

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ARTISTS' DESIGN, FABRICATION, & INSTALLATION OF EPHEMERAL SCULPTURE IN PUBLIC PLACES: A PUBLIC ART SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Introduction

Arts North West is seeking Expressions of Interest from artists based in the New England North West region of NSW who wish to strengthen their skills and experience in the field of public art practice through their participation in a Public Art Skills Development Project.

To provide the participating regional artists with professional contacts at a high level in this field, Arts North West has obtained a Regional Arts Fund Grant via Regional Arts NSW and Regional Arts Australia to engage public art consultant Pamille Berg of Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd in Canberra to supply training, comment, critique, and advice to the selected artists at key milestones in this public art skills project. Elements of funding for the project are also being provided by Tamworth Regional Council, the University of New England, and by other sponsors and organisations.

Ms. Berg is one of Australia's most experienced public art consultants, having been responsible for the inception and coordination of the Art/Craft Program of site-specific commissions involving nearly 200 artists and craftspeople for New Parliament House in Canberra, as well as many other commissioning programs in Australia, Asia, and the USA over the past twenty years.

This project will consist of the selected artists' design, design development, fabrication, and installation of temporary site-specific ephemeral sculpture in two specially-selected prominent public locations:

- The prominent Public Foyer of Ray Walsh House, Tamworth Regional Council's offices, in Peel Street in Tamworth; and
- UNE Graduates' Walk, UNE, Armidale

Given the nature of this commissioning process as a public art skills training project and the very limited subsidy available for the participation of the selected artist, it is intended that the materials utilised for the fabrication of the sculptural installations will be from recycled or re-claimed sources.

The purpose of this project is to allow the selected artists to gain professional skills and confidence by:

- Preparing and presenting their credentials for consideration for commissions,
- going through the selection process for a commission by a Selection Panel of respected regional arts professionals,
- responding to a Design Brief for a commission,
- understanding site-specific design processes,

- constructing a detailed budget breakdown and Time Program for a commission,
- refining a preliminary design, designing transport and installation systems, and completing risk-management assessment processes for works to be placed in public locations,
- planning and overseeing the transport, installation, and de-installation processes,
- understanding legal agreements for commissions and obtaining necessary insurances, and
- working effectively with client representatives, an architect or other design professional, commission coordinators, and site managers during installation.

Selection of Artists

The selection of artists to participate in this training project will be based upon their submission of:

- a curriculum vitae,
- a maximum of 10 images (by CD or emailed PDFs) demonstrating the range and character of the artist's past work, and
- a brief outline of up to 300 words in length describing why the artist would like to participate in the project.

This project is directed both towards emerging or mid-career artists who have never had a public art commission, as well as those emerging or mid-career artists who have had limited public art experience but wish to hone and expand their professional skills in this area of practice.

The **Public Art Advisory Panel** formed for this project which will select the artists to participate from the submissions received will be:

- Ms. Michelle Arens, Art Collection Manager, University of New England;
- Ms. Sandra McMahon, Director, Tamworth Regional Art Gallery;
- A representative of NERAM to be confirmed;
- Ms. Katrina Rumley, Director of the Moree Plains Regional Art Gallery
- Mr. Andrew Spicer, Strategic Planner & Public Art Planner, Tamworth Regional Council;
- Mr. Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer, Arts North West; and
- Ms. Pamille Berg, Director of Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd.

Selection criteria will include:

- The potential of the artist, as demonstrated by the images of the range of their past work, to design work at an effective scale and medium as a temporary installation within a public place;

- The artist's residency within the NENW region of NSW in which the professional training and sites for the temporary installations will be located; and
- The reasons why the artist wishes to participate in the project in relation to the specific areas of interest of the artist's creative practice.

The **closing date** for the receipt of Expressions of Interest by post or email at the office of Arts North West shall be **by 5 PM on Monday, 18 August 2008**.

The project's Public Art Advisory Panel will meet on Wednesday, 20 August 2008 to select a maximum of six artists to participate in the required Design Orientation Training Workshop (tentatively scheduled to occur on Thursday, 28 August 2008, pending confirmation by participating artists), and to be paid a fee to submit a Schematic Design in response to the project's Design Brief. The Selection Panel may also invite two additional artists to participate in the Design Orientation Training Workshop as a professional development training experience, but without being selected and paid to participate in the subsequent phases of the project.

