

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Heron Gate, Marrable House development, The Vineyards,
Great Baddow CM7 2QS

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 their new residential development, Heron Gate in Great Baddow.

The Commissioner: 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.

Local Authority: Chelmsford City Council

Chelmsford City Council's public art strategy recognises the involvement of artists as integral to improving the quality of a development and helping to define a public space. It sees public art as key to strengthening local and cultural identity; providing a link between private activity and the community; adding prestige to a development and leading to interpretative and educational activity.

The Site:

The site is in the old village centre at The Vineyards Shopping Centre complex. It lies within the Great Baddow Conservation Area. A Georgian House called "The Vineyards" built in 1740 was originally on the site, this was the birthplace of the composer Armstrong Gibbs in 1889 who grew up here. The house was then replaced in the 1960s by the Marrable House office block, a six-storey modernist building which Marconi used. This was demolished in 2016 as part of the development scheme. The new development is two new residential buildings providing 53 flats with associated parking and green space. The green space and walkway are of great importance to the Vineyards and to the local community.

The Commission:

The proposed concept is for a work to be sited in or around the retention pond which is a focal point at the front of the development. The retention pond deals with excess rainwater runoff and so does not always hold water. The work would be integrated as part of the landscaping around the pond and therefore could take a range of forms.

The artwork will be permanent and will provide a focus for the development. It should be viewable by the public both from the footpath running along the front of the site and from the footbridge adjacent that connects to the shopping centre.

The commissioners are looking for an artist or artists who is/are experienced in working in the public realm and can:

- Engage with key stakeholders including Marrable House residents, key community groups and Great Baddow Parish Council
- Ensure community engagement is an integral part of the design approach and reflected in the final concept for the work.
- Work to budget
- Work with the functional requirements of the retention pond

Timeline:

Deadline for Proposals: Friday January 14, 2022 by 5pm

Interview date: Friday February 4, 2022 (Great Baddow)

Project Development with Community Engagement: March-April 2022

Final design: May 2022

Planning sign off: May/June 2022

Fabrication: June- September 2022

Final Installation: October 2022

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: £32,500

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 initial ideas and outline approach 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.

Send no later than **Friday January 14, 2022 by 5pm to:**

applications@kathandcompany.co.uk

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





3

Arial View of the Site with the development

