**Hull 2017 – Look Up**

**Commission Proposal Brief – The Deep**

**1 Introduction**

The eyes of the world are on Hull as it hosts the UK City of Culture 2017. Hull is only the second city to hold the title, and the first in England. Hull 2017 is producing and promoting 365 days of transformative culture through a range of diverse and high profile events and projects. The year has been broken into four seasons which inform the programme and this commission will from part of ‘Tell the World’ which will take place from October-December.

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 responds to, and reveals in new and surprising ways, Hull’s remarkable architecture, streets and public spaces.

Artists, architects and designers have been commissioned 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 are broad ranging and include sound design, lighting installations, digital and interactive works, as well as sculptural and architectural interventions*.* The city has become a dynamic setting for, and subject of, the artists’ work, rather than a stage on which the work is displayed.

‘Look Up’ complements 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.

**2 The Deep – a creative partner with Hull 2017**

Hull 2017 is working in partnership with key organisations and institutions in the city during the City of Culture period. **The Deep** is a major partner and with Hull 2017 is jointly funding and developing a series of new, site specific commissions within the Look Up programme, centred on The Deep itself. These include ‘Washed up Car-go’, an installation using customized cars by Chris Dobrowolski and BLEACHED by Tania Kovats. See www.thedeep.co.uk

The Deep is a spectacular “Submarium”, an award-winning aquarium-based visitor attraction which is home to 3,500 fish and other marine creatures. The dramatic building, which overlooks the Humber estuary, was designed by architects Sir Terry Farrell and Partners, and is one of the most successful Millennium lottery-funded projects in the UK. Since opening in 2002 The Deep has welcomed over three million visitors.

The Deep is also an environmental and educational charity. Its mission is to create a deeper understanding of the world’s oceans, and the main visitor attraction supports educational and research programmes. The Deep works closely with a number of research and conservation partners, including the University of Hull and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

1. **Approach**

Hull 2017’s ‘Tell the World’ season will *look at how Hull is redefining itself as a key city within the North; a place reborn, with the voice and confidence of a city on the u*p. The Deep is very much part of the story of Hull reborn. The brief for this commission responds to the physical, cultural and social context of The Deep – its iconic architecture, its marine narrative and its contribution to the re-emergence of the city.

The building was conceived as a geological metaphor, rising out of the ground like a crystalline rock formation. Sir Terry Farrell described how he, ‘*Wanted the feeling of a rock coming out of the ground, but how do you make it so it is rising not sinking?’*. He also described how the form and external surfaces of the building were conceived to have, ‘*metaphorical associations with wave or glacier-like forms.’.* Apparently, the architect had in mind Caspar David Friedrich’s painting, ‘The Sea of Ice’ (1824) when he initially conceived the form of The Deep. This romantic landscape depicts a shipwreck in the middle of a broken ice-sheet, whose shards have piled up after the impact. The ice has become like a monolithic tomb, whose edges jut into the sky.

The interior display was designed by John Csaky Associates and the, ‘*Interior spaces were strongly influenced by the physical nature of the ocean. The building section offsets the solid (water) and void (circulation space), giving visitors a sensation of immersion within an ocean environment.’*

An appreciation of, and response to, the external form played in relation to the internal spaces of The Deep provides an exciting line of enquiry for this commission.

Using light, projection and potentially digital and spatial mapping, it is intended that this commission will focus on transforming the external appearance, and sensual experience, of the building at night. Our conception is for a time-based projection cycle which would use the building itself as the subject, rather than using the building as a large scale screen onto which content is projected. The commissioned artist will provide a creative response to the architect’s vision, researching their approach and exploring ways of using kinetic light projection and dynamic sound to give a new dimension to the vision which informed the look and feel of The Deep.

**4 Artist’s Brief**

The Artist is invited to research and develop a light projection work that responds to and transforms The Deep at night, taking a lead from the ‘Approach’ detailed in 3 above. It is expected that the work will have a set duration and can be presented on the basis of a timed sequence over several evenings, say between the hours of 6-10pm.

The artist is expected to develop this work through research and dialogue with the staff of The Deep and those involved with its design, development, operation and research.

The Artist will initially be appointed on a Research and Development Agreement. During this time, they will undertake research, consultation, site visits and develop a Concept Proposal for review by Hull 2017 and The Deep. The Concept Proposal will include:

* written rationale/concept
* description of specifications and process
* outline technical information
* outline costings
* outline procurement and installation strategy
* images

Once this Concept Proposal has been approved, the Artist will enter into a full Commission Agreement with Hull 2017. This agreement will include a further stage of information requirements for review which will show detailed plans for the project including

* detailed cost estimates
* technical specifications
* programme (fabrication/installation/removal)
* risk assessment
* detailed method statements for fabrication and installation
* maintenance requirements

The maximum project budget, inclusive of fees, will be £90,000 (ex VAT).

**Concept Design Fee**

The Concept Design fee, inclusive of expenses, is £5,000.

**5 Working Relationships**

Key contacts:

Hazel Colquhoun – Co Curator, Look Up

Andrew Knight - Co Curator, Look Up

Sam Hunt - Executive Producer, Hull 2017

Chris Clay – Technical & Operations Director, Hull 2017

Hannah Williams Walton – Assistant Producer, Hull 2017

Neil Porteus – Finance Director, The Deep

Louise Kirby – Operations & Personnel Manager, The Deep

**6 Selection**

**Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest**

Stage 1 seeks Expression of Interest from invited parties. If you would like to be considered for this project, you are invited to submit

* Completed questionnaire
* Detailed curriculum vitae, including members of your proposed Team (if applicable), including experience of relevant projects
* Documentation of schemes of a relevant nature undertaken by you and members of your proposed Team (as applicable)

**Stage 2 – Artist Selection**

We will review and evaluate Expressions of Interest based on

* Design skills and capability
* Track record and experience

Up to 5 Artists will be shortlisted and invited to present their approach and discuss their response to the brief to a Selection Panel representing the Steering Group and key stakeholders in the project. An Artist will be selected and commissioned initially to prepare Concept Design Proposals in response to this brief.

**Programme**

Expressions of Interest invited

Shortlist presentations – Thursday 27th April 2017

Artist appointed

Preparation & presentation of Concept Design Proposals by Thursday 18th June 2017

**Submissions**

Please submit the submission document as a PDF file emailed to Hannah Williams Walton ([Hannah.WilliamsWalton@hull2017.co.uk](mailto:Hannah.WilliamsWalton@hull2017.co.uk))