

Artist Brief for Public Artwork for a New Porthaven Care Home in Great Holm, Milton Keynes



| | |
|--|---|
| Deadline for Expressions of Interest: | Midnight, 27 October 2024 |
| Project Budget: | £37,750 (including Artist Design Fee £5,000.00 (based on £375/day) and fabrication & installation budget of £32,750.00. |

The Commission

Porthaven Homes would like to commission an artist to work with Addo and the design team of a new care home in Milton Keynes to produce a permanent artwork for the site that will help to enhance the landscaping around the Care Home and in turn, the wellbeing and everyday experiences of its residents, staff and visitors.

The artist will be invited to undertake a period of research and design development in consultation with the client, their design team and Addo before developing a design for a standalone artwork that responds to the specific context of the care home and the local area.

We are open to working with individual artists, partnerships, collectives or studios, if they meet the criteria of the brief.

We want the project to be: artist driven, relevant to future staff, users and visitors,

and responsive to the specific context and location of the work. The exact form and content of the artwork will be informed by the research and consultations undertaken and the artist's practice.

The artwork must meet the s.106 requirement for public art for the new development, as well as *Milton Keynes Council Plan:MK 2016-31*, which outlines the Council's ambitions for Milton Keynes' 'Culture and Community' (<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/PlanMK%20Adoption%20Version%20%28March%202019%29.pdf>, see pp. 208 – 217).

Currently, the preferred location for the artwork is indicated by the red asterisk in front of the Chessboard Lounge on the plan in **Appendix 1** of this brief. This will mean that the artwork is visible and accessible to residents (and their visitors) on the ground floor, who are in residential care and more physically able. With enough height, the artwork may also be visible from the road. However, it should be noted that the home is surrounded by a 1.8m black metal rail fence with a hedge behind it, which may limit viewing of the sculpture from the road in places.

Context

Porthaven Care Homes is building a new care home on the site of the former fire station in Great Holm, Milton Keynes. This has involved the demolition of the existing fire station building to provide a 3-storey 'L' shaped, 75-bed care home with associated landscaping and parking. The site has carefully designed outdoor areas that are aimed to enhance the wellbeing of residents and visitors, including: a nature garden, a courtyard garden, a horticultural therapy garden, communal terraces, a sensory walk and enhanced mature and ornamental boundary planting. This is in keeping with Porthaven Homes' belief that "[w]hen excellent care combines with good nutrition, physical and mental stimulation, well-being and contentment are promoted" and their desire to provide "an innovative and inspirational leisure and wellness programme" for residents.

Porthaven are one of the leading care providers in the country and are committed to continuing to deliver beautifully designed, purpose-built homes that are run professionally, responsibly and with integrity and care. Acting as both developer and operator enables early engagement with the communities that they hope to serve, enables a longer-term view of development decisions and ensures their homes are designed to deliver the very highest standards of care.

The home will provide personal, nursing, dementia and end-of-life care for the elderly, with care plans tailored to meet the individual requirements of each resident and provided 24-hours a day by a large team of well-trained and qualified people. This commitment to quality is evident in the considerable level of communal and amenity facilities that support a market-leading leisure and wellness programme, with lots of events and activities, helping to make Porthaven care homes a place where residents enjoy living and families enjoy visiting.

The landscaping scheme for the new care home reflects this ethos (see **Appendix 2**). It features native shrub and tree planting to the boundaries to complement the existing hedging and trees that will be retained where possible and will help to provide ecological enhancements to the site. Communal Terraces and Footpaths providing access for all residents are proposed with seating areas to allow residents to enjoy the attractive outdoor space.

Porthaven is also an active and leading member of NAPA, the National Activity Providers Association, a registered charity devoted to promoting high quality activity provision for older people. Porthaven understands the growing awareness people have for their leisure and wellness, and by working with NAPA, they offer a wide-ranging programme of activities within the home and the local community, which nurture a lifestyle for each resident that is meaningful and fulfilling. 2022 was the NAPA Year of Creativity - a national campaign to support the care sector to prioritise creativity, with the aim of improving psychological and social well-being. There is a growing body of evidence related to the positive impacts of art and creativity for people with dementia. These include improved mood and attention and enhanced communication between people with dementia, their carers, and family supporters. In addition, recent cutting edge scientific research around neuro-aesthetics (highlighted recently by an episode of Thomas Heatherwick's *Building Soul* radio series (2023) – 'Why boring buildings are bad for us') contends that place and building design directly impacts wellbeing and advocates for sustainable design, unique and human scale designs rather than "identikit modern urban environments" that may alienate people and impact negatively on our sense of place and wellbeing. Public artworks integrated into the design of buildings, places and spaces are one way of achieving this and so the artwork for the new Porthaven Homes site in Milton Keynes aims to help to enhance the well-being of residents, staff and visitors.

