



## Denmark Hill Station public artwork Artist brief

### 1. Introduction

The Camberwell Society, working in partnership with Camberwell Arts, King's Hospital Charity and SE5 Forum for Camberwell, has been authorised by Network Rail to commission a public artwork for the new entrance at Denmark Hill Station, Camberwell. The work will be viewed by an estimated 10,000 people per day and we are looking for an artist – or artist partnership, collective or organisation – to create a permanent public artwork with wide audience appeal.

Working alongside Network Rail and the project steering group, which will include representatives from the above groups, the selected artist(s) will be responsible for the design, creation and installation of an artwork to be displayed on a purpose-built plinth with a clear area measuring 7.55 x 1.35 metres. The plinth is under a canopy with clear headroom of 1.3 metres. It is protected from direct rain but exposed to the elements at the sides.

We are particularly interested in hearing from artists with experience of working within the public realm, and experience of collaborative community-based projects, though early career artists looking to extend their practice are also encouraged to apply.

The selected artist(s) will be expected to work collaboratively throughout the project with steering group members and other local stakeholders, including residents and rail users. The overall aims of the commission are to:

- Create a local landmark
- Stop passengers and passers-by in their tracks
- Become an identifiable feature of the local landscape
- Create a positive and stimulating environment for station users and local residents
- Engage local residents and station users with public art
- Welcome everyone to Camberwell

### 2. Background to the commission

Camberwell has a long history of community-led arts engagement and enhancement. With passenger upgrades currently being undertaken at Denmark Hill station, to cope with surging demand, an opportunity has been identified to create a new artwork that will improve the station environment for both rail users and local residents.

Network Rail has secured additional Department for Transport funding to continue their station improvements, which includes reducing congestion by giving people an alternative route out of the station. As part of this work, they have identified a site to host public art. Details of the proposed plinth for this artwork are included in Appendix A.

Passenger numbers at Denmark Hill station have increased by more than 5.4 million in the last 15 years to 7.1 million annually, with a further 33% increase expected over the next 20 years. The station is now one of the busiest stations in south London, with similar levels of footfall to Blackfriars.

The existing architecture of the station should be taken into consideration, alongside the new designs and modifications, so that a coherent overall design is achieved.

### 3. History of the site

Denmark Hill station was built between 1864 and 1866. Designed by Charles Henry Driver, in the Italianate style, it incorporates a decorative frontage with French pavilion roofs.

The station has a colourful history. In the 1920s its waiting room was used by The Mystical Church of the Comforter, founded by Mrs Elizabeth Mary Eagle Skinner who was known as 'The Messenger'. The waiting room was transformed by a white altar surrounded by the seven colours of the rainbow. In 1926, The *Nottingham Evening Post* reported that babies were baptised, funeral services read, marriages solemnised – and that staff of the railway company worked to the accompaniment of hymns sung by the congregation.

In March 1980, arsonists broke into the booking hall and the resulting fire destroyed the roof. Initial work by British Rail engineers to make the building safe by demolishing parts of the remaining building triggered a protest campaign by the Camberwell Society. As a result, the building was restored in 1985 and a popular pub, fittingly called the Phoenix, now occupies the former ticket hall and waiting room of the station, alongside the FCB coffee shop.

Passengers currently access the station via a new ticket hall, with access from Champion Park, built during a 2011-13 programme of renovations that also included new walkways and lifts to the station. The station is currently managed by Govia Thameslink and is also served by Southeastern and London Overground trains.

It is close to Kings College Hospital, the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychiatry & Neuroscience, and the Maudsley – the UK's first purpose built mental health facility. It is also near to Ruskin Park, named after John Ruskin who lived in the area from 1843-1872.

### 4. Commissioning theme

We are looking for new work that responds to the overall theme of *Health and Well-being*. This reflects the fact that the sculpture will be sited close to three major medical institutions and that a high percentage of viewers will be patients, staff or visitors to these organisations. It is an opportunity to celebrate Camberwell's strong associations with health, well-being and medical innovation.

Waters from the original Camber Well were said to have a beneficial effect on any number of ailments and the local church is dedicated to St Giles, patron saint of the poor, people with disabilities and those suffering from mental illness. By the 18th century Camberwell's reputation for its healing waters had established it as a desirable location for recreation and refreshment, as well as healing.

Ever since, Camberwell has been a cradle for medical discovery and innovation, particularly in the area of mental health and well-being. It's no wonder the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell adopted the motto "All's Well" when they were granted the right to a coat of arms in 1901.

