Public Art Opportunity
Artist Brief

Place of Courage
February 2020
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1. Background

1.1. About the project

Public Artwork project: Place of Courage

The City of Onkaparinga Place of Courage is a public art project which seeks to commemorate the traumatic impact of family and domestic violence on individuals, families and communities, raising awareness and furthering the dialogue for understanding and change. The City of Onkaparinga (CoO) has worked in collaboration with the Spirit of Woman organisation to develop the brief. It is significant to the project that the founder of this organisation, Helen Oxenham, was instrumental in helping to establish the first women’s shelter in southern Adelaide in Christies Beach, which opened in February 1977.

The Spirit of Woman is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to advocate a world free from domestic violence, to provide comfort and healing, to promote courage to speak up and out and create unity for everyone. https://www.spiritofwoman.com.au/mission/

Considering this, it is an aspiration of the brief that artists think about the Place of Courage project as a ‘living’ space which has the potential to support ongoing expression by survivors and those affected by family and domestic violence.

This project requires artist/artist teams with an understanding and ability to work on a project of a sensitive and emotive nature and within the context of complex community and cultural issues.

The central objective of the Place of Courage project is to create work in the nominated public place (see item 2. Site for commission) which encourage recognition of family and domestic violence using public art and design. The brief is not limited to, but may include, landscaping and planting around the awarded concept and design which would be carried out by the CoO. Please advise CoO of the landscaping and ground works desired to support the artwork concept and theme (this will be a negotiation with CoO and dependent on extra funds if available).

Creating such a place will play a vital role in the community’s sense of belonging and sense of wellbeing. It will be an opportunity for public acknowledgement of one of the largest losses of life including the disproportionate burden of family and domestic violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. The site will be a place of comfort and healing, promoting courage to speak up and out and providing a powerful symbol of a peaceful and unified community.

Other councils have been invited to participate in this project and the CoO has secured funding for a public art project in line with the vision initiated by Spirit of Woman.

There is a large body of research and statistical information we encourage you to engage with in preparing to respond to this opportunity: https://www.whiteribbon.org.au/understand-domestic-violence/facts-violence-women/domestic-violence-statistics/

Despite increasing public recognition and the dedicated efforts of many (survivors, campaigners, advocates, educators, community groups and services) these statistics testify to the continuing prevalence of family and domestic violence in Australia.
1.2. Commissioning organisation

Our city is renowned for its unique scenery, nature experiences, gastronomic delights, award winning wines and a wide range of community and cultural events and festivals which council both delivers or supports.

Our city is home to over 171,000 people from a range of social and cultural backgrounds across an area of 518 square kilometres. Most of the population live in established suburbs and residential estates, while others inhabit small coastal communities, farms and country towns. Many of our rural townships have important historical significance for the region and feature heritage listed buildings.

We are committed to building strong vibrant communities through the provision of high-quality arts and cultural opportunities and projects.

The CoO will care for and maintain the completed work.

2. Site for commission

Market Square Reserve, Old Noarlunga is situated between Patapinda Road and Market Crescent and is adjacent to Ngangkivrri/Onkaparinga River. The Old Noarlunga Institute Hall is on the north west corner and the eastern boundary has a Memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales adjacent to the river. There is a playground on the north east side of Market Crescent and family picnic areas on the river side of the reserve. The location within this site is to be identified by the CoO staff in consultation with artist/artist teams.

2.1. The work of art

The shortlisted artist/artist teams will exercise their artistic expression and freedom in the development of the concept proposal and bring their own cultural understanding to the project and approach the project requirements as a challenge and opportunity to achieve a creative conceptual outcome.

The artist/artist teams are to use their creative vision, insights and skills to interpret the aims and objectives of the project and develop a concept design for a contemporary public artwork that is sympathetic to the site and is relevant now and into the future.

The recommended site for the work has taken this into consideration; and provides an aesthetic environment with strong natural elements. Market Square is an expansive park; green, peaceful, with well-established gums and the Onkaparinga river and gorge views.

