



January 2020

## Wentworth & Elsecar Great Place Scheme

*Wentworth Woodhouse; Wentworth Castle Gardens; Elsecar Heritage Centre (South Yorkshire)*

### Creative Commissioning Programme: Artist Brief

*(Three temporary physical public art commission opportunities for three Artists/ Collectives/ Organisations - at each of the locations listed above)*

**Fee: £16k per commission + £2k concept development fee**



## 1. OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Introduction

Arts organisation Beam has been appointed by Wentworth & Elsecar (WE) Great Place scheme to develop an ambitious programme of three temporary site specific public art commissions across the three 'Great Place Scheme' heritage sites of Wentworth Woodhouse, Wentworth Castle Gardens and Elsecar Heritage Centre.

Aiming to increase understanding of the shared stories and connections between these three sites, the commissions should provide a physical interpretation of the shared stories of Wentworth, Elsecar and Wentworth Castle Gardens, and will be delivered before the end of the WE Great Place programme in September 2020.

In parallel with this work, and supported by wider stakeholder consultation, Beam is developing a set of 'Guiding Principles for Public Art' about how public art can be delivered across the three sites as a legacy of the WE Great

Place Scheme. The process of delivering these commissions will help to inform and develop the guiding principles.

The commissions are funded as part of a Great Place Scheme, a partnership between the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), Arts Council England (ACE) and supported by Historic England. The Great Place Scheme is designed to pilot new approaches that enable cultural and community groups to work more closely together and to place heritage at the heart of communities. Running between 2017 and 2020, these commissions will be the next phase in engaging people with the uniqueness of the three sites.

Read more about WE Great Place and their activities so far at:

<http://wegreatplace.com/>

## **1.2 Context**

### **WE Great Place**

The WE Great Place team (led by Barnsley Council, working closely with Rotherham Council and Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust) are tasked with delivering an exciting range of cultural activity, inspired by the vivid history linked to the fascinating Wentworth Woodhouse and Earl Fitzwilliam's industrial empire at Elsecar. The vision is to raise the aspirations of young people in the local area and help them achieve their potential using new, inspiring, innovative methods of engagement.

As part of the Scheme there is a desire to develop a set of 'Guiding Principles' for embedding public art across the key sites in the long-term, drawing from good practice exemplars. A series of three temporary public art commissions will begin to activate and develop these principles before the Great Place scheme comes to an end in September 2020. The commissions will demonstrate the powerful potential for public artworks and projects at Wentworth & Elsecar to be delivered in close collaboration with communities and stakeholders.

### **1.3 Key Partners & Strategic Context**

Key Partners will include: the WE Great Place Scheme team; Barnsley Council – Museums (NPO); Rotherham Council; Elsecar Heritage Centre; Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust; Wentworth Castle Gardens (National Trust), amongst others.

This brief and the Guiding Principles will be informed by the wider strategic context - specifically the Barnsley Public Art Strategy, Rotherham Cultural Strategy, Barnsley Visitor Economy Strategy and Wentworth Woodhouse Masterplan and Wentworth Castle Gardens Partnership Plan. (Further details can be provided to the successful candidates at concept development stage).

## 1.4 Emerging Themes

A key focus for the three sitespecific commissions is to enhance a sense of place through the arts, drawing out connections and shared narrative themes across the sites and engaging with young people and wider audiences. It is the intention that commissions will be co-created with local young people/families/ communities, with the aim of exploring the historic and geological connections between Elsecar Heritage Centre, Wentworth Woodhouse and Wentworth Castle Gardens.

All three sites are currently going through periods of substantial change and as heritage sites are living venues, each exploring and developing new contemporary purposes. This is an exciting moment for an Artist to engage.

Through the commissions we wish to explore the evolution of the sites - (past, present and future) through creative collaboration with Artists, young people families and communities; re-interpreting and re-presenting heritage and challenging perceptions about what makes a 'heritage site'

We would like to provide interactive engaging opportunities for diverse audiences, that are challenging yet accessible, and that embed opportunities for skills development and participation in the arts as part of their process.

