Waterfoot Public Art Microgrants - Artist Brief

Brief

We invite artists to be involved in an exciting initiative to transform Waterfoot into a leading arts destination in the North of England. This project aims to establish Waterfoot as a thriving hub for arts and culture, as envisioned in the Waterfoot Masterplan: ***"A place to relax and unwind, a place for adventure, a place for arts and culture to thrive, a place for all."***

Our Vision

We aim to inject vibrancy into Waterfoot's proposed conservation area by commissioning public artworks that serve as visual focal points, inspire community pride, and attract cultural tourism. This project celebrates the diverse talents of local artists and enhances the town's identity, ensuring Waterfoot is recognised not only as a great place to live but also as a beacon of artistic expression.

Types of Public Art

We encourage innovative approaches to public art, including but not limited to:

- Murals
- Sculptures
- Street furniture (e.g., lamp posts, railings, benches)
- Light installations

Artists are invited to bring fresh ideas to the table, exploring possibilities that align with the vision while allowing for creative freedom.

Commission and Budget

- The funding is up to **£5,000** per project (inclusive of artist fees, materials, and delivery costs).
- The microgrant will be paid in 3 equal instalments – the first upon successful application, the second in mid-February, and the third upon completion of the works at the end of March.
- Artists are encouraged to submit realistic budgets that ensure feasibility within the funding limit.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, you must:

- Have strong connections to Rossendale

- Propose a permanent public art piece within the boundaries of the proposed Waterfoot Conservation Area.
- Demonstrate how your artwork will positively contribute to Waterfoot's street scene.
- Tell a story reflecting the people and/or place of Waterfoot.
- Provide a basic maintenance plan for the first 12 months post-completion (maintenance oversight will remain the commissioner's responsibility).

Application Process

To Apply
Complete the application form by **Friday, 13th December 2024**.

Evaluation and Appointment Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the Waterfoot Arts Subgroup in the week commencing **16th December 2024**.
- Successful artists will be notified by **Friday, 20th December 2024** and appointed under Rossendale Borough Council's (RBC) standard terms and conditions.
- Selected artists will present their design ideas to a small working group for feedback on **Friday, 10th January 2025**.
- All projects must be completed and delivered by **31st March 2025**.

This is initially a one-stage competition, open to all artists. If a clear choice cannot be made from the stage one proposals and further, detailed information is required a limited number of artists may be invited to develop proposals further and an honorarium will be paid to each shortlisted artist.

The application form is an online form, which can be found here:
https://forms.office.com/e/XDs3QUgefQ

Additional Information

- This microgrant funding does not cover events or community engagement unless directly related to the design process.
- Permission for installation: While artists are encouraged to liaise with property or landowners, the Arts Board and RBC will assist where possible to facilitate discussions and permissions.
- Applications are limited, and priority may be given to submissions that align strongly with the project vision.
- Consider providing links to 3-5 relevant pieces from your portfolio to help the review panel assess your work efficiently.
- Where planning permissions are required, the artist should discuss this with RBC officers.

Key Considerations

- The brief seeks to balance creative freedom with consistency; artists may choose to collaborate on projects to maintain a cohesive creative direction across the town.
- Waterfoot's ambition to become a leading creative destination means we welcome bold ideas while encouraging practical, sustainable approaches.