

Granton Gasholder Park – Public Art Design Commission Expression of Interest Briefing Document

Granton Gasholder is currently being restored and transformed into a new city park. This iconic structure will form a key culture and recreational space within the heart of the Granton Waterfront Regeneration programme.

With the restoration due to complete in early 2025, there is an opportunity for artworks to be exhibited within the new public realm. The Council's Granton Waterfront team invites Edinburgh-based artists/creative practitioners/arts organisations to develop ideas for a new permanent* artwork for this unique and iconic site.

*We envisage a structure that will be in place for the longer term (>10 years), but this does not preclude artworks that will naturally degrade without incurring adverse environmental impact.

Aim of this project:

To invite a range of designs for a permanently sited bespoke artwork to sit within a designated area of the Granton Gasholder Park. The design will draw on community interests and themes connected to Granton, either exploring: elements of the area's industrial or maritime history; the natural environment, or; the vision for the area's connected and sustainable future.

Objective: To commission a unique outdoor site-specific work of art which reflects the concepts described above:

It is proposed that the commission take the form of a permanent sculpture or intervention which has the capacity to be in any appropriate medium (e.g. bronze, light, sound, recycled materials).

It will be located within the footprint of the public art area (measuring around 16m x 5m) of the Granton Gasholder Park (see Appendix 3).

There are a number of ways in which the design can be achieved: through independent research; through collaborative working and/or interdisciplinary practice. However, it will be essential to provide opportunities for the local community to participate in the design process (See Area Map in Appendix 2) and can be designed for any audience age range and demographic. We particularly encourage engagement with harder to reach groups.

The Granton Waterfront Context:

Granton Waterfront, situated on the coastline in northwest Edinburgh, is at the heart of the City of Edinburgh Council's ambition to be a leading city for connected, sustainable, affordable and inclusive living.

With around 3,500 new net zero carbon homes, space for new business, cultural spaces, a new school and coastal park, the development aims to be the blueprint project for Scotland in urban development and regeneration. The project aims to generate

investment of around £1.3 billion over the next 15 years to complete the regeneration that is already underway with early action projects, including the refurbishment of Granton Station and 444 net zero homes at Western Villages.

In 2022, the Council was successful in its bid to secure funding from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund to restore the historic Granton Gasholder by early 2025. The proposals include the restoration of the B-listed Gasholder frame and the creation of a park within and around the structure. Within the park, there will be dedicated space for permanent and temporary art.

The [Granton Waterfront Culture Strategy](#) sets out the important role that culture and creativity play in the regeneration, as the area is transformed into a new, low carbon waterfront district for Edinburgh. The delivery of place-based and socially engaged public art within the Granton Gasholder Park will help meet key priorities outlined in the Culture Strategy and Granton Waterfront Development Framework. Please see Appendix 2 for area map and Appendix 4 for a list of useful documents.

The Site:

The Granton Gasholder and surrounding area has an important position within the regeneration, with active travel routes and green space connecting Waterfront Broadway and the coastal park. The design of the space within the Granton Gasholder has evolved from a few simple concepts, with a desire to make it as multi-functional as possible, creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to access and enjoy the space. Within the Gasholder Park, there will be 6 zones around the inner ring of the structure, each with its own theme: Relax; Play; Exercise; Temporary Art; Permanent Art and Events. Please see further information and drawings relating to this in Appendix 3.

Considerations

- The Gasholder frame is Grade-B listed and therefore we are unable to attach anything to the frame, however it will be possible to have a below ground foundation.
- Due to the proximity to the coast, the artwork should be constructed of durable materials and able to withstand harsh weather conditions.
- The designated area contains an electric power point.
- We may consider a design which has elements that sit outside the designated permanent public art zone.
- Further detailed information regarding the site and materiality of the Gasholder will be provided to shortlisted artists.

Design Submission:

The design work should include:

- A brief description of the artwork, its concept, and how it relates to the brief as well as demonstrate a form of collaboration with the local community.

- Detailed visualisation(s) of the proposed artwork(s) (e.g. drawings, and/or maquette etc), indicating relevant physical information (e.g. scale, orientation, elevations, materials and colour).
- A description of materials to be used and, where relevant, provide an assessment of their robustness and suitability to both concept and site.
- Any anticipated planning and/or consent requirements and where relevant any consideration of groundworks or landscaping requirements.
- Provide any known information about any potential maintenance requirements connected to the proposed design e.g material ageing; in the event of vandalism etc. and the anticipated lifespan of the work.
- Proposals for fabrication and installation
- A fully costed budget.

