**Remembering Together: Phase 2**

**Artist Call for Creative Practitioners based in Perth and Kinross**

1. **About the Program and concept**

*Remembering Together* is being delivered by Greenspace Scotland at the request of Scottish Government. The programme will involve commissioned artists/designers working with partners and communities in all 32 local authority areas to co-create Covid community memorials.

UHI Perth in partnership with Greenspace Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council is seeking to commission an artist/designer to work with local groups and communities to co-create an artwork that functions as a Covid Community Memorial, part of the collective memorial project *Remembering Together* for Perth and Kinross. Phase 1 of this program has been led and completed by artist Taylor Wagoner, and the focus of phase 2 stems from those key findings allowing the **co-creation** process to continue. In dialogue with several community groups across Perth and Kinross the *cairn* was a recurrent symbolic reference used when acknowledging the challenges and resilience showed by the community during Covid.

***Re-imagining the Cairn*** *(Memorial Concept)*

The Cairn is a Scottish symbol of “respect & integrity” often found in rural spaces and most commonly at the top of corbetts and munros – representing an uphill battle.

Within the context of remembering together ‘the cairn’ is a metaphor of human experience, a layering of emotions and memories, both individual and collective that come together to symbolise the act of creating balance with each individual element or layer signifying a human story be that of thankfulness, sorrow, remembrance, recovery or celebration. Therefore, the physical form that each ‘memorial cairn’ takes can be reinterpreted by the artist/designer in conversation with the location and the community.

There will be 5 separate locations across Perth and Kinross, including ***Perth City Centre, Kinross, Crieff, Blairgowrie, Pitlochry or Aberfeldy***. Each location will be allocated a different artist, who will each work with the local community to ensure that the outcome is representative of their landscape, traditions, memories and hopes. The materials used will have a connection to the location and it will be a co-curated development that will continue to belong to the local community long after this project concludes. It is hoped that each will have an element of interaction that allows for the memorial to evolve beyond the life of the project.

We are aiming to launch each of the 5 memorials in **April/ May 2024**, around the same time as the Perth Museum opening, which will allow this project to be part of a larger cultural engagement project for the region.

**2. About the Artist/Designer/Practitioner**

The artist or designer will be a creative practitioner based in Perth and Kinross.

The artist will have experience of working in co-design/co-creation approaches with diverse communities. The process will need to give space to all kinds of experience, from those with connection to people who lost lives to Covid, those who lost their lives to other illnesses during the pandemic and all those who experienced change, loss and isolation in other ways. It will also acknowledge the ways in which citizens supported each other. Participants may include vulnerable groups, and the appointed artist will be expected to observe relevant safeguarding and data protection policies, supported by the partners and Greenspace Scotland.

The commissioned artist/designer may choose to engage students from the Creative and Cultural department within UHI Perth in the co-design of participatory workshops with communities leading to the development of the memorial artwork. Part of the process will explore what could be defined as a cairn for each location and how it will galvanise each communities’ experience surrounding Covid. Some communities may want a place they can gather; other communities may want to co-create an

physical artefact; a performance or film; a publication or a series of events. The key focus of phase 2 is the get each locality involved in the co-creation of an artwork that reflects their individual and collective journey. Most important is that the process is relevant to communities; embraces the wide range of experiences people have had; welcomes people to co-design and allows those involved to express honestly what this time has meant for them.

**3. Artist/Designer/Practitioner Criteria**

The Remembering Together Perth and Kinross Working Group is looking for Expressions of Interest from artists / designers, who are living, working, or studying in Perth and Kinross.

This phase 2 Commission will focus on developing and realisation of an artistic concept that will involve communities from each location on different levels. It is anticipated that artists/ designer will arrive at a co-designed/co-created artwork for a local community memorial that builds up on the relationships and findings from Phase 1.

Artists/designer/creative practitioner will be required to:

* Develop, produce, and install an artwork that responds to the *Re-imagining the Cairn* concept.
* Devise a series of engagement activities and facilitate these, working with specific groups to allow a community sense of ownership and belonging in relation to that community memorial artwork.
* Provide feedback information and evidence of the co-creation process and how it follows on from phase 1.
* Participate in the commissioned documentary for the project through film interviews and footage of the engagement, and the full creative process from conception through to installation.
* Provide high quality image-based updates of the process and the engagement for use within publicity and monitoring of the project progress.
* Share their co-creation journey on their social media and/or any other appropriate platforms.
* Participate in the project’s monitoring and evaluation process led by the partners.
* Participate in the community engagement program for the launch of the overall project.

Artists/designer/creative practitioners interested in submitting an expression of interest for the Stage 2 commission will be shortlisted using the following criteria:

* Proven track record of working in the community with a variety of groups spanning children, young people and adults and identify how they would ensure community participants are supported to collaborate throughout the process.
* Demonstrates an understanding of the brief.
* Evidences a strong artistic practice and experience of creative community engagement and co-design/co-creation approaches.
* Exhibits innovative thinking, inclusive and sensitive approaches for participatory engagement with a diverse range of participants and/or a deeper understanding and knowledge of working with specific hard-to-reach communities
* Demonstrates flexibility to adapt to the needs of participating communities. This may include evening or weekend work.
* Experience of working with and developing relationships with communities in Perth and Kinross.
* Time management and organisational skills
* Ability to provide written evaluation, reflection, feedback
* Applicants must be registered as self-employed and be a member of the PVG scheme.

**4. Resources**

* £18,000 is available for each selected artist during Phase 2. This covers artists fee, materials, community engagement activities, production and installation costs and irrecoverable VAT.

NB. Artists/creative practitioners with access requirements will be supported to apply for Access to Work (AfW). There is also a limited budget which can be applied for to address access barriers, with a focus on removing barriers for participating communities and artists who have requirements that do not quality for AfW.

