RIBA + Hull 2017 Co-Commission

Briefing Note

**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017**

In 2017 the eyes of the world will be on Hull as it becomes UK City of Culture. Hull is only the second city to hold the title, and the first in England. Hull 2017 has been set up to produce 365 days of transformative culture through a range of diverse and high profile events and projects. The year has been broken into four ‘thematic’ seasons which inform the programme;

Jan – March “Made in Hull”

Apr – Jun “Roots and Routes”

Jul – Sept “Freedom”

Oct – Dec “Tell the World”

See the Hull 2017 website for more information [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

As part of the overall artistic and cultural programme we are directing a major programme of temporary art commissions for the city centre - ‘Look Up’. This ambitious programme will respond to, and reveal in new and surprising ways, Hull’s remarkable architecture, streets and public spaces.

Artists, architects and designers are being invited to create work that alters the city in some way, shifting perceptions of the place, turning the familiar into something strange and wonderful, intriguing and celebratory. Commissions will be broad ranging and will include sound design, lighting installations, digital, interactive and socially engaged works, as well as sculptural and architectural interventions*.* The city becomes a dynamic setting for, and subject of, the artists’ work, rather than a stage on which the work is displayed.

‘Look Up’ will complement the extensive programme of city centre public realm refurbishment being delivered by Hull City Council, which includes an integrated series of permanent public art works.

**COMMISSION PURPOSE**

The RIBA is the national collection of architecture and aims to deliver ambitious programmes across the UK, in collaboration with its local offices and cultural partners. The UK City of Culture is a flagship event that offers the opportunity to extend RIBA’s reach and diversity its audiences. As the forthcoming UK City of Culture, Hull 2017 is inviting artists, architects and designers to create work that responds to and sits within the city’s newly designed public realm. These specially commissioned works form the ‘Look-Up’ programme, inspiring new relationships with Hull’s architecture and public spaces.

The RIBA and Hull 2017 co-commission is part of the Look-Up programme and must dare to be different, pushing the boundaries of how architecture is communicated. An architect/artist commission will allow the subject to be approached from a fresh angle, attracting new and varied audiences. It will stimulate debate about architecture and its social purpose and allow RIBA to establish closer connections with cultural institutions beyond London and Liverpool.

Combining an artist with an architect will allow an exchange of ideas and experiences that results in a rich visual design and surrounding programme. Commissioning an artist will provide an opportunity for RIBA to reach out to a new public audience as well as appealing to culturally aware groups who may have limited architectural knowledge.

**SCOPE OF PROJECT**

The co-commission must reflect the following four principles. These will be explained in the design brief and selection of the design team will be based upon their fulfilment.

**1. Collaboration**

A key aspect of the commission is the collaboration between an architect and an artist to approach architecture through different artistic fields, providing new routes into the subject matter. The Design Team selected will represent both these parties and a continued dialogue with the RIBA Curators, Hull 2017 project team, and appointed external design advisors will aid the development and refinement of the design.

**2. Purpose - *making something useful for the city***

The installation should be a functioning piece of architecture, rather than a visual artwork or sculpture. This could be a pavilion, a site for dialogue, play or other civic uses. Its purpose should engage the residents and visitors of Hull in new and exciting ways by responding to existing or historical uses of the urban site. It will be the creative challenge for the Design Team to specify this usefulness in both their Expression of Interest (EOI) and the detailed design proposal.

**3. Responding to context**

It is critical that the design is site specific and responds to its topography, neighbouring architecture and functions. Design Teams are encouraged to look at historic and contemporary use of the site to inform their proposal.

**4. Materiality**

The structure should make significant use of galvanised steel. The Design Team is encouraged to explore the properties of the material and investigate new ways of using it.

**SITE**

Market Place has been identified as the preferred site, with 3 potential locations identified.