Aims for Art in the Public Realm:

- Support the growth, visibility and resilience of Edinburgh-based **creative practitioners and artists** and promote artistic excellence for the benefit of participants, audiences and the arts and culture industry at large.
- **Enhance a sense of place and civic pride** by rooting new public art in the heritage, environment, and diverse communities of north Edinburgh to ensure it is relevant and suitable to a local context.
- **Local participation and co-creation is central** to the process - from planning to selection and creation – to promote local buy-in and pride in the area.
- **Support health and wellbeing** by encouraging interaction between people with their environment and facilitate fun, engaging, and interactive shared experiences.
- Encourage new and returning visitors to **support the local economy**.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The commission is open to artists, creative practitioners, artist collectives and organisations working in collaboration with artists/creative practitioners based in the City of Edinburgh or surrounding area, or who have a lived experience or connection to Edinburgh.
- We expect applicants to have experience of working collaboratively to create art work which sits within an outdoor space
- Applicants will be expected to hold Public Liability insurance to a minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity insurance to a minimum value of £5m.

Priorities:

We will look for design submissions that:

1. Design visual concepts for artwork(s) that meet the brief and reflect local needs, interests and activities and leave behind a durable and sustainable creative/visual legacy for the community.
2. Embed community participation and engagement within the design process – this could include site visits, development of initial designs, community engagement including artist-led workshops and events.

3. Involve Edinburgh-based artists with relevant experience in the area of creating and delivering publicly sited artworks.
4. Explore interactive artwork (either interactive with people or the environment)
5. Present proposals which are realistically costed within the current Phase 2 budget of £50,000 to include artist fees, fabrication, installation, and maintenance.

Budget:

Total Phase 1 Budget: £24,000

£4,000 - We will be awarding grants of £4,000 each to a maximum of 6 shortlisted artists / collaborations / collectives to develop a design proposal over a period of 4 months to present and be considered by the Commissioning Panel in July 2024.

Total Phase 2 Budget: £50,000

Up to £50,000 – We will invite one or more proposals to progress to Phase 2 which has a total budget of £50,000. The Phase 2 budget is inclusive of artist fees, fabrication, installation and maintenance. We expect proposals to explore realistic match funding opportunities that can be secured within the delivery timescales if required.

Timescale:

| Date | Detail |
|---|--|
| Monday 19 February | Call out Announcement |
| Monday 19 February – Monday 26 February | Pre-Application Questions If you have any questions which would help you in deciding whether to apply, or in preparing an expression of interest, please contact us on Granton.Waterfront@edinburgh.gov.uk |
| Friday 1 March | Deadline for Expression of Interests to be submitted |
| Monday 11 March | Shortlist of maximum 6 artists notified to participate in Phase 1 |
| Monday 25 March | Shortlisted Artists to deliver an “Inception Report” that includes a work plan for planning, development and public consultation. A template will be provided. 80% fee paid |
| Monday 15 July | Design proposals submitted by Shortlisted Artists |
| w/c 15 July | Shortlisted Artists interview with Commissioning Panel and deliver a presentation to the public. Further information will be provided on how this will be managed and expectations around formats. Final 20% fee paid |
| August | Selected Artist(s) notified for Phase 2 |
| Sept | Phase 2 period - Artworks to be fully delivered for Early 2025 |

Decision Making:

Selection of applications for the Expression of Interest and Phase 1 will be undertaken by a Commissioning Panel made up of members of the Granton Waterfront team and external and internal advisers. Selection of the final proposal for Phase 2 will follow the same process and will include public consultation. Please see Appendix 1 for selection criteria.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest:

Applications should be submitted by email to Granton.Waterfront@edinburgh.gov.uk and should include:

- A statement of interest in the project and how you would approach the design submission based on this brief (no more than 2 sides of A4)
 - If known at this stage, names of all artists and any other personnel involved in the project and copies of CVs of all project personnel.
 - Initial, indicative proposal for community engagement activity and how this might feed into the design process.
 - Links to relevant, related portfolio materials online or to a WeTransfer file which includes no more than 10 labelled digital images.
 - The names of two referees who would be willing to talk about your expertise and recent experience in a similar role.
 - **Application Deadline: By Noon on Friday 1 March 2024**
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Appendix 1: Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria for Expression of Interest:

Up to a maximum of 6 artists will be shortlisted to develop their design proposals for a fee of £4,000 each. The shortlist selection will be made based on the following criteria using the scoring system outlined below:

- Demonstrated artistic ability, experience and track record of creating high quality, innovative work in public spaces and / or heritage contexts
- Quality and appropriateness for the approach to the brief
- Connection to, working knowledge of Edinburgh and local context
- Demonstration of plans to engage and involve public in the artistic process
- Demonstrated ability to work within a given timeline and budget

Selection Criteria for Phase 1:

1 or 2 artist/collective/organisation(s) will be selected from a maximum shortlist of 6 artists based on the assessment of their design proposals and presentation. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the designs using the scoring system outlined below:

- Concept / Design - Artistic quality and innovation and it's suitability to the heritage context of the Granton Gasholder

- Engagement – how are stakeholders and users considered or involved in the artistic process and/or outputs.
- Timeline – feasibility of production
- Value for money - budget demonstrates excellent value for money/provides other creative/design employment opportunities / demonstrates that local suppliers have been researched / maintenance

Shortlisted artists/collaborative partnerships/collectives will be invited to attend a meeting (in person or online) with the commissioning panel and participate in a public presentation in July 2024.

