

# Space & Broomhouse Hub

## Artist's Brief

**Open Space @ the Broomhouse Hub: a creative community approach in a Covid era**



**Peter Liversidge: *Flags for Edinburgh*, 2013.** Photo: Stuart Armitt. Courtesy: the artist and Edinburgh Art Festival

### 1.0 Introduction

We are looking for a lead artist/artist collective to work collaboratively with our local community to co-design works for the external spaces of our new hub. Our aim is for our centre to be a truly welcoming, sustainable and community owned space for all and the public art programme will help us to realise this.

We are keen for the artist/s to prioritise engaging with two core groups in the co-design of the spaces; our **Youth Services** and elderly people with dementia through the **Beacon Club**. We would also like the artist to find a meaningful way of engaging with the community more widely through the course of the project.

Following a successful fundraising campaign, the new hub, formerly known as the Broomhouse Centre and renamed Space & Broomhouse Hub, opened its doors to the public in autumn 2019. With the new building complete, our attention is now focusing on the external spaces; the café garden, the inner courtyard, and the front of the building known as the civic space.

## 2.0 About Space & Broomhouse Hub

We are a community development trust, run by local people, offering support across the ages, providing dynamic services and supporting community-led development in Broomhouse, Parkhead and Sighthill – one of the areas of highest deprivation in Edinburgh, with the highest child and in-work poverty. We also serve a bigger footprint across South West Edinburgh and on occasion city-wide. We are a team of 34 staff, 10 trustees and over 150 volunteers.

As well as the specific services listed below, our hub is a drop-in place for local residents to use the café (serving fresh meals with produce from the community garden) or attend classes, events and activities; examples of clubs include the **Friday Youth Café drop-in** a dynamic evening of activities for our young people, **Sista Space** women’s group and **Book Bug**; sing, rhyme and play sessions for under 5’s.

### Our key services are

OLDER PEOPLE	CAFÉ AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE	YOUNG PEOPLE
<p><b>Vintage Vibes</b> (companionship for over 60’s, city-wide partnership with LifeCare)</p> <p><b>Beacon Club</b> (a day care service for elderly people living with dementia, SW Edinburgh)</p> <p><b>Adult Carers</b> (who care for a family member and require support/time out from their caring commitments, SW Edinburgh)</p>	<p><b>Space Kitchen Café</b> Open to all</p> <p><b>Space Training Academy</b> employability training programmes and volunteering opportunities (for trainees aged 16-25 and adults with mental health difficulties or learning, have been in prison, or other support needs, city-wide)</p> <p><b>Outside Catering and Events</b> (city-wide outside catering delivery and events at the Hub)</p> <p><b>Community Activities</b> (for Broomhouse, Sighthill &amp; Parkhead)</p> <p>Parent and young people employability programmes</p>	<p><b>Young Carers</b> (children aged 7-16 who care for a family member i.e. a parent or sibling; SW Edinburgh)</p> <p><b>Young Adult Carers</b> (young people aged 16-25 who care for an adult or sibling)</p> <p><b>Youth Befriending</b> (a befriending service for young people, aged 5-16, who are affected by parental drug or alcohol use, SW Edinburgh)</p> <p><b>Kinship Care Youth Befriending</b> (city-wide)</p> <p><b>Young People’s Counselling</b> (SW Edinburgh)</p> <p><b>(Digital) Youth Café</b> (a safe space for teenagers to meet on a weekly basis, Broomhouse, Sighthill &amp; Parkhead)</p>

### **3.0 Our Vision**

Our vision for Space is to regenerate Broomhouse, one of the areas of highest relative deprivation in the city. There is a need to address the structural causes of poverty, support those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences and trauma, and build the social capital of the people who live here. There is also a clear need to create skills, confidence and self-esteem in young people, while offering a caring safety net for vulnerable older people, prolonging their ability to stay, both in their own homes and in the community.

We also need to reach out to minority ethnic groups. The community has a diverse range of nationalities including a sizeable Pakistani and Bangladeshi community as well as Roma, Polish, Moroccan, Libyan, Nigerian and others.

Furthermore there is a need to bridge the gap between generations, between jobless and those who are working, and between those with special support needs and those who do not access support.

