**IT’S OUR THING PART 3 PROJECT – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced artist/s for the Its Our Thing Part 3 Trial Project (individual or collaborative proposals accepted).

That is, at this initial stage a full response to the Artist/s Brief (see below document) is not required.

Expression of Interests must include:

1. details of completed similar projects
2. a brief outline on how you would approach the laneway art work
3. names and contact details of at least two referees

Submitting your Expression of Interest

You can submit your EOI in writing, via a video or online link, send to:

*richard.wiezel@blacktown.nsw.gov.au*

Attention: Rick Wiezel, Senior Coordinator City Image, Blacktown City Council

Closing Date

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Friday 1 February 2019.

Feedback

Artist/s will be advised in writing whether a full response to the Artist/s Brief is required.

To discuss this matter further please contact Council’s Senior Coordinator City Image Rick Wiezel on 9839 6878 during office hours.

**IT’S OUR THING PART 3**

**BLACKTOWN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

**ARTIST BRIEF – NOVEMBER 2018**

**Project description**

The objective of the project is to commission artists to design and install artworks in two (2) separate laneways within the Blacktown Central Business District. That is, to turn public laneways into engaging, creative, and imaginative spaces that improve the communities interaction with the space, improving the aesthetics of the space and minimising the potential for graffiti and other types of vandalism.

The themes and medium for the artwork/s are open to interpretation by the artist. The artwork doesn’t have to be a painted mural but it has to be in keeping with the street art and Hip Hop movement in Blacktown.

We have received NSW Department of Justice Crime Prevention Division grant funding to pay for one of the artworks while Council will fund the other artwork. All coordination of the project will be undertaken by Council in consultation with the artist/s.

The project is a strategy of Council’s Graffiti Management Plan to undertake legitimate street art within the City.

We have partnered with Blacktown Arts Centre (owned and managed by Blacktown City Council) to deliver the program as Part 3 of the ‘It’s Our Thing’ Street Art Exhibitions.

The artworks will be unveiled at an Official Launch in the laneways.

**It’s Our Thing**

It’s Our Thing, More History on Australian Hip Hop Parts 1 and 2, was a series of exhibitions and performance programs undertaken in 2016 & 2017 on the current practice and past archive of artists linked with the Hip Hop movement in Blacktown.

The program featured high-profile artists mixed with lesser-known artists, including: Khaled Sabsabi, Minky Rawat (Atome), Def Wish Cast and Soul Benefits in Part 1; and Sharline Bazzina (Spice), Dan Kyle, Wendy Murray (Mini Graff), George Tilianakas, Paul Westgate (Unique), Chris Bisset (Prins), Garry Trinh, Leo Tanoi (Black President), David Challinor (Umph), Matthew Peet (Mistery), Chez, Thelma Thomas (MC Trey), and Jason Wing in Part 2.

The programs were co-curated by Kon Gouriotis, Paul Howard and Maria Mitar. The exhibition catalogues included new critical writings about the rise of the artistic movement in Blacktown and current practice, artists’ profiles and images from the archives and new artworks.

The program included commissioned artworks inside and outside the Arts Centre, and live performances, demos, visiting speakers and artists’ talks, and exhibition tours for young people and seniors’ groups.

This time we want to put the street art back onto the street as ‘It’s Our Thing: Part 3’.

**Project Location Options**

There are three proposed options for the art works:

* Jim Simpson Lane, Main Street Blacktown
* Mackenzie Walkway, Westfield Place Blacktown
* Main Street Laneway, Main Street, Blacktown

Only two locations will be selected in consultation with property owners and commissioned artists.

**Themes**

The themes for the artwork/s are open to interpretation by the artist. They may not necessarily be painted murals. Given the public nature of the spaces the artworks must not:

* exhibit offensive, racist, sexist, defamatory or illicit drug related images or themes
* hinder the safe passage of pedestrians
* hinder the operations of adjoining businesses
* create an unsafe environment
* impact negatively on the public domain or broader environment
* require large amounts of non- renewable resources

Further, the artworks must comply with all relevant legislation including the Protection of the Environment Act 1997 as amended, and Local Government Act 1993, as amended.

