

**Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre
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on behalf on the CO Memorial Steering Group**

Request for Proposals: Design Development for a Memorial to Conscientious Objectors:

**“... to invite applications for artists to develop designs with one artists’
design to be selected for a lasting Memorial to Conscientious Objectors
... and all who oppose wars in all times and all places – to be located in
Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh.”**

Initial applications by 15 December 2017

Detailed design to be developed by 27 Feb 2018

Completion of Memorial and siting by March 2019

1. *Background to the project*

The Centenary of the First World War has prompted events and projects remembering those who took part in the war and the war effort – from soldiers, sailors and airmen to land girls, munitions workers and nurses.

Numerous memorials in Edinburgh pay tribute to those who risked and lost their lives in that war and so many other wars. Little attention is paid however to those who oppose wars, including Conscientious Objectors (COs) – even though opposition to war and conscientious objection is a part of the life of communities and of our shared history.

As many as 20,000 men refused conscription in Britain during the First World War, with more than 1,000 doing so in Scotland. 60,000 men and women refused to take part in the Second World War.

Britain was the first country in Europe to include in its conscription legislation a conscience clause, which recognised a right to refuse to take part in war. This is not only significant for Britain. It paved the way for recognition of conscientious objection as a human right by the United Nations and by all but one European country.

Nevertheless, going against the tide of war has often been, and continues to be, a hard road. COs come from all segments of society: socialists, Christians and humanists, workers, intellectuals and artists who often struggled with their consciences.

During the First World War, some absolutists objected to any military service while others accepted service as non-combatants. Many served at the front, risking their lives as unarmed stretcher bearers, while others went to prison where they suffered terrible conditions. They were often ostracised and vilified within their own communities, and dismissed by Tribunals.

They endured brutal treatment and sometimes torture at the hands of the military. Some 73 died in or because of imprisonment while over 300 men who refused to continue fighting were shot as deserters.

Cognizant of this shared history and of the fact that there are memorials to conscientious objectors in London, Cardiff and Glasgow a consortium of a dozen community groups in Scotland appealed to the City of Edinburgh Council for permission to create a memorial to COs in Scotland’s capital city. The petition was unanimously approved.

2. Brief for Design Development Task

Proposals are invited from suitably experienced artists / designers for the initial stage design development for the creation of a lasting Memorial to Conscientious Objectors and opponents of war.

This Memorial is to honour the courage and conviction of these brave men and women and provide a space for reflection on the meaning of their sacrifice. It should have an international vision, and should recognize opponents of all wars, past, present and future and invite reflection on the wider values of diversity, dissent and tolerance.

The group responsible for selection will be comprised of representatives of organisations in the CO Memorial Steering Group, individuals with relevant historical expertise and others with expertise in public art development. The Group seek a range of options for the artwork but some initial ideas from the group include:

- An outside piece of quality artwork fashioned out of any suitable materials
- To be a “living” memorial e.g. to incorporate planting and landscaping in some way
- To include an area to allow quiet contemplation – for example a seating area
- Should reflect the themes and values of conscience, conscientious objections, opposition to war, and alternatives to war for resolving conflict
- To celebrate the lives and sacrifice of people who refuse to participate in and resisted wars
- Scale: To cover an area of up to four metres in diameter for any seating and planting with any sculpture no more than two metres high.

Artists should feel free to take any creative approach that they feel meets this brief but the work should be able to engage a broad audience and effectively transmit the purpose of the commission.

It is planned that the artwork be sited outside in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh, a World Heritage Site, so the design should be appropriate for this setting, and, to the extent possible, consider the planned development in the gardens around the Ross Bandstand. See Annex for a description and map showing the proposed site.

The City of Edinburgh Parks Department has proposed suitable sites for the memorial. See Annex 2 below for proposed site details. The design and in particular any planting will require approval of City of Edinburgh Parks Department and other relevant committees.

There is no dedicated budget for maintenance and conservation of the monument or sculpture once it has been erected therefore materials and design must be suitable for a permanent artwork, and not require regular maintenance or upkeep.

As the work will be situated in one of the city’s most populous public spaces the safety of the finished work, as well as the installation requirements should be addressed.

No water features can be considered. The work must not encroach significantly on the Park’s green spaces.

3. Project governance

A Steering Group composed of representatives of community groups that promote peace and disarmament and other organisations will oversee the project. This includes

- Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre (P&J)
- Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop (ESW)
- Edinburgh Stop the War

- The Iona Community
- Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh
- Pax Christi UK
- Quakers in Scotland
- Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (SCND)
- St Thomas Aquins Secondary School
- University of Edinburgh School of Social and Political Science
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Scottish Branch

The following individuals with expertise on conscientious objectors are advising the Steering Group: Prof Toby Kelly (University of Edinburgh), Dr Lesley Orr (Lecturer in History, University of Edinburgh), and Dr Billy Kenefick (Honorary Research Fellow in History, University of Dundee and founder of Great War Dundee).

