

# Hearth House

Hulse Road, Southampton

## Public Art

### Artist Brief - Expression of Interest stage

a space arts



## > Contents

- Summary of Key Information
- Project Overview
- Artistic Intention
- Source of Inspiration
- Project Stages
- How To Apply - Expressions of Interest (this stage)
- Proposal Requirements
- Fees, Budgets and Payment Schedules
- Online Information Session
- Access Fund
- Alternative Formats
- Contact Details

## > Appendices

1. About 'a space' arts
2. About Public Art Projects
3. Site Location
4. Building CGI (headline artwork locator)
5. Site Plans (separate file)
6. Landscaping Plans (separate file)
7. Building CGI's (separate file)

## > Summary and Key Information

### Stage 1 (this stage)

- Expressions of Interest stage closing date - **Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 9am**
- Expressions of Interest request light touch information including a written or recorded summary, initial sketches and CV only - see the full Expression of Interest section for further details, to summarise these include:
  - Up to 500 words or circa 1 side of A4, or if recorded (voice note or video) up to 3 minutes
  - Up to 4 images, or sides of A4, that visual convey your ideas and artistic intention
- All Expressions of Interest should be sent to [dan@spacearts.org.uk](mailto:dan@spacearts.org.uk)
- Project enquiries, clarification about the project, and additional access requirements can be accommodated. Please email [dan@spacearts.org.uk](mailto:dan@spacearts.org.uk) or call 07824 326005 - if the call can't be taken please leave a message and we will get back to you
- Artists Online Information session for interested artists will take place on **Thursday 18th September at 6pm** - please use the follow link to join the session - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89218759081>

### Stage 2 (for reference only at this point)

- Four artist to be selected for the Proposal Development stage will receive a £500 fee
- £25k total delivery budget available including fees and material
- Final work to be completed and installed by Summer 2027

## > Project Overview

This public art project will introduce a series of new, exciting and relevant pieces of public art to new high quality academic accommodation on Hulse Road, Southampton.

The vision is for the inclusion of public art to run through a number of open spaces on the new development along with a signature/headline piece that collectively bring a sense of intrigue and enhance the experience of living at Hearth House for its future residents.

The development itself brings a new standard to academic accommodation in the city with high calibre architectural design and a high quality materials palette that combine to create an exemplary building; therefore the ambitions for this public art project are equally high.

The development is located within a residential area near to Southampton common, a well used and much loved open green space and site of special scientific interest. The development is situated within landscaped grounds that offer the future residents opportunities to spend time within the natural environment. Throughout the landscaping green and open spaces sit alongside bespoke furniture and discreet areas where people can relax and socialise; therefore a series of intriguing and inspiring artworks are required to complement these elements.

## > Artists and Intention

We are now looking to engage an artist, or artist collective, to deliver this public art project and become part of the overall professional team. We would expect the artist to have some experience of public art, working to deliver projects in the public realm, or be able to demonstrate their ability to achieve this.

The artist will be required to meet and engage with the project team to shape the final works along with agreeing their final locations across the site. This will require the artist to work alongside other professional services, and in particular the landscape designers and site contractors. The artist will be directly supported through the process by 'a space' arts who will also be the artists first point of contact throughout the process.

The intention is for a series of works to be located across the site, along with a signature/headline work located at the front of the site towards the entrance; this area is shown in the image in Appendix 4\_Building CGI (headline artwork locator) at the end of this document.

A successful public art project will see the works infused within the environment and we envisage the artist proposing a set of thematically connected works that enhance the experience of living at Hearth House.



Artists are free to propose any relevant ideas, artworks can take any form, be made from any appropriate materials and we are open to all forms of artistic response as long as the proposed ideas complement the site, work within the landscaping designs and of course can be delivered on time and within budget.

N.B. a number of trees and root systems located across the site are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). This does not limit artistic ambition and but is flagged here as the final locations of the artworks will have to be agreed with the project team. See Appendix 6\_Landscaping Plans for TPO locations.

## > Source of Inspiration

We offer artists a theme and series of prompt questions as starting points for inspiration with a theme linked to the sites ethos, its environment and its future residents.

The theme of Biophilia invites artists to propose works that consider how humans and the natural environment experience and support each other.

**Biophilia** - *'the innate human affinity with living organic systems'*.

How can humans better integrate with the natural environment? How can people better support and appreciate the ecology of the environments around them? How can the artworks encourage residents to spend time outside in living green spaces around them? How can the artworks remind residents of their connection to the natural world and inspire them to care for it?

