



Remembering Together

Collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with communities across Scotland

BRIEF FOR ARTISTS

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure in partnership with greenspace scotland is seeking to commission an artist to design and make a Covid community memorial for Barrhead as part of phase 2 of the *Remembering Together* programme for East Renfrewshire. The memorial will be one of four that will be situated across East Renfrewshire.

Further details on the programme can be found at: www.rememberingtogether.scot

1. About the programme

Beginning in 2021, *Remembering Together* commissioned artists in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland to co-create with communities, exploring who, what and how we want to remember and honour all those affected by Covid. Offering a place to connect, to reflect and to create, *Remembering Together* is about creating together, being part of a process to commemorate those who have lost their lives, those who have experienced loss and change as well as celebrating the ways in which Scottish communities have come together during the most difficult times.

Remembering Together is being delivered by greenspace scotland at the request of Scottish Government.

The project has 2 phases:

In **phase 1** (now complete) artists/practitioners were supported with £15k commission to work with local communities to explore and shape ideas for a creative output that reflects local people's experiences of the pandemic.

In **phase 2**, funding of circa £100k is available in each local authority area to realise the project, which may include commemorative gardens, memorials, public or digital artworks, theatre or music performance events, or events in parks, greenspaces or other types of public space.

The programme will take an inclusive, learning and sustainable approach and is founded on the following 4 values: **relevant, welcoming, aware, honest.**

2. About the Commission

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure in partnership with greenspace scotland are seeking an artist/designer, particularly with experience in sculpture and/or public artworks to produce one of four in a set of memorials for across East Renfrewshire to be displayed outdoor in public spaces. This commission is for the memorial that will be [location details]

The artist/creative practitioner will have experience (or be able to demonstrate capacity and commitment to develop their experience) of creating public works of art.

The design they create for Barrhead should directly link to the responses and ideas that were contributed by the communities within East Renfrewshire during phase 1 of the project. Water was recognised by communities across the area as being a connecting theme, both through the geographic landscape of the local area and its significance during the pandemic; to wash, to heal, for life.

The final report created by the phase 1 artist from their co-creation with our communities will be available to access, along with supporting material and resources including ERCL's recent Beyond 2020: Community Reflections Oral History Project and Reflect with Us Songwriting Archive.

The commissioned artists will be committed to including the co-creation and collaboration from phase 1 within the design for Barrhead. It is important that the design is **relevant** to communities, **acknowledges** the wide range of experiences people have had, **incorporates** points from the co-creation and **reflects** what this time has meant for communities.

It is envisaged that as part of this commission the successful applicant may be required to liaise with the phase 1 artist at agreed stages to re-engage communities and update them on progress.

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure and greenspace scotland recognise the unique skills of artists/designers with experience in creating public artworks and sculptures, and actively encourages proposals from artists with intersectional lived experiences of illness, isolation, rurality, income inequality or social exclusion of any kind.

For further information, contact: artsandheritage@ercultureandleisure.org

3. About East Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure

We are looking to create a memorial that encapsulates the experiences and represents as much of East Renfrewshire as possible that we were able to record during phase 1 of the project.

Geographically, East Renfrewshire is a relatively small compared to other local authority areas, covering an area of 67 sq miles (174 sq km). The north of the area comprises the urban areas of Giffnock, Newton Mearns, Clarkston, Thornliebank and Barrhead. Each of these settlements has a distinctive character. There is also an extensive rural hinterland to

the South, within which, the villages of Uplawmoor, Neilston, Waterfoot and Eaglesham area are located; Approximately 15 per cent of the area is urban and 85 per cent rural.

The Levern Valley area includes the settlements of Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor. The Eastwood area includes Busby, Clarkston and Williamwood, Eaglesham and Waterfoot, Giffnock, Netherlee and Stamperland, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank.

The population of East Renfrewshire is 96,800. It is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse communities in the country and this trend is expected to continue. This commission represents an opportunity to reflect the diversity of East Renfrewshire.

Historically, there are strong connections to the textile industry within East Renfrewshire. The natural landscape with its network of rivers provided a plentiful water supply which was the key ingredient for bleachworks, print and dye works and cotton mills, and these quickly sprang up along the banks of local rivers providing the focal point for the development of towns and villages. Local Entrepreneurs went on to establish businesses in the areas of heavy industry and engineering with Shanks of Barrhead being a prime example.

Within East Renfrewshire, there are a number of outdoor spaces and parks, including Dams to Darnley, Whitelee Windfarm, Rouken Glen Park and the Waterworks, Barrhead. These spaces serve local residents as well as visitors to the area.

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure is a charity with over 400 employees delivering sport, leisure, arts and culture services in East Renfrewshire. We exist to promote the health, fitness, personal development and wellbeing of the residents of East Renfrewshire (and beyond) by:

- **encouraging** the population of the East Renfrewshire area to be more active in promoting and supporting the development of sporting and health and fitness opportunities that are accessible for everyone
- **supporting** people to be more creative and nurture potential for personal success and wellbeing through the provision of cultural facilities and resources
- **helping** individuals and community groups to benefit from social engagement, community interaction and volunteering
- **promoting** and making available lifelong learning opportunities, including the promotion of literacy and digital inclusion and stemming from these opportunities make a social and economic contribution to society

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure are also members of the Green Arts Initiative and Federation of Scottish Theatre.