**Scope of works**

It is intended that artwork/s be applied/erected or otherwise installed on, within and/or around the vicinity of the laneways as outlined above. In this regard the artist will:

* Design, fabricate and install the artwork/s
* Participate in Council’s It’s Our Thing: Part 3 Project Team meetings and associated activities as required
* Assist with promotion of the project including any project launch
* Assist Council’s It’s Our Thing: Part 3 Project Team evaluate the project

Further, artists are required to have previous experience in public art and excellent project coordination skills and be able to:

* Develop innovative designs and artworks and be flexible with suggestions from Council staff in relation to the designs
* Manage technical aspects of the site as well as creative aspects of the design intent
* Create art works that are relevant to the communities of Blacktown
* Work independently and have own space for developing and storing the works
* Coordinate transport of art works for installation
* Organise installation of the artwork/s
* Present an itemised project budget stating coordination fees, design fees, artist/s fees, materials, transportation, and installation fees
* Give presentations to the project management group and Council Executive (if required)
* Manage the project expectations and time lines with highly professional standards
* Follow all safety procedures in accordance with Australian Standards & Councils WHS Policies and Procedures
* Have current public liability and professional indemnity insurance certificate of up to $10,000 000
* Provide Council with a full report detailing the project development and implementation including copies of any artwork maintenance manuals or processes

We would also like the artist to consider the options for mentoring an emerging artist as part of the work.

**Design, Artist/s & Materials Budget**

The total budget for all design work, artist/s fees and materials (including all aspects outlined in the above Scope of Works and Project Requirements and Artist Agreement) is to be no greater than $40,000 (excluding GST) per laneway and/or artwork.

The budget for each artwork would need to be agreed upon between the artist/s and the Project Team.

**It’s Our Thing: Part 3 - Project Team**

The overall project will be coordinated by a Project Team (PT) which consists of (but is not limited to):

* Rick Wiezel: Blacktown City Council Senior Coordinator City Image
* Monir Rowshan: Blacktown City Council Coordinator Cultural Planning and Community Engagement
* Paul Howard: Blacktown Arts Centre Curator Visual Arts
* Michael Maxwell: Blacktown City Council Safer Communities Coordinator

The role of the PT will be to assist with:

* Developing an artist brief
* Selecting a suitable artist/s
* Engaging with community stakeholders
* Monitoring the development of the artwork through different stages of development until completion phase
* Provide advice and support for the project when needed
* Ensure all project requirements are met
* Project launch
* Evaluating the project

It is expected that the PT will meet monthly till the anticipated conclusion of the project.

**Artist/s selection, commissioning and design approval process**

The It’s Our Thing: Part 3 Project Team & selected artist/s will be required to adhere to the processes as outlined in Council’s Public Art Guidelines and Procedures for Commissioning and Approval for projects over $50,000. There are a number of stages in this process;

1. Expression of Interest (individual or collaborative proposals accepted)

This initial stage requires an Expression of Interest, CV with images of previous works and a brief outline about how you will approach the space. No detailed drawings are required. This could be provided in writing, via a video or online link. The PT will assess Expressions of Interest and a list of suitable artists will be selected.

2. Selection of suitable artists to develop concept designs

The PT will assess the EOIs and may contact applicants for clarification and/or an interview. A number of artists will be selected and paid a design fee to develop more detailed concept designs including a detailed budget for their proposal.

3. Selection of concept designs for consideration by Council

The PT will provide a report to Council outlining the concept designs. Once considered by Council the PT will then select (2) two artists to undertake the work.

4. Development of the artworks

The selected artists will be commissioned to develop the artworks for the site with regular reporting to the PT.

5. Installation of the works

Artists will liaise with the PT to install the works in accordance with Council’s WH&S procedures in accordance with the below listed Timeline & Milestones.