For references please see theses suggested links:

- [wikipedia.org/Biophilia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biophilia) - excerpt: *'the biophilia hypothesis suggests that humans possess an innate tendency to seek connections with nature and other forms of life'*
- [wikipedia.org/Biophilic\\_design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biophilic_design) - excerpt: *'Biophilic design is a concept used within the building industry to increase occupant connectivity to the natural environment through the use of direct nature, indirect nature, space and place conditions. Used at both the building and*

*city-scale, it is argued that biophilic design offers health, environmental, and economic benefits...'*

We encourage all artists to conduct further research into the Biophilia theme. However artists are also free to respond in other relevant ways; in either circumstance we ask all artists to outline how your work responds to and communicates your chosen theme in the written section of the EoI.

## > Project Stages

The project stages below give headlines only and an overview to the programme. At this stage all dates are subject to change (expect for the EoI deadline and site completion date) and are indicative; a detailed and confirmed programme will be available to the final selected artist.

September 2025 - Expressions of Interest

- **Deadline for Expressions of Interest - Tuesday 30th September at 9am**
- Internal review of all Expressions of Interest by client team with shortlisted artists selected for proposal development stage.

October and November 2025 - Proposal Development

- Shortlisted artists proposal development stage (see proposal requirements below) - deadline anticipated to be w/s 10th November 2025

December 2025 - Interviews and Selection

- Artists interviews with client team and preferred artist contracted

January to December 2026 - Artistic Production period

- Across 2026 the selected artist will make, fabricate and produce the final works of art. This year long period will also include site meetings with the client team, studio visits at relevant times throughout the process, third party fabrication, site testing as required etc, etc; everything and anything that needs to happen to make the work and be ready for site installation

January to June 2027 - Installation

- We are aiming for a flexible installation period so integrating and installing work can be coordinated with the project team and site contractors. Installing the artwork could be phased over a shorter period if agreed with professional team in advance.

July 2027 - Site completion

- All artwork to be approved by client ahead of site completion and artwork unveiled to the public with the artist expected to attend an opening ceremony.

## > How to Apply - Expressions of Interest stage

We appreciate the time and effort that goes into writing proposals, that most artists operate as freelancers, and that making a living as an artist is not easy. Therefore we offer a two stage approach to lessen this burden with an initial light touch Expression of Interest stage, followed by a paid Proposal Development stage for shortlisted artists.

We encourage artists, creatives and collectives from all backgrounds, artistic disciplines and at any career stage to submit an Expression of Interest.

For the Expression of Interest stage we would ask artists to submit a short written or recorded statement and initial visuals including:

- Up to 500 words or circa 1 side of A4, or if recorded (voice note or video) up to 3 minutes, outlining:
  - Your approach to the project
  - How your proposed work communicates your chosen theme
  - What excites you about the project and what motivates you to take it on
- Up to 4 images or sides of A4 showing:

- Initial sketches, design ideas, or artistic expressions that convey your ideas and gives us a clear sense of your artistic intentions.
- Your artist CV including any relevant experience and recent achievements. Please ensure you include a link to your website or professional social media platform
- All EoI's must be sent via email and please limit the overall combined size of all file to no more than 10MB

At the Expression of Interest stage individual site meetings can not be arranged but clarification calls on any points from within this brief can be arranged with a member of the 'a space' arts team.

All applications must be sent to [dan@spacearts.org.uk](mailto:dan@spacearts.org.uk) by the closing date and please be aware that no hard copy/postal applications can be accepted.

### **> Proposal Requirements** (if selected for the proposal development stage)

Up to four artists will be selected for this stage and paid a £500 proposal development fee.

Further details and a developed brief will be shared with the selected artists for the Proposal Development stage but we would expect artists to have significantly developed their ideas with proposals including; a costed budget, costed third party fabrication costs, proposed materials, a production timeline and a set of well developed designs/images that clearly and fully convey your artistic intentions.

When selecting materials at the stage please consider any future maintenance implications as a future maintenance pack will be a requirement of the final selected artist.

At the Proposal Development stage individual site visits can be arranged along with proposal development sessions facilitated by a member of the 'a space' arts team.

## > Fees, Budgets and Payments

### Expressions of Interest

- All Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the project team with up to four artists shortlisted to move into the Proposal Development stage. There are no fees at the Eol stage.

### Proposal Development

- The four shortlisted artists will all receive a £500 proposal development fee if they are then selected as the final artist or not. Further details of the proposal requirements will be released to the four shortlisted artists.

### Delivery Budget

- The project has an total delivery budget of £25k to cover artist fees, materials, third party fabrication costs, travel, expenses and VAT (if applicable).
- All invoices will be processed by 'a space' arts and the artist will be contacted to the organisation.