We intend to notify the selected artist(s) for Phase 2 in August 2024, subject to internal approvals, with plan to deliver the final artwork in the first quarter of 2025. The Council reserves the right not to appoint any of the applicants if none of the proposals are considered suitable/feasible.

Scoring System:

For all stages, the assessment panel will assess all eligible projects against the above criteria on a scale from 0 to 4 as per following guidelines.

0 = Response missing or unacceptable. No clear response to criteria in the submission

1 = Marginal response. The submission provides low level of confidence that the criteria would be delivered in a satisfactory way

2 = Acceptable response. The submission provides a moderate level of confidence that the criteria would be delivered in a satisfactory way

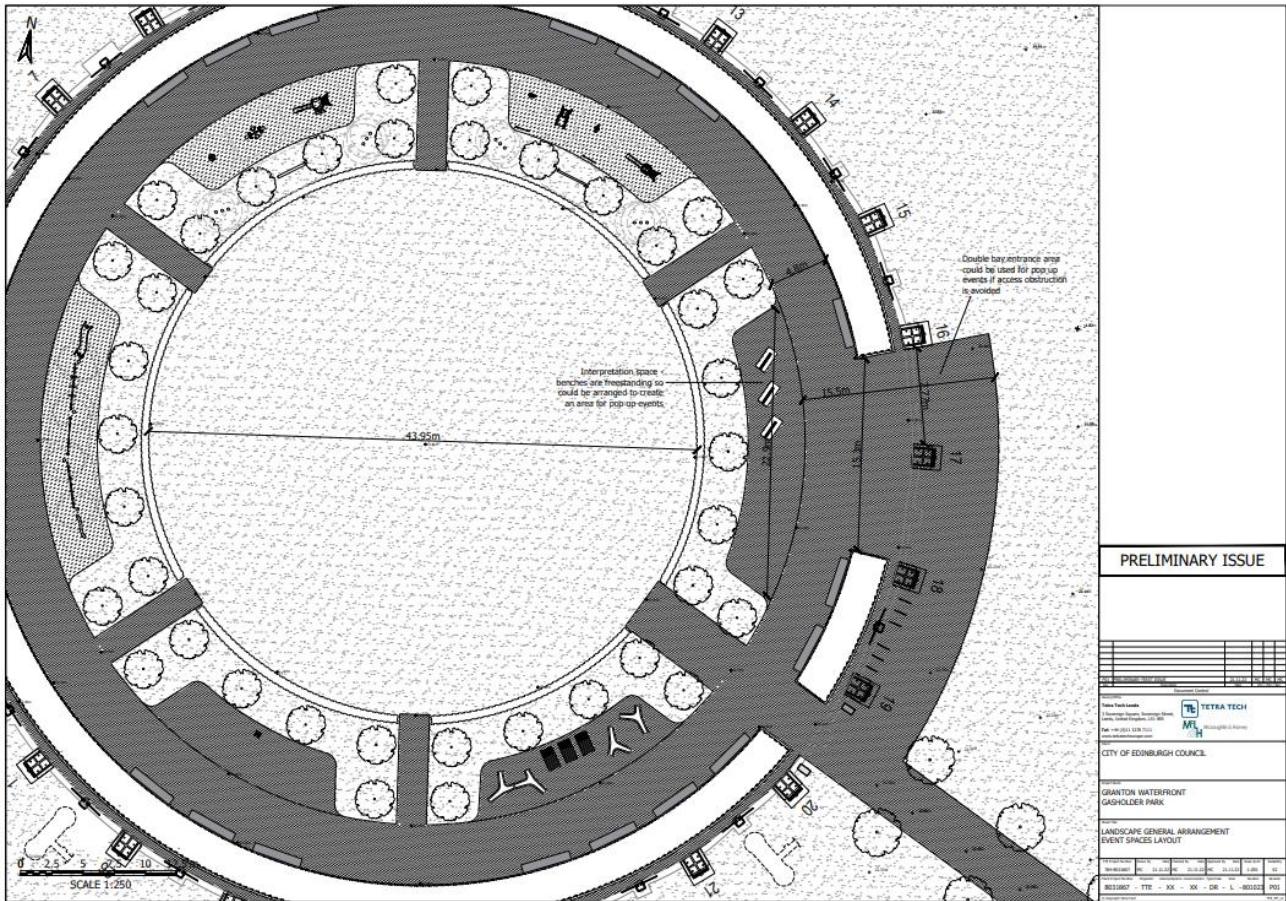
3 = Good response. The submission provides a good level of confidence that the criteria would be delivered.

