

BSBT Artist Brief for Wellington Street Underpass Project, Luton**Summary:**

We are looking for an artist or group of artists to collaborate with young people in Luton to produce an artwork to reinvigorate the Wellington Street underpass, bringing it to life, and creating a local landmark that has been inspired by the ideas and vision of young people across the town.

The work can be paint and/or light based, and be a permanent installation for the town.

The selected artist(s) will be supported by the Revoluton Arts team through the development of the work, as well as Cultural Enabler and Highways Team at Luton Council.

This brief is deliberately very open, as we are interested in starting a conversation with an artist or collective to explore the possibilities presented by the partnership, the underpass and in particular the young people as participants and co-creators of this work.

We are therefore particularly interested in hearing from artist(s) who have a track record of meaningful collaboration with young people to realise high quality outcomes.

We are keen to hear your ideas for starting points, areas of particular curiosity and inspiration. But we recognise that the process ultimately will define the outcomes of the work as it develops, so these are not expected to be set in stone from the outset.

Budget:

The budget for this project is in the region of £20,000, which must cover fees, expenses, materials and be inclusive of VAT. Given the short timescale for participation and delivery, it is important that you are clear about what is possible in terms of delivery and consider how to create maximum impact within a tight budget and timescale.

The Wellington Street underpass has multiple access points to light, and therefore for artists wishing to use lighting as part or wholly for this may apply for a further £3K to support this. The artist(s) will be expected to manage all aspects of the technical and build installation within budget.

Note: Luton Council may be able to support with the costs of preparing the surfaces of the underpass ready for artwork to be installed and/or finishing the surfaces of the underpass to protect it from graffiti. Please see 'Preparation & Installation' for further detail.

Timescale:

The selected artist/s will work during February and March 2018 to collaborate with young people across the town in the creation and collection of ideas for the work. We expect the final sign off of works to be completed by 31 March 2019.

Revoluton Arts will support the selected artist/s with the engagement of young people to participate in the project.

Background to Revoluton Arts:

Revoluton Arts is one of 21 Creative People and Places (CPP) programmes funded through Arts Council England to enable more people to engage with and be inspired by the arts. As an action research programme, the CPP programmes are aimed to encourage new approaches to working with communities that are responsive and resonant to the individuality of place. The programme places value in engaging local people in all elements of the work from participant, decision-maker, creative, audience or volunteer.

Now entering its Phase 2 of delivery, Revoluton's focus will be to connect Luton's communities through the diversity of its stories and shared experiences, working towards everyday creativity, empathy and exchange. We will place 'Stories of Luton' at the heart of Luton CPP's narrative, working on the ethos that everyone has a story to tell. Some stories may be well-known, even commonplace for family and friends, yet hidden between neighbours, colleagues only a few doors away. Revoluton Arts role and challenge will be to help discover, manifest and share these stories and from the full diversity of Luton's communities.

This project forms an integral part of our work with young people from across the town, and embedding their voice into the heart of our work for the next Phase of our programme. www.revolutonarts.com

Background: The Project Partners

Building Stronger Britain Together (BSBT)

This project is funded through Building Stronger Britain Together (BSBT), a Home Office funded programme that is designed to bring communities together and build strong foundations for social cohesion. Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) is a partnership between UK government, civil society groups and individuals across the UK. It seeks to bring people together to build stronger, more resilient communities, tackle extremism in all its forms, and offer people a positive alternative regardless of race, faith, sexuality, age and gender.

Working in partnership with organisations, schools and communities – including Luton Town Football Club - across Luton, the campaign celebrates the town's many voices, demonstrating how they come together to create a town people can be proud of. Many Voices, One Town builds on commitments from the Government, Luton in Harmony and Luton Borough Council to work in partnership with individuals and organisations to build more cohesive and resilient communities and make a stand against extremism in all its forms.

Luton Borough Council

Luton Council's strategy for the arts, cultural and creative industries 2017 – 2027 highlights the positive impact the arts can have on Luton's places and spaces, skills and jobs, community cohesion and children and young people. In 2019, Luton Council will embark upon a Pilot Year of Culture entitled People, Power, Passion, which will explore this impact whilst reaching audiences through ambitious, innovative, inclusive arts activity. This commission will join the council-led initiatives in 2019 and form part of Pilot Year activity.