Today, Camberwell is home to some of the world's most influential and innovative medical research organisations. Close to where Londoners once took the healing waters of the Camber Well, three leading medical organisations – the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Kings College Hospital and Maudsley – are now in residence and the area is at the forefront of global mental health research.

The commissioned artwork is an opportunity to reflect on this extraordinary history as well as express our gratitude to the NHS today – along with the many care givers and transport workers who are keeping things going through the current Covid-19 health crisis.

It's also an opportunity to encourage everyone who passes through the station to reflect on their own health and that of their wider community. By encouraging us to pay more attention to our immediate environment, public art can be a powerful catalyst for improved well-being.

## 5. Partner websites and local resources

[www.camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://www.camberwellsociety.org.uk)

[www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk)

[www.se5forum.org.uk](http://www.se5forum.org.uk)

[www.camberwell.life](http://www.camberwell.life)

[www.southwarkheritage.wordpress.com](http://www.southwarkheritage.wordpress.com)

## 6. Project scope

- To undertake a minimum of 5 site meetings with the project steering group – online or in person, as circumstances prevail - including (subject to circumstances) a pre-visit to the railway station delivered and supported by Network Rail
- To design and deliver a minimum of 6 creative consultation / activity sessions to engage local residents, community groups and service users with the project
- To develop a concept for a final public artwork in conversation and collaboration with all stakeholders, including local community groups and fabrication partners for Network Rail
- To create and install a permanent / semi-permanent public artwork, co-produced with the appointed project steering group and approved by Network Rail, to be installed at Denmark Hill station. Assistance is available throughout the installation process, which must be compliant with Network Rail and Govia Thameslink health and safety guidelines
- To support promotion and publicity of the installed artwork
- To feed into project monitoring and evaluation, where requested

## 7. Milestones

Construction of the entrance is due to commence on-site in August this year. The entrance is expected to be in use by April 2021. It is important that the piece is installed in January 2021 before the canopy is put onto the walkway. Network Rail's general contractor will then be able to supply and manage the lifting and positioning of the piece. Commitment to this finish date will be important in the artist selection, with the current timeline as follows:

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (11.59pm): deadline for submission of applications
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020: shortlisting of artists
- August 2020 (weeks 1 and 2): interviews with shortlisted artists (in person or via Zoom)
- August 2020 (week 3): artist(s) contract agreed
- August 2020 (week 4): inception meeting with project steering group
- September – October 2020: project research, steering group engagement and creative community consultation activities to inform ideas and designs for final artwork
- Mid-October 2020: steering group agreement and sign off final designs
- October – December 2020: produce artwork
- January 2021: installation of artwork
- April 2021: public launch event

## 8. Fees and project budget

The project will be developed and delivered within the constraints of the overall project budget of £24,000, which includes:

- Artist(s) fee, including design, fabrication and installation of artwork plus associated partner engagement, community consultation and project evaluation
- Material and installation costs (see notes regarding BAM Nuttall in Appendix A)
- Provision of 25 signed, limited edition prints of the artwork, or equivalent artist multiple, to be given to private individuals who have donated a significant sum

The rates and prices above shall be deemed inclusive of all additional expenses, howsoever incurred, and are inclusive of VAT. 25% of the overall project fee will be paid on appointment, a further 25% on approval of the design, followed by 35% on completion of the work and the final 15% once the installation is complete.

## 9. Proposal process

We invite creative and innovative proposals that give a clear indication of the proposed approach to the project. Proposals should include:

- CV and a brief artist statement, summarising your creative practice
- A brief outline of your proposed approach to the project, including the thinking behind it, how it meets the commissioning theme, the materials you propose to use and how these will be maintained
- Evidence and examples of similar work undertaken previously, including examples of working with community groups and, if appropriate, the design of public artwork
- Up to 10 high quality images and / or links in support of your proposal (combined attachments should not exceed 10 MB)
- Project budget (including a detailed cost of materials, breakdown of the number and costs of days attributed for the different elements of work and inclusive of VAT and public liability insurance)
- Detailed timeline, indicating how you will meet the milestones identified above, including allowance for lead time for material purchase
- Confirmation that you have understood Network Rail's stipulations in Appendix B and understand the health and safety requirements of site working referenced in Appendix A
- Names and contact details for two referees (references will only be requested for the selected artist(s))

## 10. Submission of proposals

- Proposals must be received no later than 11.59pm on 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Proposals not exceeding 10MB should be sent electronically to Tony Coleman – [transport@camberwellsociety.org.uk](mailto:transport@camberwellsociety.org.uk) – and Kelly O'Reilly – [chair@camberwellarts.org.uk](mailto:chair@camberwellarts.org.uk)

## 11. Selection process

Proposals will be shortlisted by the project steering group, after which up to 5 shortlisted artists may be invited for a panel interview before a final appointment is made. This may include Zoom interviews if the current period of social distancing is extended.