## 1.5 Approach

An open call approach to appoint **three artists**, collectives or creative organisations for **three separate commissions under this brief** is being employed. Following an interview process Beam and WE Great Place will appoint three individuals (or organisations) to deliver these commissions.

## 2. ARTIST BRIEF

### 2.1 Vision

To deliver three ambitious sitespecific physical temporary public art commissions that will highlight the specific heritage location in which the artwork/ intervention is based, whilst also exploring links to the other two sites. The commission will attract profile for WE Great Place sites for both their local communities and visitors alike.

The commission should provide a physical interpretation of the shared stories of Wentworth, Elsecar and Wentworth Castle Gardens, this can take a variety of forms and we are open to a wide range of artforms or interdisciplinary work.

Approaches by individual artists, collectives or interdisciplinary teams who have demonstrable previous experience of delivering work at an impactful scale within the public realm, and who feel they can bring a unique perspective to interpreting the heritage and future of these heritage sites, are welcome to apply.

### **2.3 Aims of the commissions**

- To create three high-quality physical temporary artworks/ commissions which raise awareness and understanding of one of the three specific locations and also of the connections between the WE Great Place sites.
- To engage local people, (especially young people/ families) and deepen pride in place. The final commissions will be enjoyable and accessible for the local community as well as wider audiences.
- To integrate skills development/ engagement and participation for local artists / creative practitioners and young people/ families into the process of the commission where possible.
- To increase visitors' understanding of the value of the WE Great Place sites and support national profile raising.
- To encourage local residents to (re)visit and engage with the sites.
- The appointed Artists will engage with key cultural and community partners in the development of the work which will depend on the location agreed.
- The three appointed Artists will also have opportunities to meet together to ensure ideas developed are cohesive when viewed as a whole. This process will be supported by Beam and the steering group.

### **2.4 Deliverables**

- We envisage that the final output for the commission is a physical temporary intervention/ installation
- Community engagement/ support for emerging creatives – e.g. artist talk(s), engagement workshops or other activities/ approaches to changing public perceptions and attitudes about the WE Great Place sites, as applicable and to be agreed.
- Documentation report (photographic and online e.g. Artist's Blog), which can be used for publicity and promotional purposes.
- Attendance at project meetings with the Steering Group/ Beam during the commission process as applicable
- Attendance at evaluation meeting on completion of the commission

### **2.5 WE Great Place sites**

It is important to emphasise that all three sites are conservation areas so close liaison between the appointed artists and representatives of each heritage site will be critical to ensure that planned artworks are deliverable and to ensure the appropriate permissions are in place and relevant bodies consulted as applicable (e.g. Planning departments, English Heritage).

Artist's plans must be sensitive to and mindful of the nature of heritage sites.

- **Wentworth Woodhouse** is a Grade I listed stately home in South Yorkshire, with the longest façade of any country house in England. It stands in 87 acres of gardens and grounds and has extensive views over former parkland, including a deer park and lakes, which are vested in the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust. It is managed by Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust <https://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk/about-us/>
- **Wentworth Castle Gardens** - The National Trust in partnership with Barnsley Council and Northern College, this estate, rooted in rivalry, now provides a space to bring people together. Royal diplomat Thomas Wentworth was outraged when a cousin inherited his family home, Wentworth Woodhouse in 1695, and was determined to outdo him, creating this place once known as 'the finest garden in England'. Today it is South Yorkshire's only Grade I registered landscape, with 563 acres of parkland and gardens to explore. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wentworth-castle-gardens>
- **Elsecar Heritage Centre** - Set within the attractive conservation village of Elsecar, Elsecar Heritage Centre is a unique family attraction and a working hub of industry. Elsecar is a remarkable village, transformed by the Earls Fitzwilliam into a thriving centre of iron and coal. Visitors can browse the Earls Fitzwilliam's workshops, now packed with shops, traditional cafes, delicatessens and antiques. The site is managed by Barnsley Council. <http://www.elsecar-heritage.com/>

### 3. OUTLINE PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

#### 3.1 Steering Group

- A project steering group will guide these commissions and adopt a central role in artist selection, concept development and in supporting delivery.
- They will take a strategic view of how the commissions come together as a wider body of work and the impact that these commissions will have on developing the guiding principles for public art.
- The steering group will be formed of a maximum of six members to include Beam, the WE Great Place team/ board and senior representatives of each of the three sites.