4 = Excellent response. The submission provides a high level of confidence that the criteria would be delivered or exceeded.

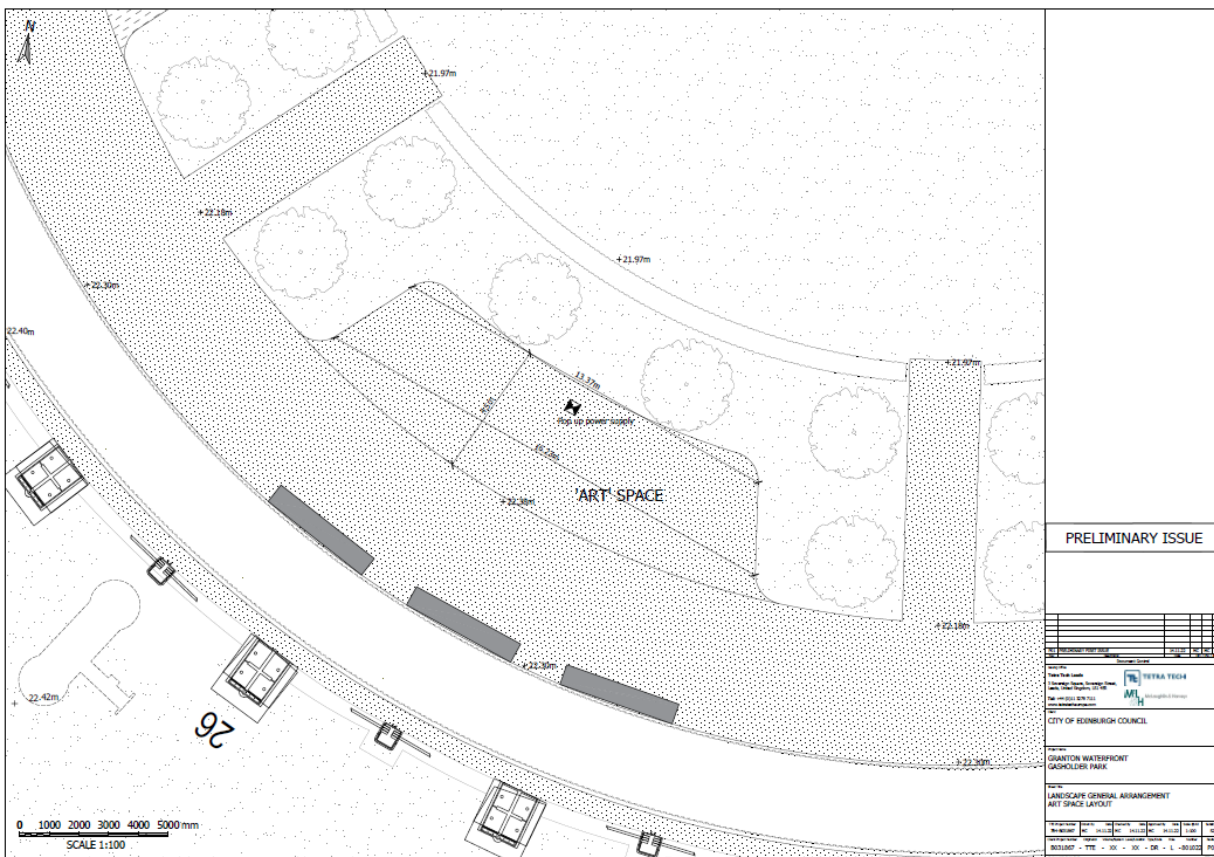
Appendix 2: Map of the Area



Appendix 3: Drawings and Images



Interior of Gasholder



Granton Gasholder Permanent Art Zone



Visualisation of completed Gasholder – Full



Visualisation of completed Gasholder – Section

Appendix 4: Useful Links

[Granton Waterfront Regeneration Website](#)

[Granton Waterfront Culture Strategy](#)

[Granton Waterfront Development Framework](#)

Council's [sustainability goals](#)

Council's [Art in Public Places](#) Guidance

Accessibility

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the team on Granton.Waterfront@edinburgh.gov.uk