Luton Culture

Luton Culture is an arts and cultural charity for the people of Luton and beyond. We provide exceptional and meaningful engagement with museums, arts centres and libraries for thousands of regular users from Luton and further afield throughout the year. We encourage individuals and groups to enjoy and learn about arts and culture, engage with heritage and use their talents and interests to make a difference. We provide opportunities for people of all ages to take part in reading, writing, performing, making, creating, experimenting, discussing, collaborating and presenting culture. We actively support and showcase artistic talent, creativity and skill. Luton is a post industrial town, known for its history in manufacturing through Vauxhall Motors, Electrolux, SKF and hat factories such as Olneys, Gurney's, Connors. Hat making began in Luton during the 16th century and this industry dominated the local economy. Luton-made straw and felt hats have been, and still are marketed across the world. Once boasting over a hundred hat factories across the town, Luton now has four. Economically Luton now benefits from the development of London Luton Airport, a new enterprise zone, and excellent transport links and infrastructure which places Luton in an enviable position with easy access to national and international travel, trade and recreation. Luton has a population of just over 200,000 (51% are white, 30% Asian, 10% Black and 9% other). The 2011 census identified Luton to be a 'plural' town, where no one ethnic group is in the majority. Luton has a higher than national average population of young people and a lower than national average number of people over the age of 44. Further information about the Trust's work is available on www.lutonculture.com.

1. Requirements of the Brief

The brief:

The main aim of this commission is to work with young people across the town aged from 16-24yrs, and give voice to their ideas that give the underpass a distinctive sense of Luton's identity and help to establish a sense of place.

The artist should consider how the proposed artwork would:

- Create a distinctive identity
- Be an attractive and high quality visual addition to Luton
- Foster a sense of local pride and ownership
- Be original, site specific and of a high quality throughout
- Use durable materials suitable for longevity in an external environment.
- Require minimal maintenance and have a carefully considered maintenance plan.
- Have a minimum life span of 10 years
- Comply with relevant health and safety regulations (supported by Luton Council)

As outlined, central to this work is the participation of young people in the development of ideas for the work as well as opportunities for young people to be involved in the installation. The installation will culminate in an Underpass Festival devised and delivered by young people, which will formally 'launch' the work and invite the community to celebrate the rejuvenated space.

In your proposal, please consider how you will work with young people to achieve this and give examples where possible of engaging with young people in previous projects. Please note, this project will be supported by a Young People's Producer who will help support the engagement process.

Role of the Artist

The selected artist will be required to:

- Oversee the creation and installation of all parts of the commission
- Work with Luton Council's Highways team to ensure compliance with access, health and safety and maintenance requirements
- Provide a detailed budget
- Provide a draft programme
- Ensure and demonstrate that the materials are fit for purpose
- Provide a maintenance plan
- Provide risks assessments and method statements for installation
- Be available for any press activity
- Support the project through providing social media content
- Collaborate with Revoluton Arts and BSBT to promote the work
- Promote and advocate the work through personal and professional networks.
- Attend monthly planning meetings with the commissioning panel
- Provide on-going documentary feedback and photographs through the project

Preparation & Installation: The Wellington Street underpass currently has tiled walls which will require preparation prior to the installation. Luton Council will fund and complete preparation works in accordance with their budget and access/maintenance requirements. The way in which the artist requires the walls to be prepared are subject to agreement by Luton Council. Possible options for preparation/installation are as follows:

1. The artist paints/installs directly onto the walls of the underpass. The existing wall tiles will be removed in advance and the walls painted white. Artwork will then be painted over with clear graffiti-resistant paint.
2. The artist paints/installs directly onto new wall tiles in the underpass. The existing wall tiles will be removed and replaced by new white tiles. The artwork will then be painted over with clear graffiti-resistant paint.
3. The artist paints/installs onto new wall tiles in an off-site location (workshop) which are then fired off-site and laid onto the walls of the underpass. The council would support with ordering the tiles, laying them once fired and paint over with clear graffiti-resistant paint. (Note: the sourcing of workshop space/industrial kiln and tile transport will have budgetary impact and should be considered by the artist. This option is dependent on appropriate workshop space being sourced which Revoluton will assist with).
4. Light: any light installation is subject to agreement and must comply with health and safety requirements. Applicants wishing to use light are encouraged to discuss their application with us in advance.

