

# call for artists

## Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh

*funded by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation*



### **Grit & Pearl**

Grit & Pearl is a small creative company based in Gateshead that specialises in integrating artworks and innovative design into public spaces. We work for local authorities, regeneration agencies, NHS Trusts and a private sector developers, and have commissioned projects for a wide range of locations including museums, parks and beaches, offices and business parks, city centres, swimming pools, health centres and hospitals. You can find out more about Grit & Pearl's projects and the team at [www.gritandpearl.co.uk](http://www.gritandpearl.co.uk)

### **The Royal Hospital for Sick Children: arts commissioning**

We have been appointed by NHS Lothian to develop the arts commissioning for the new £148m Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh (RHSC), which will replace the existing facility. This work is at an early stage with fifteen outline project opportunities identified and under consultation with children, staff and families. We have taken a broad approach to 'public art', proposing design interventions, new media commissions, architectural and landscape structures, interactive and lighting projects, as well as the more typical sculpture, glass and craft responses.

### **Sick Kids Friends Foundation**

The Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) was set up in 1992 to support the work of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. All their work is funded through donations from the public, companies, trusts and foundations and organisations who wish to help them to make the 'Sick Kids' even better. Several of the art project ideas we have proposed will be best developed through a residency process, and the Sick Kids Friends Foundation has generously agreed to fund this residency programme.

The Foundation is funding the artist residency programme to ensure that art becomes an integral part of the new hospital, but also to raise the level of artistic activity in the existing hospital and to ease the transition between the old and new hospitals.

### **Artists Residencies**

The Sick Kids Friends Foundation residency programme will see artists working at the existing hospital and placed within a variety of wards and specialist areas. The ten residencies include two long-term residencies to work across the entire hospital (over 2 years, and likely to be for a creative writer and an illustrator) and eight short-term residencies (10 days, to be spread over a number of weeks) in specific wards or service areas.

These eight residencies are the focus of this 'call for artists'. Three of the eight – for the play rooms, the plaster-casting rooms and the spiritual space – are already appointed. The remaining five short-term residencies are with the following wards/teams:

- **MRI/X-Ray**
- **Therapy Units**
- **CAMHS Unit (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)**
- **Accident & Emergency / Outpatients**
- **Landscaping Team**

## **Budgets**

The fees for each short-term residency are £3000, nominally 10 days at £250/day and £500 for materials and other expenses. Resident artists will be expected to spend a minimum of 5 days 'face-to-face' time with staff, patients and the design team, and the remaining time researching and developing an outline artwork proposal for the new hospital. The face-to-face time with your host ward or team is intended in part provide the artist with greater understanding of the specific requirements of that host, enabling the artist to develop an appropriate proposal. But we should stress that this time with the artist is also directly relevant to the positive experience of existing patients and staff within the current hospital – i.e. the patients' experience of their time in the current hospital will be improved by interaction with artists and exposure to art. Therefore the resident artists will be expected to make those five days a rewarding and engaging experience for patients and staff.

We would prefer the residency to be spread over 8-14 weeks, allowing time for reflection, at the end of which the artist will present their proposal(s) back to the selection panel. At this early stage in the project (whilst the new hospital is still being designed) there is no identified budget for either the arts programme or specific commissions within it. However NHS Lothian has committed to the principle of a 'percentage for art' and we have made provisional allocations for the delivery of each commission (see below).

Given that the situation is extremely fluid we would prefer to start with *what you would like to produce* and to work from that, so the budget guidelines are simply that. There may also be opportunities to develop elements of the proposal for other or additional spaces within the hospital (for example, the plaster room residency may lead to a commission in the plaster rooms, but also to involvement in the hospitals exterior cladding panels).

### **Residency 4: MRI/X-Ray**

The MRI scanning facility and X-Ray department is a busy area closely linked with A&E and Outpatients. The new hospital will house this equipment in several rooms, each of which is likely to be visually busy and relatively cluttered with equipment. Therefore it is likely that the commissioned artworks for these spaces will be for wall mounted image-based work (although other options do of course exist). Our expectation is that this residency will be most suited to photographers or artists with a lens-based practice, and that an interest in science or scanning technologies might be appropriate.

*The provisional budget allocation for the commissioned artwork is up to £20,000, inclusive of all fees and production costs, which would be confirmed at a later date and after the artist's outline proposal is received and after the residency period.*

### **Residency 5: Therapy Units**

The Therapies Team work with a wide range of patients, using equipment and a range of exercises to assess physical needs and abilities and to develop those abilities. The rooms themselves would warrant wall-mounted artworks, but a greater opportunity exists working with the therapies team to develop artworks or creative products that have functional value in their work. For example, this might result in a series of objects/3D puzzles/furniture that can be interacted with in different ways; in floor and wall markings that can 'measure' movement etc. We expect that this residency might be best suited to a sculptor, product designer or furniture maker.

