

Issued: Thursday 2 February 2006

### **Lead Artist Appointed to Promote City Centre Streetscaping Project**

Inverness City Partnership announced today (Thursday) that they have selected Matt Baker to be the Lead Artist on the City Centre Streetscaping programme. Matt will work collaboratively with the Streetscape Programme designers, Land Use Consultants, and community groups to look creatively at the issues involved and to generate a unique identity for the City Centre.

Matt will be promoting his own projects and coordinating those of other artists within the two-year programme.

Evi Westmore, Inverness Public Art Coordinator, said: "We are lucky to have Matt. His expertise and creativity will greatly enhance this exciting project."

The position is made possible by funding from the Scottish Arts Council and support from the Inverness City Partnership.

Matt was Lead Artist on the Gorbals' Artworks Programme in Glasgow, which has received universal praise for its marriage of regeneration and art (for more information, visit: [www.theartworksprogramme.org](http://www.theartworksprogramme.org)).

The Inverness City Centre Streetscaping Programme aims to create an attractive, vibrant and thriving City Centre environment reflective of Inverness as a successful, modern city capitalising on its heritage and historic Old Town.

The role of the Lead Artist is to work with the design team to develop a unified, overall design brief, to work with groups and individuals who live and work in the city centre and to identify opportunities for art commissions that will enhance and stimulate the environment.

-ends-

For more information, please call Evi Westmore, Public Art Coordinator, at 01463-723533.