### **4.0 About the New Hub**

Designed by Norr Architects, the new fit-for-purpose hub has replaced the former premises which were considered cramped, inflexible and no longer adequate to support the range of activities undertaken by the organisation. The new building has more than doubled its original footprint and now provides:

- a social space, where local people can gather in a central café area and community hall
- training and employment opportunities, focused around our community café and catering enterprise
- a space for co-working for with hot desking available
- a space for young people, including space for creative and physical activities
- a space for older people's wellbeing and health, especially if isolated
- a space for parents and toddlers

Close by, we have developed a community run market garden which supplies fresh produce for our café enterprise whilst also addressing community growing, healthy eating and climate challenges.

Whilst the new hub is a significant improvement on the old building there is still work to be done in terms of attracting more local people to the building and enabling them to feel it is their own. Our ambition is to create a busy and welcoming hub of community activity seven days a week, 12 hours a day which will stimulate social, cultural and economic regeneration and we hope that the public art programme will help to galvanise this.

### **5.0 Post April 2020 and the Covid Pandemic**

With the onset of Covid-19, Space & Broomhouse Hub faced many challenges, but has stepped up to play a pivotal role in south west Edinburgh.

We have created a south west Edinburgh distributed digital network, called Go Beyond, and we have now revealed a plan to build a 'Community Wealth Building' locality by 2030. The collaborative approach, led by Space, Big Hearts Community Trust and Whale Arts, based on addressing the structural elements of poverty and using a wellbeing approach is currently leading the Covid-19 recovery in South West Edinburgh with multiple organisations involved and over 175 active users.

We have redesigned many of our services:

- pivoted many services to be about mental health support through phone and on-line,
- developed many new initiatives to supplement provision
- proactively worked with our community and members of services to reduce barriers to participation in our new digital practice, by sourcing devices and training

This is a totally unprecedented situation and we are looking to plan for the services needed as public health restrictions remain potentially in place for some time to come.

As of October 2020, we have adapted our activities such that where possible, physically distanced services have resumed, taking the approach of one to one meetings and small group activities when it is safe to do so, in line with CLD guidance. As a result, we know we can take forward the individual and community creative engagement required of this public art project to be a success.

## 6.0 The Public Art Programme

### 6.1 Objective

In the summer of 2020 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, flags by artist Peter Liversidge were installed in cultural venues and institutions across Edinburgh including Space and Broomhouse Hub. Part of the Edinburgh Art Festival programme, the flags, all bearing the simple message "HELLO", were a form of collective greeting to visitors and inhabitants of the city after lockdown and a comment on the meaning of flags.

We would like this welcome message to be the inspiration for the public art programme; how can we create a space that local people can truly call their own and where they feel welcomed? We are looking for an artist/artist collective who can undertake genuine consultation with the community; with those not currently using the centre as well as our regular users. We are located in a diverse neighbourhood and engage with a large number and wide range of people of different ages, backgrounds, cultures and interests from both the locality and further afield across the whole of south west Edinburgh. Whilst we are keen for the artist/s to prioritise engaging with two core groups in the co-design of the spaces; our **Youth Services** and elderly people with dementia through the **Beacon Club**, we would also like the artist to find a meaningful way of engaging with the community more widely through the course of the project.

## 6.2 The Scope

The programme will focus on the external spaces of the hub: the small inner courtyard, the 'civic space' at the front of the building and the café garden. In the light of the current pandemic, these outside spaces are taking on an even greater value than before. Whilst these external spaces have been partially completed (ie with hard and some soft landscaping) in order for the building to operate, there is still plenty of scope for creative interventions.

After initial consultation with staff, members of the community and stakeholders, the following ideas have been proposed for the public art programme:

- seating areas for the café garden, inner courtyard and civic space;
- a bread/pizza oven with shelter in the café garden;
- sensory elements in the café garden which are dementia-friendly;
- a mural for the centre which is a collective expression of the community.

We see these as starting points and recognise that once the lead artist/s and communities have been actively engaged these ideas and priorities may evolve.

