

BARTON HILL CHILDRENS CAMPUS PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND TO THE COMMISSION

COMMUNITY AT HEART

The Community at Heart vision is to ‘ ‘create a strong responsible community that has the ability to understand, engage and overcome its problems.

“This will enable the communities of Barton Hill, Redfield, Lawrence Hill and the Dings to build a safe environment that fulfils local needs, inspires and provides opportunities for all.”

Community at Heart was set up in July 2000 as the resident led company to deliver the £50 million New Deal for Communities (NDC) regeneration programme over a ten year period.

NDC is a major government funded initiative set up to improve 39 of the most neglected neighbourhoods in England.

Our work programme is divided into eight key outcome areas. These are:

- Employment & Business
- Healthy Places Happy People
- Community Safety
- Lifelong Learning
- Housing
- Community Services
- Arts & Sports
- Tackling Racism

More details of the work of Community at Heart can be viewed at www.ndcbristol.co.uk

BACKGROUND TO THE RATIONALE FOR THE CHILDRENS CAMPUS

(Exerts from the Architects Brief follow)

Back in February 2004 Batterham Matthews Design undertook a Feasibility Study as part of the Bristol City Council Wide Primary School Review, to look at the possibilities for a 315 place primary school for 5-11 year olds with an attached 60 place nursery. Options A-D were explored and costed.

The main purpose of this feasibility was to look at the bringing together of the primary school, infants school on the adjoining site and Cashmore Nursery, all on to one site. Thereby reduce the amount of duplication of Accommodation staff and resources.

Since this feasibility study was carried out, discussions have taken place with Barton Hill Settlement and Community at Heart with the view to integrating the daycare provision including Wraparound from the Settlement into one project as part of the Children Centre services on the main primary school site.

Having looked at a number of options from E-G incorporating these three buildings on the main site, a decision was taken to combine all three briefs to avoid duplication and also to assist in the integration of these three facilities into the Barton Hill community.

Following a number of options to phase the project by keeping the existing primary school in use, it has now been made possible by additional funding to build the new building in one phase.

Throughout the rest of this document the three projects i.e. the Primary school, the Children's centre and the Wraparound provision, whilst they are talked about independently, for the purposes of the design and construction of the building it will be carried out as one project.

The Present Situation

Primary School

The primary school is in a large single storey temporary structure on the main school site, which is both ugly and impractical. The class sizes of 30 are accommodated in classrooms of only 42m² in cramped conditions. There is very little in the way of specialist areas and the hall is too small.

On the more positive side, the site is a substantial area and has an open feel and contributes to the openness of the public realm, an aspect which The Children's Campus Partnership Agreement have set out and very much want to encourage and maintain, in any redevelopment of the site.

Infant School

This is positioned in a two storey Victorian building to the south west corner of the main primary site in very generously proportioned classrooms grouped around a central hall.

Whilst the building is old and in need of substantial renovation, the central hall is very much valued as a gathering place for parents before and after the school day. It gives the feeling of a central heart to the school.

Unfortunately, the outside play areas are extremely small with no playing field and is very unsuited to a school of the 21st Century.

Cashmore Nursery

This is located on the ground floor of Cashmore House which is a block of flats. Whilst there is little room to expand on the site, the one thing that this nursery very much values about its current location is a large south facing garden, which has been well maintained and the nursery would very much like to see a similar provision in the new building on the primary school site.

The Site/Context

The existing site is made up of two parts, firstly the main primary school site and secondly the old swimming pool site to the east of the primary school looking towards the centre of Barton Hill.

The swimming pool site and the school site are now owned by the Local Education Authority. The intention is for the swimming pool site to be transferred to the LEA in order to make the site large enough to accommodate the primary school, children's centre and the wrap around provision, as well as maintaining sufficient playground and playing field space. The purchase of the pool site does not need to be included in the project cost.