**5. How to Apply/Submit an expression of interest**

To apply for this opportunity please send an expression of interest to [Christiana.margiotti.perth@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Christiana.margiotti.perth@uhi.ac.uk) by Thursday 16th of October.

**Your Expression of Interest should include:**

* A CV and/or Statement of Practice - if applying as a creative team, provide information for each individual with their role and how they would contribute to the commission.
* A written proposal (max 2 sides of A4) or a video/voice recording (max 5 minutes) on how you would approach the development (with the local community), production and install of the project. Please include any visual to aid your proposal and a budget breakdown.
* Details of any locality preferences within Perth and Kinross and the reasons for that.
* Information about any relevant past commissions or projects that you think demonstrate how your practice fits this brief. Please provide images and links for more information.
* The contact details of two referees for each of the artists/designers/creative practitioners applying. This should include the name, job title and relationship to the applicant as well as a telephone number and email address.

UHI Perth and Greenspace Scotland recognise the unique skills of artists, designers and creative practitioners working in communities and actively encourage proposals from creative practitioners with intersectional lived experiences of illness, isolation, rurality, income inequality or social exclusion of any kind. We welcome proposals from designers and creative practitioners with disabilities or long-term health conditions, designers of the Global Ethnic Majority, LGBTQ+ artists and/or refugee/migrant designers/creative practitioners.

**7. Decision making process**

* Expressions of interest will be collated and shared with the selection panel.
* The selection panel will individually assess the expressions of interest against the criteria specified in section 3, before discussing as a group and short-listing the expressions of interest.
* Each short-listed designer, artist or creative practitioner will be invited to attend an interview. These are due to be held during the Week beginning 23rd October 2023.
* The full panel will assess and select the lead designer(s)/creative practitioner(s) for each location.
* The panel will aim to appoint the project designer(s)/creative practitioner(s) by the week beginning 30th October 2023.

At the Interview, short-listed applicants will be asked to:

* Prepare a projected breakdown of the £18k budget
* Present a suggested project timeline and talk the panel through your approach to delivery and collaboration.

The selection panel may include:

* Christiana Margiotti, Sector Development Director: Creative and Cultural Industries, UHI Perth
* Councillor Ian Massie, Perth and Kinross Council.
* Anna Day, Service Manager, Public Programming (Culture), Perth and Kinross Council
* Lesley McKee, Sector Manager: Creative Industries, UHI Perth.
* Diane Scott, Project Officer, greenspace scotland.
* Yunior Aguiar Perdomo, Project Coordinator for UHI Perth.

**8. Project timeline**

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| **October 2023:** | **Key milestone: Sites for all 5 memorials proposed for approval.**   * Open Call to creative practitioners based in Perth and Kinross * Selection process and contracting concluded ready for phase 2 commencement at the end of October. * Schedule of development workshops in each locality and local steering group meeting schedule published and advertised. |
| **November 2023:** | **Key milestone: Present decision regarding actual site for memorial**   * Workshop within each locality to refine concept for final outputs within the actual site including prototypes. * Community Meeting: Artist to present site recommendation and project plan for concluding creation and installation logistics including proposed concept scale. * Site plan and a feasibility study including material requirements; permissions required to proceed; upkeep and security considerations and accessibility. * Artists to make site recommendations to the project board prior to pursuing wider permissions. * Artists to present final concepts to scale to the project board with mock-up demonstrating scale to project board. |
| **December 2023 – February 2024** | **Key milestone: Production of the memorial**   * Artists will use these months for prototyping, making, and fabricating the memorials for each location, engaging contractors and local organisations where appropriate. * Workshops within each locality will take place towards the end of this period to allow the community participants to use the methods of creation adopted by the artist within the final output. * Community Meeting: Artist will continue to present updates on the progress of the creation, including prototypes or sections and images as appropriate while developing plans regarding community engagement for the launch. |
| **March 2024** | **Key Milestone: Community Engagement Programme Publicised**   * Community Meeting: Artist will update the group on the installation plan for each site and continue to gather ideas and plans for community engagement at the launch. * Overarching community engagement programme to publicise the launch of all 5 memorials that pulls together the local requests and ideas into one cohesive whole. |
| **April – May 2024** | **Key milestone: Installation of the memorials**   * Installation of each of the 5 memorial sites will take place. * Where appropriate community volunteers may be able to be involved in this depending upon the final output. * Artist to provide necessary information and documentation as an end of project report. |
| **June 2024** | **Key milestone: Final Report to Greenspace Scotland & Documentary Film**   * Final and overarching report to be created reflecting on the development, production and install of all 5 memorials. * The Documentary film of the project will be broadcast on YouTube and linked to the project website. |

**9. About Perth and Kinross**

Covid has severely impacted our communities in many cases worsening levels of poverty and intensifying need. We know through our student services department that young people are struggling with mental health, but across all parts of society the need for counselling, mental health and well-being services has increased during Covid. There is evidence of the increased anxiety within older people when leaving their homes; and indications that many communities have intensified feelings of social isolation.

Perth & Kinross is the 5th largest council area in Scotland, but it is only the 14th largest in terms of population, reflecting its extensive rural areas: what is appropriate in the city centre may not be appropriate in our small towns, and what is appropriate in our small towns may not be appropriate in our rural villages and outlying areas.

Throughout the pandemic Perth and Kinross Council and its partners have worked closely with local communities providing essential, practical support to those in need. Recovery from Covid will take time but engagement with our communities will be critical in supporting that process.

The artist/designer will work in partnership with the Creative and Cultural department in could potentially involve the students in the co-creative process within identified communities across the authority. UHI Perth is a microcosm of Perth and Kinross and could enable the artist to access a range of communities, areas, and people groups.