## 6.3 Initial thoughts

**Artist/community designed seating.** Each of the spaces has a different function i.e. any seating in the café garden and courtyard will need to be functional and suitable for people of all ages and abilities including people with mobility issues, whereas seating for the civic space could be more sculptural and less functional.

**A sensory space** in the café garden which is dementia-friendly. The Beacon Club (a day care service for elderly people with dementia) usually spends 2 days a week in the centre and at 25 years is the longest running project in the centre. The cafe garden is a well-used space for the group and we would like the club to be actively involved in elements of the design where possible (we recognise that this will bring challenges in the current pandemic where many of our members are currently shielding).

### **Bread/pizza oven**

Following consultation amongst the staff, volunteers and members (including young people and café trainees), there was an enthusiastic response to creating a bread oven in the café garden. The café is a vital social space increasing community cohesion, and the creation of an oven as a focal point in the garden could be a catalyst for projects around healthy eating, slow food, skill sharing, intergenerational work. Using herbs from the café garden and fresh vegetables from the market garden nearby the café would be able to expand its food offers.

### **Mural**

Our consultation showed a desire for a place specific mural - a collective expression of the community. Given the challenges that Covid-19 presents in terms of collectively making work, this commission could be interpreted in different ways and using different media.

## 7.0 The Process

We propose appointing one lead artist with solid experience in community engagement and public art projects, and with a flair and enthusiasm for working in this context. We will create a framework which will allow for engagement and co-design development over a period of several months. Through the course of the project, we would also like to build in opportunities for participants to learn new creative and practical skills as well as gaining invaluable life skills.

The specific framework for developing and delivering the projects will be determined once the lead artist has been engaged so that the project can be tailored towards the needs, abilities and interests of the participants and the working practice of the artist/s, however, outlined below, is an indication of the process we might follow:

### **Stage 1: relationship building, engagement and research: approximately 12 weeks**

Commission lead artist to get to know the organisation and the community and build relationships and trust with the participants; draw up a programme for the co-design process.

### **Stage 2: design development: approximately 12 weeks**

Bring in other artists where necessary to work with lead artist on the co-design process for specific elements of the project such as seating or bread oven. Working with the participants and using design as an engagement tool, this could include site visits and visits to other gardens, murals, green spaces; research; invited speakers; workshops involving sketching, photography, collage, printmaking, clay, 2D and 3D modelling. At the end of this process, an agreed design and way forward for each of the elements would be determined.

### **Stage 3: production and installation: approximately six months**

The artist/s will be responsible for producing the work; however where possible we would like to build in opportunities for the participants to be involved in the process such as visiting fabricators during production and/or making elements of the work.

## 8.0 Budget

The total project budget is £90,000 including vat. This is to cover to cover all fees (including bringing in additional artists or facilitators where needed), workshops, materials, production and installation costs. An initial fee of £6,000 has been identified for a lead artist for Stage 1: relationship building, engagement and research and Stage 2: design development. The remaining £84,000 of the budget will be allocated during the design development stage.

## 9.0 Timeline

- Call out 10th October 2020
- Deadline for expressions of interest: 8th November 2020
- Interviews: week beginning 23rd November 2020
- Appointment of artist: by 30th November 2020
- Research phase: December to April 2021
- Design development phase: May – August 2021
- Production and Installation: September – March 2022

## 10.0 Specification

We are looking for an artist/artist collective with:

- A proven track record in creating work for the built environment
- Experience of working with communities, e.g. young people or people with dementia
- Experience of community engagement and co-design
- Creative approaches to engagement in the current climate

## 11.0 Expressions of interest: deadline 8th November 2020

To apply, please submit the following in a single PDF max 5MB to Juliet Dean, project manager: [juliet@paceprojects.org](mailto:juliet@paceprojects.org)

- Details of relevant experience and a statement on why this commission interests you, how you might approach the project and what you would bring to it (max 750 words)
- Up to 8 images of your work
- CV and artist statement

## 12.0 Funders

Funded by Baillie Gifford, the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, Spifox, Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, Viridor, and Wooden Spoon.



[www.spacescot.org](http://www.spacescot.org)

Prepared by Juliet Dean, Pace Projects, on behalf of Space & Broomhouse Hub, October, 2020