Applications will be scored against the following criteria for selection:

- Creative proposal and examples of previous work (40%)
- Response to the commissioning theme of Health & Well-being (30%)
- Previous public art experience and / or working in public spaces (10%)
- Previous experience of creative community engagement and / or consultation (10%)
- Strength of project budget (5%)
- Strength of project timeline and commitment to meeting the completion date (5%)
- Meets all of the Network Rail stipulations outlined in Appendix B (ESSENTIAL)

At all times the opinion of the selection committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Artists who are shortlisted but eventually unsuccessful will receive feedback.

## 12. The role of the selection committee

The selection committee consists of representatives from the following organisations:

- Camberwell Arts
- Camberwell College of Arts
- Camberwell Society
- Independent arts organisation
- Kings College Hospital
- Network Rail
- Southwark Council

The selection committee is chaired by Kelly O'Reilly, Chair of Camberwell Arts. New members may join at the discretion of existing group representatives. The decision on the final artwork will be made by this sub-group, who have collective experience of arts management, engineering, public art, curation and community engagement.

Their decision will be final, subject only to the approval of Network Rail and Govia Thameslink as the owner and management company for Denmark Hill station.

### **13. The role of the steering group**

The steering group for this project currently consists of representatives from the following organisations:

- Camberwell Arts
- Camberwell Society
- SE5 Forum

The steering group is chaired by Tony Coleman of the Camberwell Society. New members may join at the discretion of existing group representatives. Their role is to:

- Secure the required funding for a commissioned public art work
- Develop and disseminate the artist's brief through an open call out process
- Create a longlist of all artists who meet the selection criteria in full to support the selection committee
- Work with the selected artist, or artist's group, to meet and work with local community members to facilitate the development of their final design plan for the public art work
- Support the artist during the process of developing a final design plan for submission to Network Rail and Govia Thameslink for their final approval and sign off
- Provide assistance to the selected artist during the installation process, if required
- Oversee the public launch of the artwork

The appointed artist(s) will be responsible for liaising with the steering group throughout the process to ensure the final designs meet the overall agreed objectives for this project.

### **14. Working with Network Rail and their installers (BAM Nuttall)**

The appointed artist(s) will be required to work closely with Network Rail representatives to ensure the final artwork complements and is compatible with the wider station development. The final designs will need to be signed off by Network Rail and the wider steering group to ensure all proposed procedures, processes and materials meet environmental and health and safety requirements.

The installers BAM Nuttall will have lifting equipment at the site in January 2021 and have undertaken to carry out the lifting required to position the piece provided it is delivered to the site that month. The design of the piece will need to make provision for lifting e.g. the base should be strong enough and positions for slings or stops should be identified. The artist will be required to engage with BAM Nuttall to assist with details.

A number of site meetings may be required, taking place in Camberwell on dates and times specified by Network Rail and/or their installers.

### **15. Working with Govia Thameslink**

The project will be maintained by Govia Thameslink and the selected artist(s) will be required to liaise with their identified project representative to ensure their final designs meet the maintenance budget and procedures identified for this project. A minimal maintenance routine, with minimal ongoing maintenance costs, will be prioritised.

## **16. Working with local communities**

The commissioned artwork is intended to enhance the station for the benefit of the whole community and the selected artist(s) will be required to identify ways of involving the community and existing social groups - including disabled people, young people, BAME groups, LGBTQ communities and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds - in the final design of the artwork. This could include a series of community engagement workshops, creative art activities, discussion about the role of public art or consultation about selected aspects of the finished artwork.

In the current period of social distancing we are keen to receive proposals that embrace online and remote tools to engage local communities during the current lockdown period.

The steering group will ensure local groups are informed about the project and will invite them to take part in any associated community events and workshops.

## **17. Public liability insurance**

The selected artist(s) will be required to provide details of their public liability insurance and agree to maintain these for the period of the commission.