*The provisional budget allocation for the commissioned artwork is up to £20,000, inclusive of all fees and production costs, which would be confirmed at a later date and after the artist's outline proposal is received and after the residency period.*

### **Residency 6: CAMHS Unit (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)**

The CAHMS unit is currently on a different site to the main RHSC facility, and although it will be physically joined at the new hospital it will retain a degree of independence from it. The CAHMS Unit will have several communal areas and a private outdoor garden, and therefore the opportunities are quite varied. At this stage we are not stipulating an artform or type of artist, and instead propose to present a varied long list to the CAHMS team. Applicants would need to have

experience or aptitude for working in a mental health environment, which requires a high-level of sensitivity.

*The provisional budget allocation for the commissioned artwork is up to £20,000, inclusive of all fees and production costs, which would be confirmed at a later date and after the artist's outline proposal is received.*

### **Residency 7: Accident & Emergency / Outpatients**

A&E and Outpatients is one of the busiest areas of the hospital, with a fast turnover of patients. One particular area of attention is the waiting rooms, where children need to be engaged but not necessarily encouraged to be too active. Parents or guardians and siblings may also be waiting in these areas for long periods of time whilst assessment and treatment is carried out. All aspects of the current waiting room can be reconsidered – the furniture, flooring, walls and lighting; as well as developing new ideas for additional elements such as interactive games or activities. As with the CAHMS unit residency, this could be relevant to a range of artists and art forms, and we would welcome expressions of interest from any artist who considers it relevant to their practice.

*The provisional budget allocation for the commissioned artwork is up to £20,000 - £70,000, inclusive of all fees and production costs, which would be confirmed at a later date and after the artist's outline proposal is received.*

### **Residency 8: Landscaping Team**

The Design Team for the new hospital includes landscape design services from Glasgow-based BMJ Architects, who will be developing the landscape design for internal courtyards within the hospital and green space around the hospital. This process is currently at the earliest stage, but is likely to include wayfinding, trails, seating areas and particularly 'den spaces' – small structures where children can play, hide, meet and invent. This residency is slightly different from the other seven in that the consultation would be spread over various wards in the hospital.

*A provisional budget allocation for artworks in landscape is hard to quantify due to the overlap with landscaping budgets and the collaborative nature of this project, but we would expect that the budget for all art projects developed for landscape areas (which is likely to include work by other artists) would be in the range of £100,000 to £205,000*

### **Other art projects for RHSC**

As noted above, the ten residencies funded by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation are one part of a wider arts commissioning approach for the RHSC. Our Arts Strategy identifies 15 programmes or projects (of which one is the residency programme itself). Whilst no budgets have yet been allocated to arts in the new hospital which is still being designed, we do expect that a number of our ideas will be developed at a future point. Therefore we would also welcome applications from artists who are not relevant to the individual residencies, but who may be interested in the following areas:

- Animations for treatment rooms
- A sculptural entrance feature
- Design of routes and entranceways towards and into the hospital
- Den spaces and small architectural structures
- Bespoke furniture and equipment
- Floor and wall treatments, and wall-mounted artworks for corridors
- Architectural glass commissions

### **What we are looking for**

Each residency will require its own specific skills and interests as outlined above, but there are some skills which are common to all the residencies. The ideal candidate for these opportunities will be a challenging, progressive artist who is self-directed, motivated, and passionate about creating new work.

- You must create opportunities for staff and patients to engage and develop skills, knowledge, and appreciation of the art process throughout the residency.
- You will need to be able to work with children, young people and adults in a hospital environment and be willing to undergo an advanced check by Disclosure Scotland.
- You will have experience of creating professional artworks for public display in a hospital setting, or will demonstrate an aptitude for this kind of project.
- You will be expected to develop a proposal for a high quality, innovative, appropriate and context-specific artwork for the new hospital.

These residency opportunities are open to all artists able to meet the above criteria, although we would be particularly interested to receive applications from Scottish artists or artists based in Scotland. We are selecting first and foremost on the quality of past work and potential relevance to the individual residencies.

### **Selection Process**

The Grit & Pearl team will curate a shortlist of suitable artists for each residency by reviewing the responses to this 'call for artists', searching our existing database and through recommendations from professional colleagues. We will shortlist three artists for each residency and arrange interviews with a selection panel. The panel will include representatives from NHS Lothian, the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, children and young people who are or have been patients at the hospital, and Nightingales Architects (the designers of the new hospital). The selection process will be very much based on a combination of the quality of past work and the personal qualities to work with a specific ward area or team in the hospital.

### **How to apply**

We would like to invite you to submit a selection of your work by sending, either by email marked 'RHSC residencies' or as a CD-Rom, images of relevant past work (10-15 jpg files between 0.5 and 2MB each), a short statement about your practice, and an up-to-date CV. Please don't send material as hard copy, which we are not able to store or return.

Please also indicate which of the residencies you'd be most interested in, and whether you are happy for us to retain your work in our database for other opportunities elsewhere.

We will review submissions and aim to respond to all applications within 6 weeks of the deadline, which is **5pm, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.**

**For further information please email: [ekeating@gritandpearl.co.uk](mailto:ekeating@gritandpearl.co.uk) or telephone 0191 2616400**

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