The existing primary school site has previously had housing on and there is evidence of some cellars on the playing field with differentials settlement over the years, which is periodically filled and reseeded. There is a topographical survey of the site which shows a fall of 4.7m from the top north east corner down to the lower south west corner.

Trial holes x 3 have been carried out in Aug 02 with a range from 200mm of top soil with

400mm to 1500mm of rubble hardcore **Fill** on top of Medium dense to dense ,fine to medium grained red/orange **Sand**

A Master Plan for the whole area was carried out by EDAW a few years back and in discussion with the Headteachers, Community at Heart and Barton Hill Settlement, there is a wish to have some element of the building up towards the north east corner to give the building some civic presence towards the centre of Barton Hill to the east.

Some trees have become well established on the south west corner, which were apparently planted at the time that the ring road was constructed in order to soften the impact of the road on the school environment.

There is also a strong wish to keep as many of the mature trees on site as possible during the reconfiguring of the site layout.

The existing single storey primary school in the feasibility study has been kept in its current location during the construction of the new building in order to avoid substantial decant costs whilst the construction work is being carried out.

Architect practice, Architype, are commissioned to deliver the new Campus development. Some visualisations of the new building are attached to the brief. It will be essential that the selected artist collaborates with Architype on the design and installation of the proposed artworks.

PUBLIC ART AND THE CHILDRENS CAMPUS

A small group began to meet in the Autumn 2005 to consider the public art element of the Children's Campus following confirmation that the education programme of Community at Heart had a budget of £40,000 set aside for public art in the new school.

By the second meeting in October 2005 the group comprised of representatives of BHIN, Cashmore, Architype, the Children's Centre, Community at Heart and Creative Partnerships. The meeting focussed on the management of the public art project and what processes would be involved.

Following this meeting a Project Proposal Plan was drawn up which laid out a clear process set into three stages for the programme and timescale of the public art programme. Involvement of children is central to this process. This plan was subsequently agreed by members of the group at a meeting in November 2005 and was to be taken for comment to the steering group of the Children's Campus shortly afterwards. Visits were made to the headteachers and staff of Cashmore Nursery and Barton Hill Primary in January 2006 who had been unable to attend the previous meeting. They also approved the draft plan and thereafter have been fully involved.

It was agreed to commission a facilitator to assist with Phase 1 of the Public Art Programme. This has been funded by Creative Partnerships, and the public art group duly commissioned Reckless Orchard for this role early in February 2006.

Reckless Orchard's role to date has been 'to provide the tools, inspiration and vision that enables the arts development group to devise, develop and manage the public art programme for the children's campus'.

PRINCIPAL TASKS OF PROJECT FACILITATOR

- i. To assist and advise the Arts Development Group through the inception stages of the development of the public art programme.
- ii. To identify opportunities, with the Group and other stakeholders, for integrated

public art and other arts activities within the proposals for the Campus development.

- iii. To assist and advise on the selection of a lead artist or artists.

The brief is therefore the culmination of the facilitation and dialogue process.

BARTON HILL CHILDRENS CAMPUS

PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME

COMMISSION BRIEF FOR ARTIST - MAY 2006

INTRODUCTION

The commissioner for this exciting public art opportunity is Community at Heart, based in Barton Hill in Bristol.

The development of the new Childrens Campus in Barton Hill is a significant part of Community at Heart's Lifelong Learning programme. As well as bringing three existing schools on to one site it will also integrate extended school provision, including daycare and Wraparound, from the Settlement into one project on the main primary school site.

The architects are Architype and there are some visualisations of the proposed building and associated landscape attached to this brief. It should be noted that this public art commission must complement the aspiration for the new building. The building will be a prominent new civic facility that is of the highest quality and which reflects and celebrates the culture of Barton Hill; it will create a new sense of place and will be spacious and fun.

In addition there are images of the site and a location map attached.

Planning consent has been granted and some early enabling works have already commenced on the site. Construction operations are due to commence in August 2006 and the development should be completed by August 2007.

