

# Inverness Old Town Art Programme Victorian Markets

## **ARTIST BRIEF**

**Inverness Old Town Art** wishes to commission artists/designers to design new entrance features for three of the four entrances to the Victorian Market in Inverness city centre.

### **1. Background**

Inverness Old Town Art has received £100,000 from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Capital Programme. The grant assists a programme of unique arts projects that will enhance the old town area of Inverness.

The new artistic programme grew out of a dialogue which began with the "Imagining the Centre" event on 9 September 2007 which Lead Artist Matt Baker and members of the Inverness City Partnership team developed. This successful one-off arts event took place over 12 hours on Church Street and local people were invited to join artists & performers in a conversation about what Inverness city centre was, and could be in the future. Memorably, this event involved 14 artists who used giant projections, audio art and performance to bring to the surface the cultural importance of the old town for the city.

### **2. The Commission**

The artwork will be located at the entrances on Union Street, Church Street and Queensgate. Access to the market from the Church Street entrance is via a pedestrian walkway, this will be the first entrance under construction as part of the Inverness Old Town Art. The Union Street entrance incorporates security gates and there is scope to incorporate the design of the gate panels as part of the entrance feature. The structural design of the gates has been undertaken by Scotengineering in consultation with the landscape architects, Land Use Consultants. Outline drawings for the gates are available on request.

There are no specific conditions as to the type of artwork being proposed by artists. However, it is anticipated that it should be a permanent installation that makes a dramatic statement that is sympathetic to the high ambitions of the project and its stakeholders, the work should be innovative in a contemporary way yet, sympathetic to the sites historical, social and economic influences.

It is hoped that an increasing number of artist residencies, installations and permanent commissions will build capacity and appetite for more innovative public realm commissioning in Inverness, that embraces all forms of artistic practice, including lighting, new media, live arts and festivals. This dynamic cultural dimension is seen as a critical element in developing the vision for the old town area of Inverness.

The creation of new entrance features to three of the four entrances to the market forms a key part of Inverness Old Town Art. The overall design direction has been explored and developed by Matt Baker, Lead Artist and Susan Christie, Overall Commissions Manager and landscape architects (Land Use Consultants). The Victorian Markets project is being managed by Consultant Project Manager Louise Mor.

### **3. Engagement**

The site is owned by The Highland Council with the exception of the Queens Gate Entrance where individual shops are under private ownership. The Victorian Market is a listed building and it is fully anticipated that a planning application will need to be made to Historic Scotland. Whilst all formal permissions, will be obtained by the project manager liaison with stakeholders, market traders and the local community form an important element of this project, the commissioned artists will be required to liaise confidently with stakeholders and participate in wider community consultation. It is suggested that information gathered during this stage should be used to inform the creative process.

### **4. Budget**

The budget for this commission is £60,000 and shall be all-inclusive, and should cover full artist and professional fees and all other associated costs including design, production, insurance, professional fees, transport, site preparation, engineering, installation, and travel expenses. VAT, where applicable, should be listed separately.

### **5. Commissioning Procedure**

This project involves a two-stage open competition process. Short listing of preliminary proposals will be made by an approved Selection Panel and taken forward to a second stage.

#### **5.1 Stage One Process**

Closing Date **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008.**

Expressions of Interest should be delivered as a hard copy along with an electronic copy on a CD Rom. Sorry, but no email applications can be accepted for this first stage. Whilst no detailed project proposals are expected applicants are asked to include the following information:

- Covering letter with full address and contact details
- Recent CV
- Up to 6 printed or digital images of recent work that are relevant to this commission (no slides accepted)
- A written expression of interest (maximum of 500 words). To include a description and outline approach:

Your initial thoughts on the project including a description of your areas of artistic interest or working methods, ideas about how you might develop artwork proposals and who you might collaborate with (if at all). Including the market traders and the wider public is very important to the success of the project, please describe how you might research and engage with both the context and the local community. Finally, please give an idea of your current workload and availability.

## **5.2 Short Listed Artists**

The panel will select a short list of 3 or 4 artists. Short-listed artists will receive a fee of £700.00 (plus expenses) to fully develop & cost their proposals.

## **6. SUMMARY TIMETABLE**

### **6.1 Stage One**

Closing Date for submissions of Expressions of Interest is **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008**. Shortlisted artists will be informed week commencing **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May**.

Conditions for applications:

- o Sorry late applications cannot be accepted
- o Submissions only by email cannot be accepted
- o Submitted applications will only be returned with the submission of a SAE covering full costs.

For further information please contact:

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