



PUBLIC ART COMMISSION HARLOW
Weston Homes, Edinburgh Way, New Development, Harlow CM20 2JE

Invitation for Expressions of Interest

Public Art Project

Weston Homes require the appointment of an artist or artists working in the public realm to design a permanent artwork as part of a new residential development in Harlow, Essex.

The Commissioners:

Weston Homes

Weston Homes was established in 1987, building its first detached house in Essex. Weston Homes' vision is to regenerate Brownfield Sites in a sustainable way, building new communities and ensuring quality craftsmanship. It is committed to commissioning public art work that tells the story of its location and enhances placemaking.

Harlow Council

Harlow Council's public art strategy recognises the involvement of artists as integral to improving the quality of a development and benefitting its community. Harlow is known for its important collection of public sculpture sited across the town, and was named 'Sculpture Town' in 2010.

The Commission:

The commission is for a specific part of the site – the 10–20 panels will line the new entrance avenue at the heart of the development. The commissioners are looking for an artist or artists who can work with existing materials and reference the literary history of the site. For example, the panels could be used as a surface on which to etch or print upon using text and/or pattern. They could refer to the literary background of the location, as part of the site was the former home of Longman Publishing for many years.

The proposed concept is for a functional artwork to design infill panels, preferably perforated, sitting proud of the external wall, in some cases, to allow for the required 60% free air circulation for the ground floor car park areas. The artwork will be permanent and will provide security and articulation to the car park areas, enhancing the shared public areas of the development.

The artwork will significantly contribute to the design and environment of the apartment façade being viewed as part of the entrance avenue approach and within the car parks by residents and visitors.

The Context:

The site is located in North Harlow, on the south bank of the upper Stort valley next to Harlow Town railway station. The site's significance is as the former home of Longman publishing House, later Pearson Longman. Pearson Education continues to have its home in Harlow moving from this Edinburgh Way site to Kao Enterprise Park in 2017. Longman was established by Thomas Longman in 1724 in London. Known for its entrepreneurial approach and both its literary and educational imprints the publishing house was managed by generations of Longmans for over 250 years. The firm left London in the late 1950s establishing their new premises in Harlow.

Harlow Town, in West Essex, was established in 1947 to relieve overcrowding in North East London post WWII. It is now a large town with a population of over 84,000. It is one of the UK's pioneering new towns developed under the Sir Frederick Gibberd masterplan for the Harlow Development Corporation following the New Towns Act in 1946.

Timeline:

Deadline for Proposals: Friday January 3, 2020 by 5pm

Interview date: Monday January 20, 2020 (County Hall, Chelmsford)

Design concepts developed by March 1, 2020

Planning sign off: March 31, 2020

Fabrication and installation timeline 2021 onwards tbc.

Budget (all figures inclusive of VAT):

Artist Fees: £10,000 both concept and design development

Expenses: up to £1,000

Fabrication: production, manufacture and installation costs: £25,000*

Documentation: £1,000

*Please note that the design material for this commission will be using one of the following: Solanum, Copper or powder coated Aluminium which will fit with the scheme and save on material costs. Expertise from Weston Homes will be available to support the manufacturing process.

Application Process

The artist or artists will be appointed through a competitive interview process. The selection committee will review the submissions and will shortlist up to 4 artists who will be invited to interview. Shortlisted artists will be granted a small honorarium to develop their ideas and concepts for presentation at interview.

Expression of Interest

No more than 2 A4 pages outlining your interest, relevant experience and what your approach would be. Include a summary CV and/or link to your website

Final Date for entries: Friday January 3, 2020 by 5pm to: urbandesign@essex.gov.uk

The commission is managed by Places Services, Essex County Council.



