

Stockport Town Centre Street Art Invitation to Tender

Context

STOCKPORT, THE PLACE THAT MAKES ITSELF

'We will be the place in the north where makers dream and dreamers make.

We want as many people as possible to enjoy what's made here, to dream and make themselves.

Stockport is a town centre, rural and suburban villages, old estates, new estates and countryside.

We are connected by paths, canals, road, broadband, rail lines, an international airport, parks, squares and public spaces.

We are stitched together by local groups for the visual arts, music, reading and theatre groups, writers' circles, our community arts company, professional and semi-professional outfits, schools, colleges, start ups, studios, incubator units, shops, restaurants and food outlets, independent cinemas and theatres, local authority museums, galleries and libraries.

We watch, read and play at home, we are makers, artists, entrepreneurs and activists.

We are families who have been here forever and people who have just arrived.

Our history is change.

We are 289,000 people and growing. A place that makes itself.'

Change is already well underway with a £1 billion investment that will build on our town's strengths as a business location:

- creating new reasons for people to visit Stockport;
- building new homes that are accessible for everyone; and
- investing in the rejuvenation of historic and important parts of our town.

Anchored by the historic Market Hall, the Market Place and Underbanks is a unique and special place in Stockport town centre, rich in heritage. We want to see this area become a vibrant and 'must visit' place once again, and have launched a £7 million investment programme in the area.

In January 2017, a further £1.8 million of funding was secured for the Underbanks following a successful Townscape Heritage Lottery bid for our Rediscovering the Underbanks project. Together, we are working hard to see historic buildings brought back into use; events launched in the area and ever-growing visitors coming to the Market Place and Underbanks.

In addition, Stockport has secured £50,000 in GMCA funding to support arts and creativity after securing Great Manchester's Town of Culture for 2023/2024. This funding opened submissions for community funds, creative commissions, and strategic projects, encapsulating the themes of Stockport makes, moves, sounds, and tastes.

Brief

We are looking to appoint experienced street artists (either a collective, organisation or individual artists) to manage the production and delivery of art installations in Stockport Town Centre to form Phase 2 of a Street Art Trail – this will follow on from Phase 1, which was completed in 2022.

We are looking for artists who can deliver exemplary creativity and vision in the design, delivery and legacy planning of a Street Art Trail across Stockport Town Centre. We would like to hear from those who have experience of working on high-quality, unique and place specific art installations, but we also welcome bids from local and emerging artists who can demonstrate their suitability.

Phase 2 will include a total of 4 sites, including 3 sites in the Underbanks conservation area in Stockport Old Town, and 1 site in Merseyway/Princess Street. These art installations should have a strong focus on storytelling and linkages to the history of the area. Varying in location, size and surface material, the street installations may feature anything from large scale murals to smaller interventions. We are also committed to ensuring that this project is driven by the voices of as diverse a spectrum of artistic styles and lived experience as possible, including a cross-genre range of street art and mural styles.

The total secured budget from Totally Stockport and Stockport Council for Phase 2 of the programme is a maximum of **£14,000**. We would like to see proposals that include clearly marked fees for all work including delivery and maintenance. Artists may tender for as many of these four sites as they see fit. Restrictions permitting, the artworks will be installed during Autumn 2023. All murals must include an anti-graffiti / anti-fade varnish.

Sites

The 4 sites that we have identified as locations for the street art are as below:

Syndikat, Great Underbank (surface: brick, situated between the windows):



For this location, the tender is for this specific mock up design of the Joy Division album *Unknown Pleasures*. A black painted background is required on both gables of the property as pictured. *Unknown Pleasures* was an album recorded at Strawberry Studios in Stockport in 1979.

18-19 Marketplace (surface: brick, can be seen from St Petersgate Bridge)



Stok (converted department store to offices, surface: brick): Suggestion of a 3D Graphic design



11 High Street (surface: brick) Suggestion: reference to the history of Robinsons Brewery (ex-Royal Oak pub)



Themes

Applicable in the Underbanks

- The Underbanks has a unique and interesting past that we want to showcase. While some of its history is well known, the Underbanks holds many untold stories and hidden secrets.
- We encourage artists to research the history and heritage of the Underbanks, helpful resources may include our social media (search [@Underbanks_SK](#) on Twitter and Instagram), the Local Heritage Library Image Archive, and Stockport Heritage Trust.
- Over recent years, an array of independent retailers have moved into the Underbanks. Like the Milliners, Hosiers and Curriers that came before them, these businesses have become the heart of the Underbanks today.

Applicable to wider Stockport

- Stockport is rich with history from famous faces to interesting events and progressive ideas for the future. Colour plays a key role in animating and energising local places and we ask that vibrancy is considered!

Requirements

The artist will oversee:

- Design and artistic medium
- Health & Safety
- A commitment to sustainable working practices, minimising the environmental impact of the installations

The supporting steering group will oversee:

- Administration
- Landlord liaison and planning
- Marketing & Communications
- Partner liaison & community engagement
- Operations Management

Applications

Applicants are invited to respond to the brief above, by submitting a 2-page proposal outlining how they meet the requirements of the role. The submission should include:

1. Evidence of documentation specified in the brief alongside a copy of Public Liability Insurance.
2. Information on previous projects undertaken by the artist which establish credentials for undertaking the work.
3. Approach to diversity, sustainability and environment considerations.
4. An indication of rates of pay or fee expectations.
5. A description of service delivery methods and ways of working, considering research, development and implementation stages of event delivery. This should highlight how you would work with us and partners. Joint submissions should consider how they would work together and with us to deliver.
6. Longevity of your installation (how long you would expect it to last) and maintenance statement, including a price for anti-fade/anti-graffiti varnish.
7. Contact details for three referees.

Please contact Rebecca Goddard (Townscape Heritage Assistant) at rebecca.goddard@stockport.gov.uk if you have any questions. Submissions should be sent to UnderbanksTH@stockport.gov.uk

Applications closing date: 02/10/2023

Shortlisting will take place week the beginning 2nd October and contracts awarded by mid-October.

We would like to see the artworks installed over the course of October-November 2023.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated by the Steering Group consisting of representatives from Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Totally Stockport, Stockport Town of Culture, and Stockport Heritage Trust.

Each submission will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Understanding of the project brief demonstrated in the tender documentation
2. Credibility and proven expertise in delivering public artwork
3. The strength of evidence against our requirements.
4. Effective project management skills as demonstrated by a realistic and viable methodology
5. Creative ideas & curatorial elements
6. Longevity and sustainability of the artwork proposed

The steering group will seek value for money in the tenders for this project and will judge value not solely on price but on the quality and scope of the proposals being considered. Preference will be given to local artists.