Note: a combination of/alteration to these approaches may be possible.

The artist should consider which of these approaches would best suit their proposal and include this information in their application.

Insurance: The artist should have public liability insurance to the value of £5 million

Responsible to: Revoluton Project Director and Project Panel

Images and Site Information

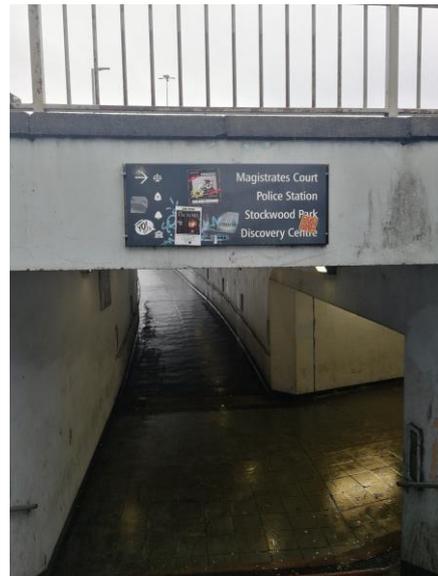
The artist is expected to work in the Underpass area only. The area will be cleaned and prepared before work commences. Walkways leading to and from the underpass will also be painted beforehand, and do not form part of this commission.

Image (below):

showing view from entrance point 1



*Image (right):
showing view from
entrance point 2*

**Site Visits:**

Access available to the Wellington Street underpass at any time. A minimum of three meetings with Luton Council's Highways team and Cultural Enabler will be required. These will be scheduled prior to confirmation of the intended works, before works begin and upon completion

1. Timescales

2019 dates:	
Informal discussion	Contact Jenny Williams, Project Director, Revoluton Arts jenny@revolutonarts.com
11:59pm Friday 18 th Jan 2019	Deadline for applications
By Friday 25 th January 2019	Shortlisting by panel
Wednesday 30 th January 2019	Interviews for shortlisted artists (must be able to attend interview in Luton)
From w/beg 3 rd Feb - Friday 31 st May	Underpass installation to be completed by 31 March 2019 Attendance at Young People's Underpass Festival on Saturday 27 th April; Site maintenance visit one month after completion of works.

It is anticipated that the project will commence in early February with final sign off by 31st March and culminating in the Underpass Festival to take place on Saturday 27th April 2019.

The artist(s) should demonstrate their ability to fulfill this timeframe. The final timeline will be agreed with the commissioned artist(s) at contract stage.

Queries

Applicants can make enquiries regarding the commission to jenny@revolutonarts.com

2. How to Apply

Please submit tenders to info@revolutonarts.com by 11.59pm on Friday 18th January 2019.

Shortlist for interview will be assessed against the following information.

Assessment area	The information you should include in your tender
EXPERIENCE , SKILLS & ABILITY	<p>To apply for this commission, we require a proposal containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short outline of why this project interests you, your area of focus and the process you would undertake towards the realisation of the final work. • An outline of your previous work and examples of no more than 3 projects that you feel demonstrate why your practice is relevant for this opportunity (including images or links to video), particularly work that includes participation and community voice by and with young people • A simple budget outlining how you would aim to use the available budget, including your daily rate. • An initial sketch or design • A description of the materials you are proposing to use • A brief description of fabrication and installation methods • A brief maintenance plan • A draft engagement programme outlining how you would engage with young people. • An outline of how you will capture the process of creating this work • A detailed CV <p>Please combine all of this together as a single PDF document Incomplete submissions will be excluded.</p> <p>All applicants must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS checked/willing to have DBS checks • Able to provide a copy of their GDPR policy • Eligible to work in the UK <p>Please email applications to info@revolutonarts.com by 11.59pm on Friday 18th January 2019.</p> <p>Availability –please indicate availability to meet timescale, outlining the start and finish date</p> <p>Please indicate your earliest start date</p>