More details about the background of this commission can be found at back of this brief.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART AT THE CHILDRENS CAMPUS

It is not the intention of this brief to be prescriptive or overbearing as it is up to the artist to bring their own creative skills and vision to the project. However it should be acknowledged that through a keen process of dialogue and workshops with children, teachers and other stakeholders the following opportunities for public art are likely form the focus of this commission:

- i. The creative and imaginative use of colour, light, sound and projected images
- ii. The application of inventive and tactile interventions.

The possible locations for the public artwork(s) have been identified as follows:

- i. At or within the entranceway/double-height atrium space to the building.
- ii. Along or within the blank façade to St. Anns Road.

It is likely that the artist will focus upon one or other of these opportunities and locations.

The artist may consider the use of glass, light, sound, projections, brick or a combination of these elements and others as appropriate when undertaking the design process.

In addition the artist should possess the following skills and qualities (amongst other things):

- a. Ability and necessary skills to deliver exciting high impact and high quality public artworks based upon the focus of ideas.
- b. Excellent communication and listening skills to people of all ages, abilities etc.
- c. Excellent design skills.
- d. Experience of working with a range of stakeholders.
- e. Experience of working as part of a design team.
- f. Must be creative, inspiring, inventive and expressive.

SCOPE OF WORK

The public art programme will reflect the overall aspiration that embraces the design and collaborative process for the new Childrens Campus development. This commission is therefore a fundamental component of the overall project and its continuing process of engagement and community involvement.

The proposed Childrens Campus development in Barton Hill will be a typical new flagship building with associated landscaping, playground and playing field, car parking facilities and vehicular and pedestrian access and routeways through the site. Therefore an important part of this commission is the requirement of the artist to develop ways and means of exploring the local context and enhancing the identity of the development. Therefore, it is suggested that the artist will work with the Campus community and the Project Design Team to :

- influence and enhance the work of the Project Design Team for the Childrens Campus development.
- continue the consultative exercises undertaken to date and, where appropriate, actively engage the schools and local community groups and other artists in the design and decision-making processes.
- produce designs of the highest quality and artworks that are a unique expression of the collaboration of artist, developer and community.
- physically and psychologically root and embed the Childrens Campus development into its context.

BUDGET

The total budget for this piece of work public art is £30,000.

This is exclusive of VAT and inclusive of artist's fees and all other associated costs including travel, accommodation, subsistence and the costs for the fabrication and installation of the artwork.

The artist is advised to try and maximise the budget by exploring artworks that integrate within the fabric of the built environment; for example the main entranceway into the building and the associated double-height reception area or the blank façade of the building along Queen Ann Road.

It is therefore likely that some of the costs of the installation of such work may be absorbed into the construction costs of the overall development.

COMMISSIONING PROCESS

The commissioning process will be as follows:

Stage 1 Selection of an artist

Up to five artists are to meet with representatives of the schools, the Childrens Campus, Community at Heart, Creative Partnerships and the Project Design Team to present their past work and discuss their responses to the site, this Commission Brief with perhaps some initial ideas. One artist will be appointed to work with the schools and the design team to prepare initial design ideas.

This selection and appointment stage is to be completed during by 19th June 2006.

Each Artist will have their travel expenses paid for attending interview.

Stage 2 Initial Design Stage

Working with the schools and the Project Design Team the artist will be involved in design discussions and exploration of opportunities for integrated artworks within the development. The artist is not expected to confine themselves to one area of the design or to come on board to design only one feature. However, there will be scope for particular interventions designed by the artist.

The artist is to:

- i. consider the site of the existing schools and the context within Barton Hill and the New Deal in the Community area.
- ii. Consider the rationale and aspiration for the new campus development; particularly with respect to its wide remit and to the rationale and spirit of the design of the building.
- iii. identify elements within the development that will be specifically designed or modified by the artist.