4. Artist Criteria

The commission is open to artists/designers practitioners with experience in sculpture/public artworks, including partnerships and artist collectives. We are keen to ensure the final concept is created to include our communities' contributions from phase 1 and their experiences and reflections, and we will appoint on this basis. The theme of

water remains the strongest link that was put forward by communities during phase 1 and acknowledgement of this should be integral to the final design.

Demonstrable evidence of sculpture/public artwork is therefore essential, and evidence of incorporating communities in the design is desirable. Applications from new artists are welcome, as long as they have utilised sculpture/public artwork in their studies or professional practice to date. We also value the consideration of environmental sustainability.

- The artist/designer should focus on creating a design that can be delivered within the timeframe and budget available, utilising sustainability and environmental considerations. The design should also require little or no maintenance and be robust enough to last for a number of years.
- It is key for communities that contributed to phase 1 to be listened to and for their ideas to have influence on the design, with the artist/designer responding to the information they provide rather than fitting into prescribed concepts
- Being able to create a welcoming, safe and positive memorial, whilst being mindful and sensitive to the experiences of others, is essential.
- Co-creation should consider environmental impact and sustainability, promoting green objectives and aims, to create a climate aware project including through its manufacture and materials.
- The artist/designer must arrive at a design incorporating natural rainwater and ensure that this will not cause flooding or damage to the natural environment.
- The artist/designer must be willing to cooperate with all marketing and PR activity related to the project via East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure and greenspace scotland.
- Home/studio-based working will be required, combined with access to East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure facilities and site visits to the location. The artist/creative practitioner must be able to travel across the local authority to facilitate meetings as required.
- The artist/designer must also attend a minimum of two meetings with the artist/designer(s) appointed at the other sites across the project; East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure will facilitate these.
- Consideration for health and safety practices in both the creation and installation of the design, and for the design to be safe for the public to engage with once in situ. This is particularly of concern in relation to the water element of the design. Compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and government legislation is essential and as a supplier, the artist/designer should ensure appropriate Public Liability Insurance.
- The final memorial should be of low maintenance, safe from vandalism and built to last a minimum of five years. It can be of any form, with exact specifications and limitations provided upon appointment.

- A budget is available to supply materials for the creation of the artwork; the materials should be agreed in advance with ERCL and no other funds are available to supplement this. Installation costs will be covered separately.

Criteria for selection:

- Demonstration of an understanding of the brief
- Strength of artistic practice and experience of creative sculptures and public artwork, utilising community input and ideas from phase 1, or the potential to develop this with the right support (essential)
- Response demonstrates innovative thinking, inclusive and sensitive approaches, and ability to incorporate source material/research in design. Ability to adapt approach as required.
- Willingness to liaise with the phase 1 artist where appropriate to re-engage communities from phase 1 via site visits and updates on the design.
- Track record of delivering sculptures/public artwork and identifies how they would ensure communities are supported, updated and considered throughout the process.
- Ability to incorporate natural rainwater into the design to allow it to function.
- An environmentally sustainable practice, or having mitigations to reduce any negative impact with adaptations.
- Confirmation that you will be available to deliver the design for approval by 3 May 2024 and, following approval, a completed memorial by August 2024, to be fixed on site September 2024. (Note that the fee of £9,500 includes any artist's costs in respect of design, travel, research and manufacturing, but not materials)

5. Decision making process

- Applications are collated and shared with the selection panel
- The selection panel will assess the applications against the criteria specified in section 4
- Once the assessments are collated the panel will discuss the applications
- By 7 March 2024, some applicants will be invited for an interview during week commencing 11 March 2024 with panel members
- The artist/creative practitioner will be appointed by end of March 2024.

Please note: applications must be specific to the location. If you intend to submit an application for any of our other sites, this must be done separately to ensure fairness of assessment.

The selection panel will include:

- East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure staff; Head of Communities and Arts Arts Development Officer
- *Remembering Together* Programme Manager and/or Project Officer

6. Resources

- £9,500 is available for the Phase 2 commission for Barrhead to cover fees, associated costs and irrecoverable VAT. It will be payable across three instalments.
- An additional indicative figure of £2000 will be available for materials, dependent on final designs. Landscaping will be undertaken separately.
- Appointed designers will need to register as suppliers with ERCL.

7. Timescale and Milestones

PHASE 2

February 2024	Call for applications open
March 2024	Applications close Monday 4 March Review and shortlisting w/b 11 March Interviews with short-listed/selected artists Artist designer selected Artist/Designer appointed
May 2024	Design required to be submitted for approval
May-August 2024	Memorial creation (start date subject to confirmed approval of design)
August 2024	Memorial complete ready to be placed at location
September 2024	Memorial installed at location

8. Responding to the Brief

To apply for this opportunity please send an expression of interest by noon on **Monday 4 March 2024** to artsandheritage@ercultureandleisure.org

Your Expression of Interest should include:

- A CV and/or Statement of Practice - if applying as a creative team, provide information for each individual with their role and how they would contribute to the commission
- A written proposal (max 2 sides of A4) on how you would approach the design. Supporting images may be submitted but are not essential.
- Information about any relevant past commissions or projects that you think demonstrate how your practice fits this brief

Following assessment of the application, shortlisted applicants will then be asked to attend an interview online via Microsoft Teams.

Applicants should note that applications will be shared with all evaluation panel members from East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure and greenspace scotland.

Contact and enquiries to: artsandheritage@ercultureandleisure.org