### 3.2 Timetable

Activity	By (fixed dates)	By (indicative dates)
Artist brief promoted	6 January 2020	
Deadline for applications	Friday 31 January 2020	
Shortlisted artist interviews	Friday 14 February 2020	
Artist appointed and contracted	w/c 2 March 2020	
Artists x 3 site visit	w/c 2 March 2020	
Artists concept development phase	March/ April 2020	
Artist project concept(s) presented to Steering Group	w/c 6 April 2020	
Artist community consultation and engagement		April - June 2020
Artist detailed design development		April - June 2020
Artists present detailed designs to steering group		June 2020
Delivery commission 1		June - Aug 2020 tba
Delivery commission 2		June - Aug 2020 tba
Delivery commission 3		June - Aug 2020
Evaluation meeting and completion		September 2020

## 4. ARTIST FEES

### 4.1 Artist Fee

**Artist fees will comprise a concept development fee and a commission fee. The commission fee will be awarded following approval of the concept.**

- **£2,000 has been allocated for the concept development stage** per artist

- **In addition to the concept development fee the budget for delivery of each commission will be £16k**
- Figures are exclusive of VAT which is to be added if applicable
- Fees for both concept and delivery stages are inclusive of all costs associated with the work and expenses. Artists should factor some contingency into their planning.
- Payments to artists will be scheduled to align with specific milestones being achieved. All payments to artists at all stages are subject to the condition that payment of appropriate funding has been made to Beam by Barnsley Council

## **5 PERMISSIONS**

All relevant Beam and Barnsley Council policies and procedures will apply to this commission and any related work. All work will be subject to relevant permissions prior to implementation.

Should the work require a planning application we will work in close consultation with the appointed artists and planners to develop this, although the timings of the commission in light of this will need to be considered and agreed with the project steering group.

Artist must be sensitive to the heritage context of each site and liaise with the appropriate heritage bodies as required and in consultation with the project steering group.

## **6 HEALTH & SAFETY / CHILD PROTECTION**

Beam and Barnsley Council's Health & Safety and Child Protection Policies will be applied to this project as appropriate.

## **7 INSURANCE**

The artist will be required to provide detail of Public Liability and other relevant insurances as requested by the Project Steering Group on appointment.

## **8 COPYRIGHT**

Copyright in the designs and work will be retained by the Artist in accordance with The Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

## **9 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Beam is committed to building an organisation that makes full use of the talents, skills, experience, and different cultural perspectives available in a

diverse society. The aim of our policy is to ensure that at all stages of the recruitment, selection and employment process (including the artist commission process) we consider all applicants in fair and considered manner so that the most appropriate person is selected, regardless of age, colour, disability, gender, marital or family status, nationality or ethnic origins, race, religious belief or sexual orientation.

Beam and Barnsley Council's Equal Opportunities Policies will be applied to this commission.

## 10 APPLICATIONS

### **Deadline for applications: Midday, Friday 31st January 2020**

Your proposal should be made by email to frances@beam.uk.net in PDF format to include the following:

- **Contact details:** Name, email, phone, web, social media accounts if applicable
- **A statement detailing:** why you are interested in this opportunity; referencing relevant experience; and outlining your initial response to the brief. Please indicate if you have a particular site preference
- **Proposal** – please include your proposed approach to delivering this commission including any initial ideas
- **Up to 6 relevant examples** of your work including images and accompanying descriptive text.
- **X2 Referee contact details** (References will only be sought for the selected artists before contracting)
  
- Submissions should be 10MB or less. Maximum 8 sides A4 and saved in PDF format.
- Completion of anonymous Equality and Diversity Monitoring form (this is not compulsory)

### **Proposals will be appraised on the following:**

- Quality of proposed approach & potential for engagement / learning opportunities
- Artistic quality of previous work
- Ability to demonstrate relevant experience (e.g. in heritage contexts, with young people, families and communities)
- Ability to demonstrate relevant experience of delivering temporary artworks in the public realm to brief, time and budget



<b>11 CONTACT DETAILS</b>
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For all enquiries please contact –

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