists will be encouraged to visit and investigate the site. This can be arranged via the site Project Manager Peter Goldsworthy (p.goldsworthy@lboro.ac.uk).

3. Conditions

Services such as electricity, can be provided to the proposed artwork. Detailed technical survey information on services and ground conditions can be provided to shortlisted candidates. At present there are no planning considerations for this project, however, the proposals for the commission are likely to be subject to planning controls. Artworks must be designed to minimise future maintenance costs.

4. Artist's Role

It is anticipated that the commission will be undertaken by an artist or other design professional. The artist(s) selected for the commission will be expected to address the following requirements:

- the preparation of detailed drawings of the proposed work covering all aspects of the site layout, sculpture, treatment, hard and soft landscaping, any planting and materials;
- presentation of the proposals and materials as required;
- the design, fabrication and installation of the work;
- the preparation of a maintenance schedule for the artwork detailing annual requirements;

- assist in the provision of promotional materials; and
- cover all public liability insurances for the process of creating the artwork and make provision for the work to be undertaken in the event of illness or other incapacity. It is assumed that the artist is self-employed and is responsible for tax and national insurance payments.

5. Artist Selection Process

The artist(s) will be selected through an Open Competition consisting of two stages:

Stage One:

Artists are invited to express an interest in this commission by submitting a statement explaining why they are interested in this particular commission, based on the information provided in this brief and through their own research. Submissions should also include a CV, a portfolio of relevant previous work and an indication of their initial response to the opportunity. A shortlist will be drawn up from the submissions by a commissioning panel.

Step Two:

Shortlisted artists will be commissioned to prepare detailed project proposals, for which a sum of money is available in the project budget. These designs can consist of any medium, including drawings, photographs, maquettes, models, computer generated images etc. Copyright for these designs will rest with the artist.

6. Budget and Provisional timetable

There is an overall budget of £20,000 for the commission. However, there is additional funding to support any foundations and fixings that might be required.

Shortlisted artists will be paid £500 to draw up more detailed design proposals.

The commission will be undertaken according to a timetable to be agreed with the commissioned artist(s).

Timetable

Promote and issue artists brief	July 2018
Receive expressions of interest and select shortlist	Early September 2018
Shortlisted artists submit detailed designs	Early October 2018
Selection of preferred artist	Mid October 2018
Design and production of the work	Oct – May 2019
Project completion, unveilings and ceremonies	June 2019

7. Insurance

The artist will be responsible for all personal insurance and should provide evidence of current public liability insurance for up to £5 million.

8. Copyrights

The copyright, moral and legal rights to all commission drawings, and preliminary works and the completed works will rest with the artist(s). Loughborough University will have assigned joint rights to use the images from each stage of the process for press and promotional purposes, and in the event of any publications concerning the commission shall use all materials recognising the artists' moral rights.

9. Documentation

Loughborough University will prepare press and promotional materials concerning the commission including the use of images on its website and social media, in relation to public consultation and all media work. It is intended that the commission will provide a number of opportunities for exhibition, to be negotiated with partners and the appointed artist(s) at the start of the process. Any costs incurred in preparing work for exhibition will be met within the fees for the commission, where the artist is concerned.

10. Decommissioning

Provision will be made in the contract in the event that the work(s) have to be moved, placed in storage or removed for any reason. The artist has the right to know of any changes to the work and will be contacted in the event that any changes may be planned.

11. Submission of an expression of interest and contacts

Expressions of interest should include an artist's CV, a portfolio of relevant previous work, a statement explaining their interest in this commission and an indication of their initial response to the opportunity. Full information, including maps and images of the locations and links to historical sites can be found within the following documents, which are available on request from the Project Manager for this commission:

- LU – The Active Campus Performance Specification (pdf)
- Student Village Gateway Brief (ppt)

Submitting an expression of interest: Submissions should arrive no later than Wednesday 5 September. Portfolios can be submitted digitally via Dropbox or a similar file transfer service to the project manager: David Bell, Project Co-ordinator, LU Arts E: D.M.Bell@lboro.ac.uk

Project Manager for this commission is: David Bell, Programme Co-ordinator, LU Arts, Loughborough University, LE11 3TU.