



## BRIEF FOR ASSISTANT ARTIST

TO SUPPORT LARGE-SCALE OUTDOOR 2D ARTISTIC INTERVENTION IN CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE AS PART OF THE FIRST & LAST MILE PROGRAMME.



Image: Castleford Bridge. Photo © Wakefield Council

## KEY DETAILS

### Overview:

Do you have a visual arts practice and want to gain hands-on experience of delivering a mural or 2D art project at scale? Are you keen to shadow and help support an established artist delivering a large scale commission, in the process building your skills, confidence and experience?

Do you enjoy engaging with communities in the development of your work and see the importance of art in public spaces as a key part of creative placemaking?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a West Yorkshire based early to mid career visual artist to support an established artist to deliver a mural or 2D artwork installation on a pedestrian route to Castleford Railway Station.

**Opportunity:** Assistant artist opportunity supporting the delivery of a large scale mural or 2-D Artwork. This opportunity is part of the First and Last Mile programme in Castleford, West Yorkshire funded by Network Rail.

**Bursary:** £2,000 + VAT if applicable

**Timeframe:** August 2024 - April 2025

**Application Deadline:** 15 July 2024, 9am

**Criteria:** We are seeking an artist who is based in the West Yorkshire area for this opportunity.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be scored based on submissions. Clarification calls may be sought w/c 29 July prior to appointment

## 1. Who is this opportunity for?

Are you an early to mid career visual artist seeking to expand your artistic practice in public spaces and places?

Do you live, work or study in West Yorkshire ?

Do you want to refine your engagement & consultation skills and deepen your understanding of how artists work in public spaces?

This is a unique opportunity for an early career artist, or a mid career artist who wishes to diversify their practice and deliver work at scale in the public realm, to shadow an experienced artist who will be delivering a large-scale mural / 2D artwork in Castleford, Wakefield. The artwork will feature on a key route towards Castleford Railway Station enhancing the pedestrian experience through an impactful design that is place specific.

## 2. Context

Within Castleford Town Centre and across the wider area a number of regeneration programmes are already underway.

Throughout 2024 the Wakefield District is celebrating Our Year - a year-long project with 366 days of activities for everyone across the District.

In 2023, Wakefield Council approved [A Guide to Developing Murals & 2D Art Across the District](#), developed by Beam, to encourage the development of murals and support local early career artists in gaining skills to deliver art projects within the public realm.

**First and Last Mile Programme** - In 2023, Wakefield Council were successful in securing £720,000 from Network Rail in order to carry out improvement works surrounding Castleford Rail Station. Castleford was identified as eligible for this scheme, as this station is to become a diversionary route whilst TransPennine improvements are made across the region. The locations surround Castleford Rail Station, and the funding is supplied by the Department for Transport and Network Rail, as part of their First and Last Mile Programme. The programme aims to enhance the experience for users of the rail station, promote active travel routes and therefore reduce the number of car miles and emissions when travelling to stations. Four key pedestrian and cycle routes have been identified, with 3 of those requiring public art

works. Beam will be working as creative producer with 3 artists to produce artworks in these 3 locations.

### **3. THE OPPORTUNITY**

#### **3.1 Overview**

We are pleased to be able to offer a visual artist based in West Yorkshire, the opportunity to assist and shadow an experienced artist and receive mentoring. This opportunity has been developed to provide real world experience of delivering an artistic commission in the public realm to support future career development.

Mentoring is a two way exchange via a supportive relationship between two people – an experienced ‘mentor’ and less experienced ‘mentee’. The mentor will invite you to shadow their artistic process, attend site visits and project meetings, support their engagement and consultation activities as well as 1-2-1 meetings. You may be called on to assist the appointed artist with pre-agreed relevant tasks to support the delivery of the commission.

The mentor may wish to draw upon your knowledge and connections in the Wakefield District/ West Yorkshire, to aid in their research and engagement process. In addition, you will have a number of meetings with Beam as producers of the programme to gain insight into the commissioning process.

#### **3.2 About you**

- You will be highly motivated to use this assistant artist opportunity to take your development as an Artist to the next level
- You will have a keen interest in engaging with people as part of your artistic practice
- You will have a strong interest in exploring the potential for presenting your work in public places and spaces which you will explore through this opportunity

#### **3.3 What are the benefits?**

You will gain:

- Understanding about what is involved in designing mural / 2D artworks for public places and spaces
- Understanding of the costs involved
- Knowledge of the practical considerations when designing and delivering mural / 2D artworks for public spaces
- Hands on experience around public consultation and engagement and how this can feed into the design development process
- Increased connections
- Signposting to further opportunities
- Space/time to consider how you might develop your own artistic practice in the public realm

### **3.4 What will it involve?**

Following an initial meeting with Beam and the Artist mentor you will be invited to attend project meetings and site visits, spend time with the mentor during the artistic development process, support community engagement activity and join 1-2-1 meetings.

At inception, Beam will support you to establish your goals and agree a plan for the assistant support you will provide and shadowing and mentoring opportunities you will receive. You will be asked to keep a learning journal in line with this plan to review at an evaluation meeting. The bursary estimates a minimum participation of 10 days including travel.

### **3.5 What support will I get?**

Beam will provide ongoing support via email and phone as required as well as holding two 1-2-1 meetings. Upon completion an evaluation meeting will be held to review your experience and to help to signpost you to further resources and contacts.

## 4. OUTLINE PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

Activity	Outline Timing
Brief promoted	w/c 10 June 2024
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	<b>15 July 2024, 9am</b>
Clarification phone calls as required	w/c 29 July 2024
Artist appointment	w/c 5 August 2024
Initial meeting with mentor & Beam	August tbc
Attendance at site visit & briefing	14 August 11am-1pm
Shadow / support research, delivery of stakeholder and community engagement activity, and design development	August - October 2024
1-2-1 meetings with Beam	September 2024
1-2-1 meetings with mentor	September 2024
Shadow / support preparation, fabrication and installation of artwork	November 2024 - March 2025
Attendance at evaluation meeting	April 2025

## 5. BURSARY

Artists will be eligible to receive a bursary of £2000 + VAT if applicable to support the artist's time and travel costs.

A minimum of 10 days activity is expected to be delivered within this fee.

## 6. ACCESS & SUPPORT

- Applications can be made in written, video or audio format.
- If you require support or have any access requirements to complete the application process please do not hesitate to contact us via the details below.
- If you have an Access Document you can attach this to your application.

## 7. APPLICATION PROCESS

### **Deadline for applications: Monday 15th July 2024, 9am**

Your application should be made by email to [frances@beam.uk.net](mailto:frances@beam.uk.net) in PDF format, short video or audio file (max 5 minutes) to include the following. We will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email.

- Email subject: please title the email: **First & Last Mile Artist Assistant**
- Contact details: name, email, phone, web, social media accounts if applicable.
- A statement detailing how you feel this opportunity could support your development including
  - information about your practice / work to date
  - ambitions to work in the public realm.
- Please outline your connection to the West Yorkshire region e.g. live, work, study.
- Please include up to 4 relevant examples of your work including images and accompanying descriptive text. Please include weblinks where appropriate.
- Submissions should be 10MB or less. Maximum 6 sides of A4 and saved in PDF format.
- Completion of anonymous Equality and Diversity Monitoring form (optional) via this link:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dzyorwfhyfbU4n2Dmr7vlyeWB0DA788jDr6BqPkh7b0/edit> -

Applications will be appraised on the potential for impact on the applicants future career.

## 8. CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries please contact:

Frances Smith Principal Consultant, Beam

[frances@beam.uk.net](mailto:frances@beam.uk.net)

07718 564 376

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