### Artist Fees

- As part the developed proposal we will request a fee proposal and would expect the artists fees to be aligned to an industry standard rate, for example the Artist Union England or A-N.
- We would anticipate the artist fees being in the region of 30-40% of the total delivery budget.

### Payment Schedule

- The delivery budget will be issued in phased payments aligned to the overall project timetable and based on percentages aligned to key project stages between January 2026 and June 2027 e.g. 10% on signing the agreement followed by 20% payments at agreed stages and a final 10% on installation/completion.

## > Online Information Sessions

An online information sessions provides an opportunity for artists to hear from the 'a space' arts Director, Dan Crow, who will talk through the artist brief and be available for any questions.

The session will take place on **Thursday 18th September at 6pm** - please use the follow link to join the session - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89218759081>

### > Access Fund

The project has a designated 'Access Fund' which is available to artists who have access needs with financial implications. However, this funding is limited and use of this budget will be agreed with shortlisted artists on an individual basis at the next stage of the application process.

### > Alternative Formats

This brief is also available in large format and can be provided in an audio on request. If you would benefit from a different format that is currently unavailable, please contact us so we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application.

### > Contact Details

- All Expressions of Interest should be sent to [dan@aspacearts.org.uk](mailto:dan@aspacearts.org.uk)
- Project enquiries, clarification about the project, and additional access requirements can be accommodated. Please emails [dan@aspacearts.org.uk](mailto:dan@aspacearts.org.uk) or call 07824 326005 - if the call can't be taken please leave a message and we will get back to you.

## > Appendices

1. About 'a space' arts
2. About Public Art Projects
3. Map of Area and Site Locator
4. Site Plans
5. Landscaping Plans
6. Building CGI's

### 1. About 'a space' arts

Established in 2000 'a space' arts is visual arts organisation and charity that supports artists, audiences and communities with an inspiring cultural programme. Our artist communities inhabit a range of spaces from converted railway arches and vacant shops to refurbished and revived historic monuments. Our work culturally reanimates forgotten spaces across Southampton and welcomes the public to explore and engage with cultural experiences. We are multi-functional visual arts organisation offering a range of cultural projects and services. Please see - [aspacearts.org.uk](http://aspacearts.org.uk)

Our project portfolio currently consists of:

**Gods House Tower** (GHT) - our RIBA and Solent Quality Place award winning arts and heritage venue housed in a refurbished 700-year old scheduled ancient monument and located in Southamptons Old Town. We culturally reanimate GHT to create a dynamic and welcoming public venue with a programme of contemporary exhibitions, activities and live events. GHT also hosts a permanent exhibition 'stories behind the stones' that immerses visitors in the fascinating and little known story of the monuments history dating back to medieval times - [godshousetower.org.uk](http://godshousetower.org.uk)

**The Arches Studios** - home to 27 visual artists the Arches offers affordable studio space and inhabits four converted Victorian railway arches. The resident artists benefit from subsidised

studios, 24/7 365 access, management and mentoring; in 2025 the Arches will celebrate its 20th anniversary as the longest running independent visual arts studio complex in the city -

[aspacearts.org.uk/arches-studios](https://aspacearts.org.uk/arches-studios)

**RIPE** - is an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and professional development opportunities at the Alfred Arcade, the Hidden Wardrobe and the Alfred Arms on Old Northam Road. Developed to retain artistic talent in the city the project is delivered in partnership with Winchester School of Art (University of Southampton) and Southampton Solent University to support an annual cohort of post-graduate artists. Alumni from the programme have an option to join the Zest Collective an independent and growing group of retained artists -

[ripesouthampton.org.uk](https://ripesouthampton.org.uk)

**Public Art Projects** - we create, commission and deliver public art projects for developers with section 106 obligations and support artists to create new and ambitious works of public art to enrich the public realm and connect with local communities - [aspacearts.org.uk/public-art-projects](https://aspacearts.org.uk/public-art-projects)

## 2. About Public Art Projects

We believe great public art can enhance places and neighbourhoods and improve the wellbeing of communities. We offer a broad definition of public art enabling this to take the form of sculptures, murals, installations, publications, performances or socially engaged events and happenings that make meaningful contributions to communities and enhance localities.

To achieve this we call on a wide range of skilled artists and practitioners, working across a range of disciplines to produce artworks which sensitively and imaginatively respond to the context, environment or history of a location.

For developers, our management service provides expert assistance and advice on delivering public artworks and meeting planning obligations as well as a offering a new creative perspective



and USP for their development . Our aim is to commission artworks that add to the experience of living in a community or place and increasing the public's awareness and understanding of the site's history or their sense of pride in the places they live, work or play.