The artwork will:

- be a place of quiet reflection, contemplation and healing that provides an enduring symbol for current and future generations of the lifelong traumatic impact of family and domestic violence
- reflect the experiences of those affected by family and domestic violence
- evoke the historical significance of the community’s commitment to providing support for victims of family and domestic violence
- recognise the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in family and domestic violence,
paying attention to physical, spiritual, cultural, emotional and social wellbeing elements relevant to healing

• acknowledge that all genders, cultures and communities are impacted
• inspire and engage people to learn more
• invite people to gather, linger and sit
• convey a sense of unity, not fractured separation if made up from several components
• not focus on negativity but convey hope, optimism and lightness
• have a plaque which references the Place of Courage as a state-wide public art approach and any sponsors
• create a welcoming and inviting space, providing easy access and a sense of safety
• give a powerful public profile to the vision of a future free from family and domestic violence.

The CoO Place of Courage seeks to acknowledge that memory belongs to the individual, ‘the unique and personal remembrance of someone deeply loved, of shared lives, of unspeakable grief and longing’. At the same time, we must acknowledge the extent to which the evolving process of memory also belongs to families and neighbourhoods, communities and cities, even entire nations. How to collect the disparate memories of individuals and communities together in one space, with all their various textures and meaning, and give them material form, will be the artists’ challenge with this project.

It is not envisaged that the artwork will take a traditional monumental or memorial form. The scale of the work is important and should be carefully considered to convey the desired sense of warmth, intimacy and welcome and the existing landscape and infrastructure.

2.2. Target audience

The target audiences for the artwork are:
• the survivors of family and domestic violence
• the family members, friends and communities of people who are affected
• the broader community in general
• residents of the city and surrounding suburbs including pedestrians and cyclists
• park users including school and university students
• local, interstate and overseas tourists.

2.3. Opportunities, limitations and expectations

The artist/artist teams need to consider the Kaurna significance of the site recognising that there is a complex relationship between the cultural,
social and economic dispossession of indigenous communities and the widespread impact of family and domestic violence in these communities today. It is mandatory for the shortlisted artists in developing their concept design to meet with a Kaurna advisor at the site meeting.

The budget does not include community consultation, but the extensive consultation brief undertaken by the CoO and the Spirit of Woman organisation will be made available.

The artist/artist teams are encouraged to think about simple yet meaningful signifiers which provide the public with an opportunity to understand and reflect on this important issue. An example of a simple and very moving work is ‘Shoes on the Danube Bank’, a memorial in Budapest, Hungary. Conceived by film director Can Togay, he created it on the east bank of the Danube River with sculptor Gyula Pauer to honour the Jews who were killed by fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during World War II.

The site identified for the project is a public space used for community gatherings and participatory activities and it is desirable that the concept design proposal indicates how the work would be integrated with the broader space and raise any relevant landscaping or other design aspects (e.g. lighting and access). The existing infrastructure and landscaping of this space should be taken into consideration in the preparation of concept design proposals.

The artist/artist teams are to provide a warranty for any structural defects to their work for a minimum of 12 months after installation.

Spirit of Woman have also commissioned a memorial work for the Place of Courage project to be installed at Rotary Park, Christies Beach in 2020. It is a requirement at the concept development stage for the successful artist/artist teams to consider this work in the development of their ideas for the Market Square project.
2.4. Materials
The work will need to:

- be made of durable, robust, high quality, low maintenance materials available to achieve the artist/artist team’s concept
- withstand the potential build-up of pollutants
- be easily cleaned to remove dirt and general grime
- meet all relevant safety standards and avoid dangerous protrusions and sharp edges
- require minimal ongoing maintenance
- use materials that do not date or fade
- be resistant to vandalism and potential theft
- reflect the natural environment and feature the use of natural materials such as stone and wood in its construction
- take into account the natural environment and cultural heritage referenced in the existing artworks at the sites in choosing materiality of the works.