Artists' Design Phase & Fee

The selected artists will participate in the required full-day Design Orientation Training Workshop, **tentatively scheduled for Friday, 29 August 2008**, to be presented by public art consultant Pamille Berg under the auspices of Arts Northwest, followed by their preparation of a Design Submission in response to the site-specific Design Brief. At the Design Orientation, each artist, in collaboration with the consultant and the representatives of Arts North West, will read the site-specific Design Briefs and will decide for which of the two available sites he/she wishes to prepare a Schematic Design. The Design Submission will be due by close of business at the address listed below **on Thursday, 9 October 2008** or six weeks after the actual date on which the Design Orientation occurs.

In addition to being provided with the training day with Ms. Berg at no cost to the artist, each of the selected artists will be paid a Design Fee of \$400 ex GST for submitting a Schematic Design in response to the Design Brief's submission requirements. This Design Fee is understood to be equivalent to 10 hours of the artist's work at the rate of \$40.00/hour ex GST.

The participating artists will be **notified by Friday, 24 October 2008** whether they have been selected as one of a maximum of three artists who will proceed into the Design Development Phase for the commission.

Artists' Design Development Phase

Each of the artists whose designs are selected to proceed into the Design Development Phase of this training project will be offered a Design Development

Phase Agreement and Brief plus a nominal **Design Development Phase Fee of \$400.00 ex GST (plus the provision of the hours of training time by the consultant and coordination support by Arts North West)** to complete the design refinement, planning and detailing of transport and installation systems, preparation of the final detailed project budget, and of risk management for the proposed sculptural installation during a maximum four-week period.

The selected artists will be provided with additional training in public art practice and aid during this phase of the commission's development with consultant Pamille Berg and Arts North West representatives in a full-day workshop to be held on **Thursday, 6 November** (or on another date convenient to all parties).

The completed Design Development Phase submissions will be due at the Arts North West office by the close of business on **Thursday, 4 December 2008**. The project's Public Art Advisory Panel will assess the submissions during the week of Monday, 8 December 2008, and artists will be notified of permission to proceed into the Fabrication/Installation Phase of the commission by **Friday, 15 December 2008**, when they will be offered the Fabrication/Installation Agreement and Brief for signature.

Artists' Fabrication/Installation Phase

The Fabrication Phase for this commission is currently expected to extend **from 15 December 2008 to Friday, 13 February 2009** to allow the three selected artists to complete the fabrication work on the temporary sculptural installations at a time of their choosing within their other professional, work, and family holiday commitments.

The nominal **Fabrication Phase Fee** to be paid to each artist for this phase of the training project, covering the out-of-pocket expenses of the fabrication, transport, installation, and removal of the work, is **\$1,100.00 ex GST**. Assuming that the fabrication materials for the work are recycled and sourced at no cost to the artist, and that transport/installation/de-installation of the work can be completed without the utilisation of expensive commercial companies or specialised equipment, this minimal Training Fee is a lump sum intended to subsidise the first 26 hours of work by the artist on the sculptural installation at the rate of \$40.00/hr ex GST (plus the in-kind contribution to the artist of the consultant's training time and coordination support by representatives of Arts North West).

The date(s) for the installation/exhibition, duration, and de-installation of the three temporary public artworks in their respective locations will be confirmed in consultation with the artist and the sponsors of the two venues where the works will be installed, but are currently expected to occur within the period of late February/March 2009.

A simple Dedication and Opening of each of the temporary installations will be held with the presence of invited guests and the artist.

Address for Sending Expressions of Interest (by post or email):

Arts North West
PO Box 801
Glen Innes NSW 2370
email: artsnw@northnet.com.au

Contact for Additional Information:

Jack Ritchie
Regional Arts Development Officer
Arts North West
ph: 0267 324988

Acknowledgments:

- The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative delivered in partnership with:
- Arts North West
- The University of New England Armidale
- Tamworth Regional Council
- Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd

The Regional Arts Fund is the Australian Government's regional arts program, which gives artists and communities throughout regional, rural and remote Australia better access to opportunities to practice and experience the arts.



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