The Coordinator of the Peace and Justice Centre will be the first point of contact with interested artists and the Centre offers IT facilities and meeting space for the project. It is envisaged that a Project Coordinator will be appointed.

4. *Anticipated approach*

There will be a two stage selection process.

Stage One -Shortlisting

A shortlist of three to four applicants will be agreed by the Steering Group. Artists selected at this stage will be invited to meet the Selection Panel to explain their approach to the project and discuss their initial response to the brief.

Shortlisted candidates will be required to work with the Steering Group and / or other community based groups to ensure involvement of local people and inform development of the design. This will entail two or three meetings and will be facilitated by the Panel.

Site visits to the proposed location with City of Edinburgh Council Parks representatives and Steering Group representatives can also be arranged prior to interviews.

Following the first stage design development period, shortlisted artists will be asked to attend an interview to present a proposed design for the Memorial. There will then be a final selection of the preferred design.

Stage Two - Appointment

The selected artist will to be commissioned to create the Memorial, with an overall completion date, including installation, of end of March 2019.

Fees

A fee of £1,500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists to develop design proposals. Reasonable travel costs to attend interview and consultations will be paid to the shortlisted artists at the first stage.

A further fee of £15,000 will be paid to the artist who is selected to carry out the preferred design at the second stage, pending funding approval.

5. *Performance and quality requirements*

After a project initiation meeting with Project Coordinator and members of the Steering Group, the client would expect monthly touch-base meetings, to be held between the shortlisted artists and Project Coordinator to ensure progress is on track and any difficulties are resolved promptly.

Ownership of all design development documentation, including the final report and all data produced as a result of the research, lies with the CO Memorial Steering Group.

The artists should not disclose proposals in public before the Steering Group has cleared the final report.

The artists should consider the wide range of equalities issues, including public duties, and ensure that these are all given due consideration at all stages of the design development.

6. *Project deliverables*

We want the output of the Stage 1 design development to be a visually compelling document, backed up by clear evidence that ideas from members of the public – and of special interest groups studying Conscientious Objectors' lives – have been thoroughly embraced in the conception of the proposed Memorial design.

At Stage 2 the selected artist may be expected to carry out further consultation with recommended groups to inform final design. This design proposal will be formally approved by the Steering Group. Other approvals required include the Ross Development Trust, the Cockburn Association and the following City of Edinburgh Council Committees: World Heritage, Planning (Planning permission), Transport & Environment, and possibly Culture and Communities Committee.

For these reasons it is essential that documentation supporting the submitted design provides evidence of community engagement for prospective funders and the necessary committees and:

- Uses language accessible to readers with varying experience of the issues being addressed
- Contains a comprehensive description of the design development method, so that all parties understand what was done and the robustness and / or limitations of the contributions made by others
- Organises and, where appropriate, compiles the design development documentation so as to lead to clear recommendations or to a discussion of the options emerging
- Contains a stand-alone one page Executive Summary, with a brief description of the objectives, clear image(s) of the proposals with conclusions and recommendations.

7. *Form of proposal*

Please submit a maximum two-page Proposal in the form of a letter, which outlines:

- your previous experience / your technical capacity for undertaking this task
- the approach you plan to take
- an outline of the overall timescale and implementation plan
- how you will maintain high standards during the task
- your full contact details including address, email and phone number
- full contact details for two References for whom you have done similar work / who can attest to your suitability for doing this task
- Please indicate if you would be open to collaborating with another artist to deliver this task.

You are invited to paste in after these two pages:

- Your CV no longer than two pages

- Images (with short captions) of up to six examples of relevant work produced within the last six years – on no more than two pages.

Any queries about the project or selection processes should be directed to Brian Larkin.

Please send your Proposal – **saved with your surname as the name of a single pdf file** – to Brian Larkin COMemorial@peaceandjustice.org.uk by 12 noon Monday 27 November 2017. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

8. *Evaluation criteria*

Evaluation	Description	Weight
Technical experience	Evidence of providing similar services to others and particular skills / experience relevant to the task. Plans for dealing with risks and contingencies	20%
Methodology / Approach	Suitability of approach to consultation and ideas collection.	20%
Implementation plan	Details of your implementation plan to meet the timescales	10%
Quality	How you will produce a high quality artwork relating to consultation and the Brief	50%
	Total	100%

9. *Proposed timetable*

Activity	Date
Issue Request for Proposals	3 November 2017
Deadline for Proposals received	12noon 15 December 2017
Shortlisting of Proposals	w/c 18 December 2017
Potential Stage 1 Interviews	4 January 2017
Stage 1 Shortlisting Completed	8 January 2017
Stage 1 Artists' Consultations and engagement with Steering Group & Community Groups	January and February 2018
Stage 1 Submissions due	12 noon Mon 27 February 2018
Artist / Design for CO Memorial appointed	Monday 6 March 2018
Consultation and Design Development	6 March - 6 April 2018
Design Submitted to City Council	13 April 2018

City Council Committees Phase (6 months)	13 April 2018 – 15 October
Production of artwork	November 2018 – March 2019
Memorial completed & installed	30 March 2019
Launch events	April 2019

This Request for Proposals is derived from a template used by Citizens Advice Scotland.

