



The Whitchurch and Hengrove Community Orchard Engagement Programme

Artist Brief (open call): Summer Event 2017

Commissioner:	Bristol City Council
Responsible to:	Jane Porter
Contracted to:	Bristol City Council
Term:	December 2016 - June 2017
Artist Fee:	£1500
Production budget:	£2500

1. Introduction

The Whitchurch and Hengrove Community Orchard

The Whitchurch and Hengrove Community Orchard is a public art project by UK artist David Thorpe. The work is located in Hengrove, South Bristol and was commissioned as part of the Future Perfect public art programme curated by Jes Fernie and Theresa Bergne.

The community orchard was planted on Whitchurch Village Green, Hengrove in November 2015 and is made up of 48 fruit trees which take the shape of a cathedral, complete with nave, transept and apse. Local children and residents of Hengrove were involved in the planning of the orchard, which is designed to be a communal meeting place and stems from Thorpe's interest in utopian English traditions, with particular reference to the work of William Morris.

Developed over a period of 3 years, the orchard was planted in late 2015 and was launched by George Ferguson, the previous Mayor of Bristol, and Kevin McCloud of Grand Designs in tandem with the Council's One Tree One Child project.

The orchard will take 8-10 years to grow to full maturity.

2. The Whitchurch and Hengrove Community Orchard Engagement Programme

The Whitchurch and Hengrove Community Orchard Engagement Programme is a one year programme produced by Jane Porter and has been designed to raise awareness of the orchard with the Hengrove community but also to engage the wider Bristol public through exciting projects that take place on site as well as at arts venues across the city.

The programme consists of four commissions that will see artists and writers engaged to develop projects in direct response to the orchard with a key aim of engaging Hengrove residents and the wider public in the community orchard and associated themes.

3. Future Perfect

[Future Perfect](#) is an ambitious programme of public art commissions for Hengrove Ward, a residential area in south Bristol. It is commissioned by Bristol City Council and is the first public art programme to be funded through a Neighbourhood Partnership in which governance is extended to members of the Hengrove community. The programme is part of a large-scale regeneration scheme spearheaded by the Council, and funded through Section 106 monies raised to mitigate the effects of development in the Hengrove area.

The theme for the programme is the future; a notional, fantastical future which embraces extraordinary possibilities and dreams and consists of three commissions by artists with international reputations: Martino Gamper, Nils Norman and David Thorpe. All three artists have had extensive, fruitful conversations with local people, groups and schools in Hengrove throughout the process of developing their proposals. Martino Gamper's commission, Archive of Ideas, was realised in 2012; the other two commissions were realised in 2014 and 2015. The programme also includes the publication of a book of drawings by Garth England, a long term resident of Hengrove and Knowle West. 'Murdered with Straight Lines: drawings of Bristol by Garth England', is edited by Jes Fernie and Theresa Bergne and was published by Redcliffe Press in spring 2015.

Future Perfect explores the transformative potential of art; how socially engaged projects can inspire as well as inform and affect the way that people view their lives, their neighbourhood and their position in their community. The commissioned artists are all interested in creating a space in which new things can happen, ideas can be expressed and the unknown can be explored. Future Perfect encompasses a range of art projects from the temporary to the permanent; all of which provide a legacy for Hengrove in some form; through improvement of infrastructure in the area, skills development and personal enrichment for residents.

A key ambition of Future Perfect is to get local people involved at all levels. The programme as a whole offers many different opportunities for individuals and groups in Hengrove to participate, through workshops, trips and talks. For further info see: www.futureperfectbristol.org/commissions/detail/permanent-commission

4. Aims for the Open Call commission

Bristol City Council has already commissioned several permanent public artworks in Hengrove as part of the Future Perfect programme. We are now offering a commission through open call for an artist, artist group or consortium to develop a public project / event for summer 2017 which shall be presented in the public realm in Hengrove, South Bristol.

At this stage we are looking for proposals that respond to the idea of an orchard in the broadest sense, not necessarily for the physical site of the orchard. We are interested in seeing proposals for temporary, event based or ephemeral works that will elicit a strong response from the public, and draw people - particularly young people - in to explore issues prompted by the Community Orchard, and beyond (from ecology and community cohesion, the role of orchards in the South West or across history and visual culture).