2.5. Budget
A maximum of three shortlisted artist(s) will be selected to develop concepts and will be paid $1200 excluding GST for the development, preparation and presentation of concept design proposals. This includes a meeting with a Kaurna elder for this part of the concept development.

The project has a budget of $27,950 excluding GST and must include artist fees, engineering reports (if required), drawings, footings, rust and termite control, fabrication, coatings, delivery of work and installation.

This budget will be overseen by the Project Officer, Public Art. Payment method will be negotiated with the selected artist(s) to ensure progress payments are made to cover start-up and development costs.

An agreed balance will be paid on completion and installation of the final artwork/s. The time for payment is 30 days from end of month in which the invoice is received. Payments will not be made on delivery. Invoices must be addressed in accordance with the details provided on the purchase order.

3. Acknowledgement by the City of Onkaparinga
The CoO will acknowledge the artist(s), project, commissioner and any project partners in a manner fitting to site.

The artist(s) of the work will be acknowledged in any publicity or promotional materials regarding the project.
4. **Timeframe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Artist brief distributed</td>
<td>Expression of Interest (EOI) submission</td>
<td>Open 19 Feb 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Close 24 March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortlisting</td>
<td>Onkaparinga Public Art Reference Team (OPART) to shortlist artists to next phase</td>
<td>1 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site briefing</td>
<td>Artists will be briefed at the site</td>
<td>14 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept assessment</td>
<td>Artists to present to Public Art Project Advisory Panel (PAPAP)</td>
<td>27 May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Recommendations by PAPAP announced</td>
<td>27 May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase III</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Design development</td>
<td>Selected artist/s will be contracted to further develop their design</td>
<td>2 June 2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final artwork designs to be submitted for approvals by council</td>
<td>19 August 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase IV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Artwork installation</td>
<td>Artist(s) to be inducted to site</td>
<td>20 October 2020</td>
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5. **Commissioning process**

EOI must be forwarded via email to mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au for the attention of Anna Hughes, Public Art Project Officer by 24 March 2020.

EOI **must be formatted into one PDF file** and include:

- statement in response to the artist brief, the site and the EOI selection criteria (no more than one page)
- current curriculum vitae (no more than two pages)
- up to 10 images of previous public artworks (included in the PDF file) labelled with date and location
- names and contact details of two referees.

5.1. **EOI assessment criteria**

OPART will shortlist up to three artist/artist teams to progress to a more involved design proposal stage from which a successful proposal will be chosen.

Assessment and shortlisting will be based on:

- an understanding of the brief
- previous examples of artwork of high artistic merit
• an ability to develop concepts and communicate ideas
• an ability to engage with communities, including school children
• an ability to work on public art projects within timelines and budgets
• experience with relevant materials (see item 2.4)
• availability throughout the proposed project period.

5.2. **Shortlisted artist – concept development**

Shortlisted artists will be required to produce a concept design proposal and present this to PAPAP.

The concept design proposal is to include:

• drawings, sketches, elevations and/or product example to convey the concept and scale of the proposed design
• an artist response to the brief
• an itemised project budget
• an indication of materials and fabrication methods
• an outline of public safety, risk management and maintenance considerations for the life of the project
• installation timeframes
• a copy of relevant insurances (or willing to obtain if successful).

5.3. **Concept design assessment**

Concept design proposals will be assessed against the following:

• response to the specifications of the brief (items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5)
• clear conceptual responses to the site and the brief
• high quality, artistic and aesthetic concept design
• capacity to meet the proposed budget and timeline
• consideration of public safety, risk management and maintenance for anticipated life of the work
• capacity to project manage the fabrication and oversee the installation of the proposed work
• artist(s) agreeing to work in conjunction with CoO staff and designated design and project teams.

6. **Contacts**

For further information and queries please contact:
Anna Hughes
Public Art, Project Officer
Ph: 08 8301 7327
Email: Anna.Hughes@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au
Appendix 1 – site map

Market Square Reserve, Old Noarlunga