When possible we work with local artists, fabricators and suppliers to support the local economy and environment. However we also believe in commissioning the right artist for the project and invite national artists to propose and make work for our local communities.

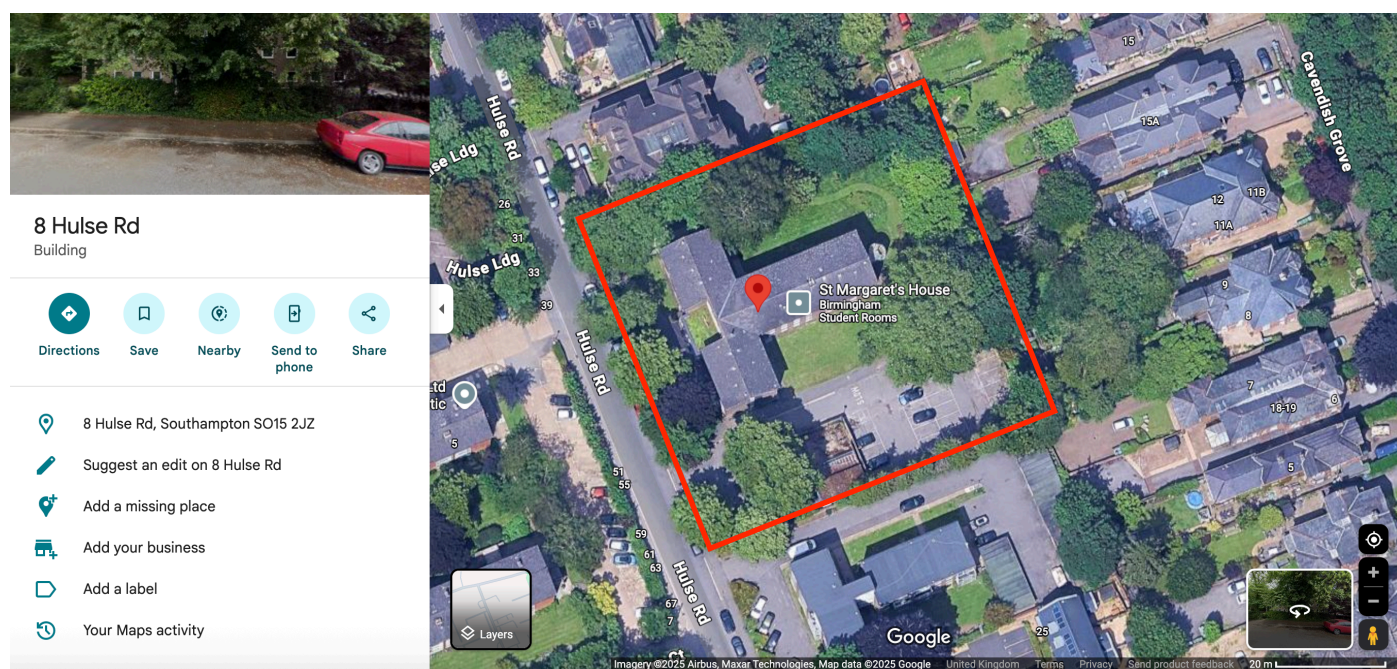
A selection of completed projects have been included in this proposal others can be seen here - [aspacearts.org.uk/public-art-projects](https://aspacearts.org.uk/public-art-projects) that include:

- Courtyard Constellation - [aspacearts.org.uk/courtyard\\_constellation](https://aspacearts.org.uk/courtyard_constellation)
- A History of Movement - [aspacearts.org.uk/a-history-of-movement](https://aspacearts.org.uk/a-history-of-movement)
- The Walls - [aspacearts.org.uk/fruit-market](https://aspacearts.org.uk/fruit-market)

### 3. Site Location

Link to Google Maps - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8RXWt1PsaMjzgs9Y7>

Site Address - 8 Hulse Road, Southampton, SO15 2JZ (formerly known as St Margaret's House)



## 4. Building CGI (headline artwork locator)



The area for 'signature/headline work' is shown above in red N.B there are three trees located in this area that are not shown in the CGI - please see Appendix 5\_Landscaping Plans for details

## 5. Site Plans

See separate file

This selection of plans is intended to give an overview of the site, its design and materials - further plans and elevations can be supplied upon request

## 6. Landscaping Plans

See separate file

This selection of plans is intended to give an overview of the sites landscaping, the extensive green spaces N.B - a number of these plans show the locations of the trees across the site including shows with TPO's (see Tree Retention & Removal plan)

## 7. Building CGI's

See separate file

These three images show an impression of the final building when complete N.B - they do not show the surrounding landscaping or trees and should be read in conjunction with the landscaping plans.