**Timeline & Milestones**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Milestone** | **Notes** | **Completed by** |
| Expressions of Interest Close | EOI received by Council | 25 January 2019 |
| Expression of Interest Assessed  | PT assess the EOI and engage selected artists to develop concept designs | 15 February 2019 |
| Concept designs developed | Selected artists to deliver concept designs and project proposal | 15 March 2019 |
| Council design approval process | Concept designs are required to be approved by Council | 19 April 2019 |
| Construction of artwork  | Artists commissioned to construct approved artworks.  | 26 April 2019 |
| Installation of artwork  | The installation of the art work.  | July 2019 |
| Completion and Launch | Upon completion it is expected that there will be an Official Event marked by a grand unveiling and public launch. | August 2019 |
| Evaluation | Compile of existing data and commence post installation measuring | September 2019 |

**Artwork responsive to open spaces within the City**

Blacktown City Council produces artwork responsive to open spaces in a range of circumstances and for a number of different purposes. Council has commissioned artwork in urban infrastructure and enhancement projects, open space development and as signage and markers.

Artwork has been a strong factor in creating a sense of place and community identity in Blacktown LGA and is often cited as a driver in fostering community ownership and community pride, and may be known as ‘community art, public art or street art’. Here members of the local community are directly involved in determining the themes of the artwork and may also participate in the design and production of artwork.

Further, artwork has been used successfully by Council in managing and preventing anti-social behaviours such as graffiti vandalism.

**Artwork as a graffiti prevention measure**

Artwork has been used successfully by Council in managing and preventing anti-social behaviours such as graffiti vandalism for many years with great success. For example:

* Doonside shops mural – graffiti free since 2002.
* Mt Druitt Pools mosaic – graffiti free since 2011.
* Harry House laneway installation – graffiti free since 2013.

**Graffiti Management Plan**

This project is a key strategy of our Graffiti Management Plan 2017-2020.

Our last Graffiti Management Plan saw Council reduce the amount spent on graffiti removal by approximately $250,000 per annum, a reduction of 25% of the overall budget. This money is now being spent on youth engagement and green screening projects instead of paint and chemical removers. The Taskforce Against Graffiti (TAG) monitors the plan under the direction of Council’s Senior Coordinator City Image. Members of the TAG include NSW Police, Corrective Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing NSW, utility providers and internal stakeholders.

**Lined project – Garage Graphics**

The Its Our Thing Part 3 project will also be linked to a funded project that aims to address the incidence of illegal bill posters within the Blacktown CBD.

During the 1980s & 1990s Garage Graphix was an important community arts workshop at Mt Druitt in Western Sydney where women artists and designers, including Aboriginal women, were active participants, and community and Aboriginal issues key concerns addressed in the posters.

A new Garage Graphix poster project was muted in 2017 when ideas for an artist-run print workshop, based on the Garage Graphix Archive, were discussed with Wendy Murray, aka Mini Graff, and emerged from the It’s Our Thing Part 2 exhibition program which included new site-specific print works by Wendy. Key works from the Archive were uncovered and have given rise to a new project development.

In 2019 the artist will setup a print workshop in Blacktown from available equipment from the Archive, for artists who wish to explore the potential of screen printing in their practice, and for communities to express their current concerns.

The intended outcomes are street-based legal billposters in Blacktown, made by artists and community members that revisit the spirit of the Garage Graphix Community Arts Group that ran in Blacktown from 1981 to 1996.

**Measuring our success**

The incidence of graffiti will be measured on the digital on line system Australian Graffiti Register (AUSR). Council has also provided log in access to AUSGR to NSW Police.

A baseline incidence of graffiti will be obtained and monitored prior to installation, during installation and then weekly inspections will measure the incidence of graffiti after the art work installation for a period of two years.

We have already engaged Western Sydney University to undertake research on the community’s attitudes to graffiti. We will extend this research to include the community’s perception of the amenity of the safety of the laneways prior, during and after installation of the artworks.