

## **Tees Valley Arts/ River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership**

### **Artist opportunity: South Park and Snipe Pond, Darlington**

#### **Context:**

TVA ([www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk](http://www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk)) is a participatory arts organisation, based in Middlesbrough and working across the Tees Valley; TVA is the arts partner in the River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership which seeks to get everyone engaged with the River Tees, from Piercebridge to Teesmouth and the coast.

#### **Project:**

South Park is a beautiful Victorian Park on the A167 in Darlington; it contains a handsome stone bridge (Parkside Bridge), the underpass of which leads to a pathway to the nearby Skerne Estate, and which has experienced some (limited and petty) vandalism over recent years. Further along the river, heading away from Darlington town centre, there is another bridge, leading to Snipe Pond, which carries the A66. This bridge has also experienced surface vandalism – more extensively than Parkside Bridge.

Darlington Council, who manage these sites, and RTR/ TVA, wish to commission an artist to create artworks for these two underpass sites, which can be modern in style but must reflect the River Skerne (which means ‘bright water’), local landmarks, significant plants and wildlife, and may also reference the works of Lewis Carroll, whose father was vicar at Croft on Tees (further along the river, where the Skerne meets the Tees), and it is said that a particular gargoye in the church there gave LC the idea for the smiling Cheshire Cat.

#### **Format:**

Details of materials/ fabrication/ installation will be confirmed with the artist using their expertise, but the preferred method is that of ‘wallpaper-pasting’ on to the stone (as is done in eg the Tunnel Gallery at Middlesbrough train station). Artworks are not to be eg on board then affixed due to likelihood of removal, and must not be liable to being set alight. The selected artist will confer with TVA and with park/ site managers prior to agreed confirmation of method to be used.

It was recognised that this budget will not support artworks of great longevity but it is desired that these works should last for at least two years.

The artworks on the South Park bridge underpass may be on both sides of the bridge, and need to express a welcome to explore further; the artworks on the A66 bridge can be on both sides but should primarily address the estate side of the bridge.

#### **Consultation/ participation:**

The residency must include some engagement with local youth from the Skerne Park estate, which will be brokered by TVA - some consultation/ design sessions will be carried out, and we would hope to have at least one participation session at the bridge/s, subject to the youth club/ similar supplying a support worker - the latter session/s subject to confirmation.

Some meeting with/ consultation will also be carried out with the friends of South Park and Snipe Pond – (the groups have largely the same membership); this will be by way of keeping people informed and involved, but will not necessarily include design sessions or participation in making the artworks, unless someone wants to eg join in with the youth club sessions.

Risk assessments will need to be provided for the overall activity and specifically for any participation sessions (whether at eg youth club or at bridge sites).

**Planning Consents:**

TVA will liaise with appropriate authorities re South Park, as it is listed, and re A66 bridge (Highways Authority). Any conditions/ limitations for the works arising from these matters will have to be followed/ incorporated by the artist.

**Time scales:**

From date of appointment (April/ May 2016) to be concluded by end July 2016.

**Fees:**

**Total fee is £5250**

To include all liaison with TVA, RTR and DBC/ South Park: all consultation with groups as mentioned; all consultation and participation sessions with community/ Skerne Estate young people; ongoing consultation with/ reference to TVA; preparation of satisfactory risk assessments; evaluation and monitoring as required by TVA; all materials throughout; all fabrication costs; all installation costs; all relevant travel.

Please note: TVA will have editorial authority as to the final design/ choice of imagery, prior to fabrication and installation.

**To apply:**

Please apply to [ceo@teesvalleyarts.org.uk](mailto:ceo@teesvalleyarts.org.uk) by **5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

- A brief CV (no more than 2 sides A4)
- Why you would be suitable for the post, relevant experience (including consultation/ participation), and your approach to fabrication and installation (no more than 2 sides A4)
- Confirm that you are able to travel to the site/s
- Confirm that you have current Public Liability Insurance (which you will need to provide to TVA prior to issue of contract)
- A maximum of 5 images, either as PDFs or Jpegs

**Deadline:**

All applications must be electronically submitted by **5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**More information:**

For any further information please call Rowena Sommerville, CEO of TVA on 01642 264655