The artist's proposition will be the starting point for the commission. We want to work with an artist who will be excited and embrace this experimental, open, collaborative process without any preconceived idea of the outcome. Whether you are an artist who has never previously produced artwork for a public setting or one who has developed projects before, this opportunity will extend your practice and offer you the opportunity to be part of an established arts programme and work with a talented team.

Artists may collaborate with other arts organisations in their bid, or seek to work with one post appointment should they wish.

5. Budget and fees:

The commission budget is £4,000 made up of an artist fee of **£1,500** and a production budget for the delivery of the commission/event of **£2,500**. Artist travel and accommodation costs must come from the production budget so please take this into account if you are based outside of Bristol.

In addition to the fee we will, subject to final agreement, fully support the installation / staging of the public work, interpretation and marketing. There may be access to a studio near the site but this is not yet confirmed.

6. Schedule

The selected artist(s) will be expected to start working on the commission from December 2016, leading to the development and full production of the work for summer 2017. At present this is proposed to be June 2017.

November 2016:

Open Call commission advertised

December 2016:

Artist shortlisted, artist Interviews, appoint artist and issue contract

December 2016 - May 2017:
Develop artwork concept and design

June 2017:
Delivery of final project + 2 artist talks

7. How to apply:

(We welcome submissions from solo and creative partnerships)

Please email your expression of interest to whcommunityorchard@gmail.com with subject line: **OPEN CALL APPLICATION**. Your expression of interest should include:

1. Your proposition idea or explanation of how you might approach this commission
2. How your practice and approach meets the brief (no more than 500 words)
3. A description of your artistic practice (no more than 500 words)
4. Your CV (max 5 pages)
5. Online links to examples of relevant work (no more than five examples)
6. The overall size of the email should not exceed 10MB

Please note: Applications should be provided as a pdf or word documents. Preferably images should be provided within a PDF or via accessible web links such as File Share, Dropbox or File transfer. Files should not exceed 10MB (total)

Artists should view the [Future Perfect website](#) in support of their expression of interest tailored and specific to this project.

8. Deadline:

The deadline for submissions **is 5pm Tuesday 6th December 2016.**

The selection process is by open competition:

Stage 1: Artists will be required to respond to the brief by Friday 2nd December 2016.

Stage 2: Interviews will be held with between 4 – 6 artists on Wednesday 14th December 2016. Travel costs for interview of up to £60 per artist will be covered.

Stage 3: Additional information, clarification and feedback will be gathered and communicated to artists / selection panel before a final decision is made.

Artists will be notified of the outcome by 23 January 2017.

The final decision on the successful artist will be decided by the project selection panel, which will involve the project producer, project marketing officer, the public art officer (BCC), and other members drawn from across the Bristol arts scene.

9. Talks / public engagement

As part of the commission the appointed artist(s) will be required to participate in the engagement programme including two artist talks in May/June 2017. One in an arts venue in the city centre plus one in a venue local to the orchard itself.

10. The Producer

Jane Porter is a Bristol based independent producer and horticulturist who has worked in leading arts venues in the city for the last 10 years such as Picture This, Watershed and Arnolfini. She programmed the project space Central-Reservation in 2010 and managed public art commissions with Ginkgo Projects in Hartcliffe and Hengrove in 2008. She gives regular exhibition tours at Arnolfini and City Museum and works as Projects Officer at Bristol City Council Culture Team.

11. Bristol City Council public art programme

Bristol is one of the leading cities in the UK for public art commissioning, known for its programme of projects with artists of local, national and international significance, and focused on the development of visionary public art works outside conventional gallery and museum settings.

The programme has been active since the adoption by the city of a public art policy in 2000, followed by the development of a Public Art Strategy in 2003. As a result, over 100 permanent and temporary commissions have been produced within a diversity of contexts, from public spaces, housing, health, retail, education and local parks.

Activities that involve the inhabitants of the city in a variety of ways are a central facet of the programme, with projects ranging from stand-alone works, temporary commissions, architectural pavilions in parks, performances, film screenings, public engagement programmes and a curated series of public talks, organised by Bristol City Council and hosted by Arnolfini www.aprb.co.uk