The artist is advised to allocate 12 (?) days to this part of the design process. This will ensure the artist can:

- attend all the key meetings that are programmed.
- familiarise him or herself with the site and its context.
- study and understand the characteristics of the site and the proposed design of the new building and associated landscape, taking into account the operational and functional requirements of the Campus, such as access, circulation and hours of use.
- take time to develop visual and written contributions to the design process.
- prepare initial designs for specific elements of the site, which are to be discussed and agreed with the schools, the Campus representatives, the Project Design Team and Community at Heart (and the local planning authority as necessary). The initial designs are to indicate materials, sources and method of fabrication/assembly, anticipated detailed design and production timescale and an indicative budget breakdown showing the cost of the production, delivery and installation of the artworks.

- engage in debate and discussion with the schools and other members of the local community as advised as part of consultation events that will be organised to gain feedback on the proposals.

The provisional date for the completion of Stage 2 is December 2006?

The artist will be paid £250.00 per day exclusive of VAT for their work during Stage 2, which will be paid on submission of invoices and copies of receipts.

Stage 3 - Detailed Design Stage

After agreement of the outcomes of Stage 2 the artist will be further involved in the following ways:

- i. continue to work with the Project Design Team on the overall appearance and finish of the proposed artwork(s).
- ii. undertake detailed design work, detailed costings and identify construction methods for any agreed concepts for artistic interventions within the site.

Any agreed concepts for artistic pieces/interventions will need to be worked up to a detailed design stage. This information will need to be discussed with the Project Design Team and main contractors and others as may be necessary. Agreement must be reached as to when and how best they are to be fabricated and installed within the framework and timescales of the redevelopment.

Specialised fabrication will be tendered out to specialist fabricators and organisations as necessary. The artist will advise on this process.

The artist with the support of the Project Design Team will undertake the development of detailed design work. This may include the provision of:

- samples/models.
- scale plans, elevations and other drawings to illustrate the proposal(s), fully annotated with materials, colours, fixing methods and any other relevant information.
- a detailed written description, with a clear rationale behind the overall concept and explanation of each component.
- method of fabrication, location and installation and delivery periods for inclusion within any tender or other documents.

This stage of the project will also include the artist's participation in the approval and permission process.

It is anticipated that the artist will be expected to allocate twelve days to this part of the design process.

The provisional date for the completion of Stage 3 is March 2007

The artist will be paid £250.00 per day exclusive of VAT for their work during Stage 3, which will be paid on submission of invoices and copies of receipts. It is anticipated that the artist will initially spend up to 8 days working on Stage 3.

Stage 4 Fabrication and installation

The artist may be further involved with fabrication or installation or may have a supervisory and inspection role, depending upon the requirements of the design of the artist's interventions. The full extent of the artist's involvement is to be defined during Stages 2 and 3.

A separate contract will subsequently be agreed for this further stage of the work as may be necessary. Payment will either be made on a daily rate (£250.00 per day) or as a percentage of the value of the work. All payments will be exclusive of VAT.

The provisional date for the completion of Stage 4 is August 2007. The Childrens Campus is due for completion around this time.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright on the designs shall remain at all times with the Artist. The Commissioner hereby assigns any registered and unregistered design right to the Artist.

The Commissioner shall be entitled without payment to the Artist to make any photograph film or video of the designs and to include this in any advertising, brochures or other publicity material or film, video or television broadcast provided that any such reproduction is intended to promote or record the making of the designs (or the project of which it forms part) and is used for non-commercial purposes.

OTHER INFORMATION

All dates within this Commission Brief are provisional.

The Commissioner retains the right not to develop any of the designs beyond any of the stages described under Commissioning Process.

As with all works to be sited within the public realm, any installation need to be safe and secure and must take into account public and building safety.

All Artists will be contracted to Community at Heart.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact

Community at Heart
Wellspring Healthy Living Centre
Beam Street
Barton Hill
Bristol
BS5 9QY

Tel 0117 903 0407