

Art for your street

Sustrans Community Toolkit

On-street artwork

Street art can take many forms, for example:

- Painted murals on houses/walls.
- Patterns on the carriageway or pavement.
- Decorative trail/patterns between houses and the local shops/school/park/ local destinations.
- Large sculpture.
- Unusual street furniture, such as benches, gateway features or planters.
- Several small pieces such as road name signs or decorative themed plaques on walls which can be added to over time.
- Overall creative/artistic design for a wide area.

You may decide to work with an artist who will be able to interpret your ideas into a suitable piece for your street. You might want it to represent your history or culture. It could take many forms which you can develop together.

Art work can be expensive, and it is unlikely that the local authority will pay for it as part of wider street improvements. You or the artist will probably need to raise the money for it yourself, or apply to relevant funding pots.

Permissions

Art work on highway/local authority owned land (including the pavement) will need approval from the council, and may need planning permission.

When you have a good idea of the designs that you want (including sizes) contact your local council planning office. You will be able to submit a simple pre-planning permission form and the council will use this to decide (within about 2 weeks) if you are likely to need to submit a full planning permission application (on which a decision is likely to take about 12 weeks). Alternatively, if the artwork is part of a larger street improvement scheme, you could ask your council highways team if they are willing to consider the art work as part of the whole street scheme because it will then be seen as “permitted development” and will not need planning permission.

Information and resources

General/overviews

Public Art Online Provides information, guidance and examples of public art practice. www.publicartonline.org.uk

Project for Public Spaces have written an article supporting the case for the use of art in public spaces: <http://www.pps.org/reference/artsprojects/>

Artcheck is a practical toolkit of questions and inspiration points on what art can do in your area – designed by the Urban Design Alliance for Channel 4. <http://www.channel4.com/culture/microsites/B/bigart/docs/artcheck.pdf>

Guidance on working with artists, the commissioning process, writing artists briefs and contracts: <http://www.artintheopen.org.uk/>

A good overview of the process: http://www.artintheopen.org.uk/guidance/process/commission_stages_detail.html

Commissioning artists

Public Art Online:

http://www.publicartonline.org.uk/resources/practicaladvice/commissioning/modusoperandi_guidelines.php/www.artquest.org.uk/articles/view/commissioning-an-artist1

Writing Artists' Briefs: Transported Art: <http://www.transportedart.com/10-tips-on-writing-a-public-art-brief/>

Where to publicise opportunities

Use word of mouth, social media and art websites to promote your art brief. Your local Neighbourhood Partnership and community groups may be helpful for spreading the word. Tweet your local arts organisations and get them to spread through their networks. Email your local authority Arts Officer/team too.

Art Jobs publish artist opportunities, it is free to add yours to their list, but you need to set up an account first <http://www.artsjobs.org.uk/>

Public Art Online have a list of live briefs for commissions. You may have to email them, and it's probably more relevant for larger scale (+£5k) commissions. <http://www.publicartonline.org.uk/whatsnew/commissions/>

Fees and payments

a-n have some guidance on what to expect to pay for artists time (NB materials will be additional) Their 2015 fee guidance is here: https://www.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Guidance_on_fees_and_day_rates_for_visual_artists_2015.pdf

Artists' Public Liability Insurance

<http://www.publicartonline.org.uk/resources/practicaladvice/adviceartists/liability.php>

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

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