Annex 1: Project Budget

The full project incorporates a variety of associated activities including the organisation of public roundtables, cultural events, the creation of a website and promotional materials, working with a number of partners.

Estimated Full budget - £150,000

Gross Artist fee - £15,000.

Gross Funds for Production & Installation of artwork - £85,000

From Stage 2 onwards funding is still to be secured.

Annex 2: Relevant Information on Planning is available at:

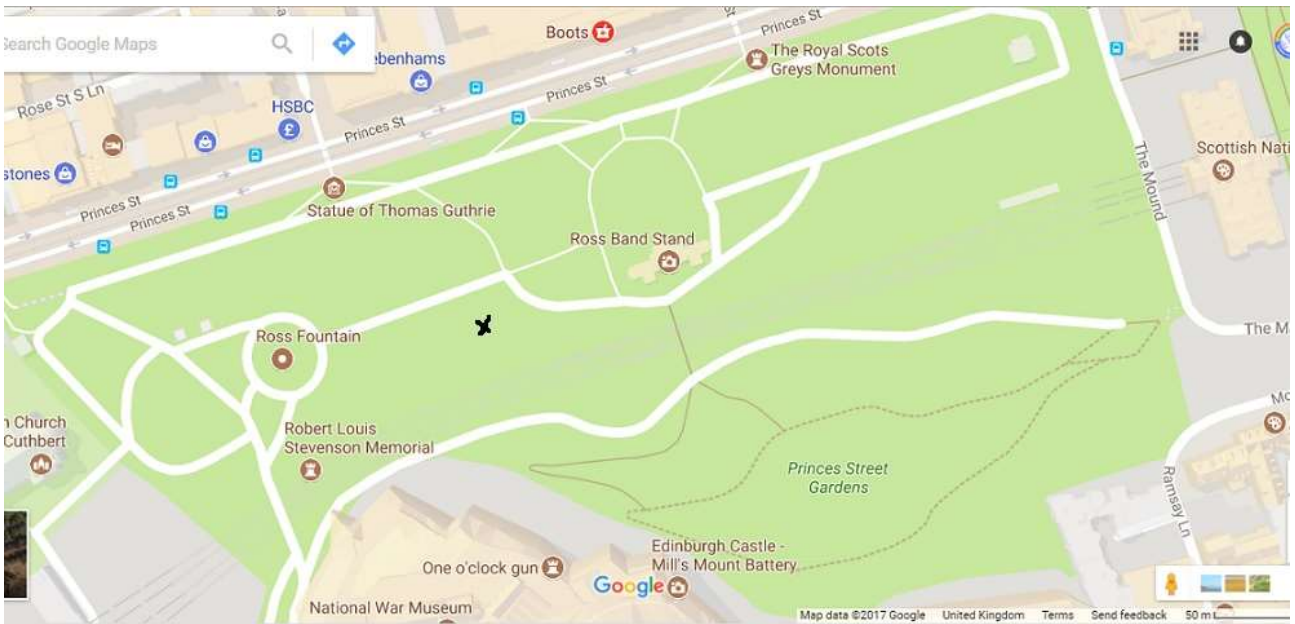
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/846/additional_planning_guidelines

Annex 2: Proposed siting of the CO Memorial in Princes St Gardens

The re-development of Princes St Gardens, expected to take place in 2019 will affect the landscape. The site for the Memorial is subject to approval by relevant committees of City of Edinburgh Council and in consultation with Ross Development Trust. Therefore the proposed site for the Memorial is approximate.

Our proposed site is at a location approximately 30 ft west of the junction of the central path with the curving path that joins it from the south from behind the Ross Bandstand and 15 ft south of the present central path in Princes St Gardens. See the location at:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@55.9503829,-3.2014989,3a,75y,157.83h,69.49t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1si0RcG47wWZ5ejzSAvyJzzg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656?hl=en> . Here is a simple map indicating the proposed site position in the Gardens based on current layout.



Information and some drawings of the winning proposal for development of Princes St Gardens can be seen at: <https://www.rdtrust.org/butterfly-pavilion/>

Here is a view showing the proposed layout of Princes St Gardens with proposed approximate site for the preferred location of the Memorial marked.