Consultation with Communities and Stakeholders

The main point of contact for the artist(s) will be Sarah Pace of Addo, who will support the selected artist and oversee the delivery of the project. A core Steering Group has been setup as a means of consulting about the artworks, made up of: the Development Director, the project's Landscape Architect, the Project Manager / Employers Agent, and Addo.

The artist will be expected to develop and implement their design in consultation with the Steering Group and may need to widen consultations as appropriate.

Constraints

The work or works will need to be durable, have a low maintenance requirement, be resistant to vandalism and constructed with due care to DDA regulations and health and safety issues.

The design must be dementia friendly, so, for example, particular care should be taken to ensure it is stable if leaned on or pushed and should avoid flat mirrored surfaces (where a person's reflection would be evident).

Although the residents are not in direct contact with the artwork as it will be within a planting bed, we must be mindful of its materials and avoid any projected/pointed edges.

In addition, the hedge planting proposed along the boundary treatment may be kept above or at 1.5m high. If kept at roughly 1.5m high, there will be some intervisibility between the Care Home and the surroundings and therefore the art piece would be visible for both.

Budget

The total budget is £37,750.00†, broken down as follows:

Artist Design Fee: £5,000.00†
Artwork Budget: £32,750.00†

The artist's design fee for the project is £5,000†, including all travel, subsistence and material expenses. This is for research and preparation, technical meetings and consultations, production of working drawings and models and final designs.

The budget for the implementation of the artist's designs is £32,750.00†, including all costs associated with the production and installation of the public artwork (such as artist's fees, materials, delivery, fabrication and installation costs of the permanent work). On submission of their proposed design, the Artist will be expected to provide a budget breakdown for this. Implementation of any designs is subject to approval by the Steering Group and Client.

The artist must manage the installation. If there are any building or landscaping works required to prepare for the installation (e.g. a concrete base or surface preparation to accommodate stone chips or decorative paving, etc) the client may engage their contractor to undertake these once a clear specification has been agreed.

† The above amounts are exclusive of VAT.

Project Timescale

Midnight, 27 October 2024 Deadline for Expressions of Interest

By 08 November 2024 Invitations to interview sent to shortlisted artists

w/c 18 November 2024 Artists Interviews conducted online

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| By 22 November 2024 | Artist Appointed |
| w/c 25 November 2024 | Induction Meeting for Artist in-person, onsite |
| 25 Nov 2024 – 28 Feb 2025 | Design Phase |
| March – end of September 2025 | Fabrication and installation of artwork. We will consider any proposals that require a longer fabrication and installation time on their merits. |

Professional Practice

In the event of manufacture by the artist, the artist must demonstrate current and appropriate indemnity insurance relevant to the artist in person and to the object/s to be manufactured.

Where it is anticipated that the artist, in conjunction with the project team, will carry out on-site manufacture or installation, adequate and appropriate public liability and professional indemnity insurance must be in place. In the event of commissioning details of Professional and Product Indemnity will be required sufficient to provide the client with assurance on matters of liability and so that neither the client or contractor are exposed to undue risk on any element commissioned from the artist. The observation of CDM regulations is required where appropriate.

Detailed consideration must be given to:

- Issues of Health and Safety both in the design proposal and realization
- Methodology
- Material and structural integrity
- Methodology for manufacture
- Long-term maintenance and heavy use

Application and Selection Process

If you have a proven track record of delivering permanent artwork within the public realm and are interested in this commission opportunity then please submit your Expression of Interest to: commissions@addocreative.com by **Midnight, 27 October 2024**.

Your Expression of Interest should include:

- A statement (no more than two sides) about your practice, why you are interested in this commission, how your practice is relevant to the brief and demonstrating your track record of delivering public artworks.

- A maximum of 10 digital images/pages/slides (as Powerpoint, PDF document or individual numbered and captioned JPEGs). Please send large files via WeTransfer, DropBox or Google Drive links.
- An up-to-date CV

We do not require designs at this stage because it is expected that these will be developed once appointed in response to the site and in consultation with the Steering Group

A shortlist of artists for an interview will be selected from the Expressions of Interest that we receive. These artists will be asked to present examples of their past work at the interview and will be assessed following the interview based on their past work and initial responses to the brief.

The interview panel will consist of the Steering Group members. A detailed interview schedule and information of panel members will be distributed prior to interview. Interviews will take place online in **w/c 21 October 2024** (exact date t.b.c.).

Further Information:

Appendix 1: Plan Showing Proposed Location of Artwork

Appendix 2: Landscaping Scheme for the New Care Home

Appendix 3: CGI Elevations of the New Care Home

If you have any further queries about this opportunity, please contact:

Sarah Pace, Co-Director, Addo, commissions@addocreative.com

Attachments

1. Plan Showing Proposed Location of Artwork
2. Landscaping Scheme for the New Care Home
3. CGI Elevations of the New Care Home