## **18. Project promotion**

The appointed artist will be required to assist the Steering Group and Network Rail to promote the project, including taking part in pre-agreed photo calls and media interviews as and when requested.

## **19. Intellectual property**

The intellectual property rights will remain with the artist(s). However, as a condition of the contract the appointed artist(s) will be required to sign off a set of images that may be used for project promotion and publicity purposes in perpetuity by the stakeholder groups named in this brief and/or in the commissioning contract.

**If you would like further information about the project, or have any questions, then please contact Kelly O'Reilly on [chair@camberwellarts.org.uk](mailto:chair@camberwellarts.org.uk)**

**We look forward to receiving your application.**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2020**



## APPENDIX A

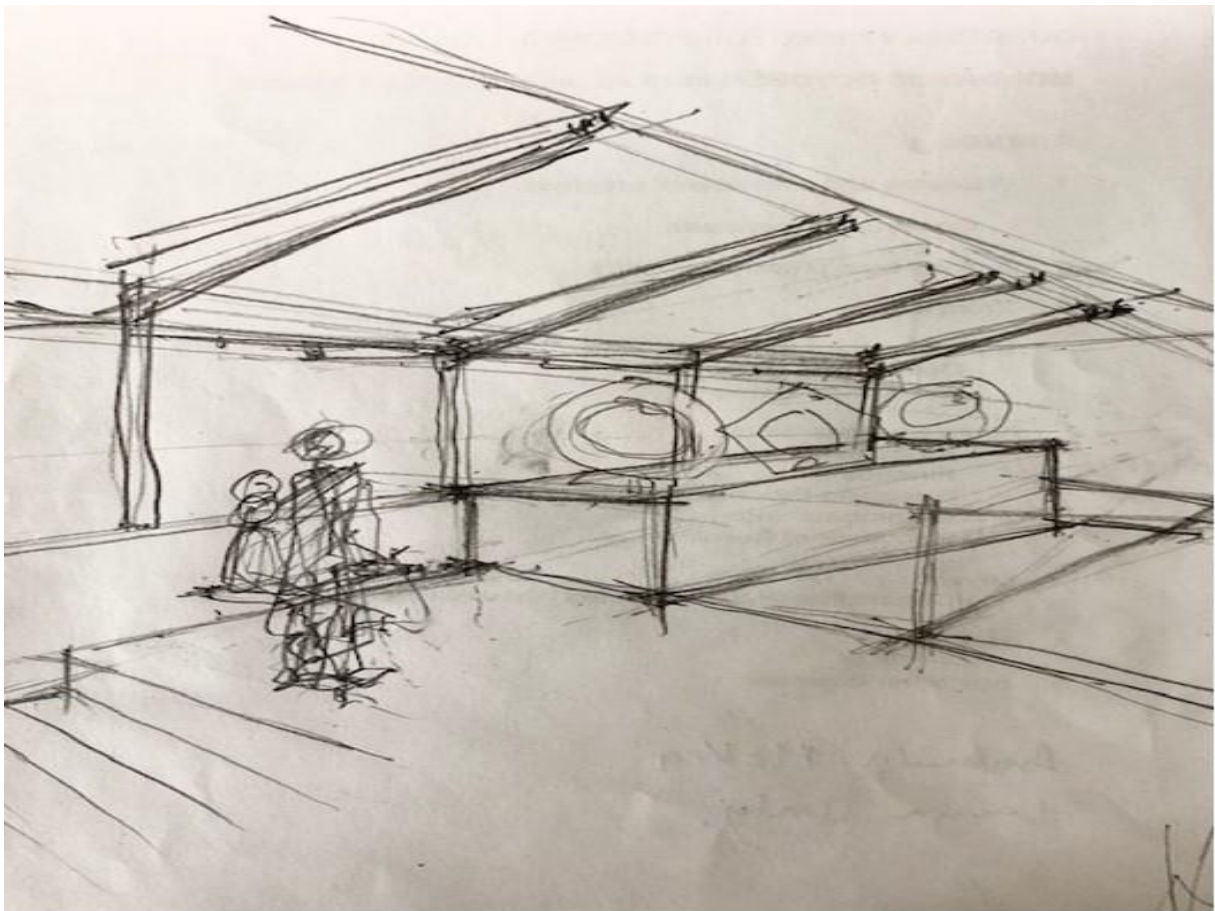
### Installation details

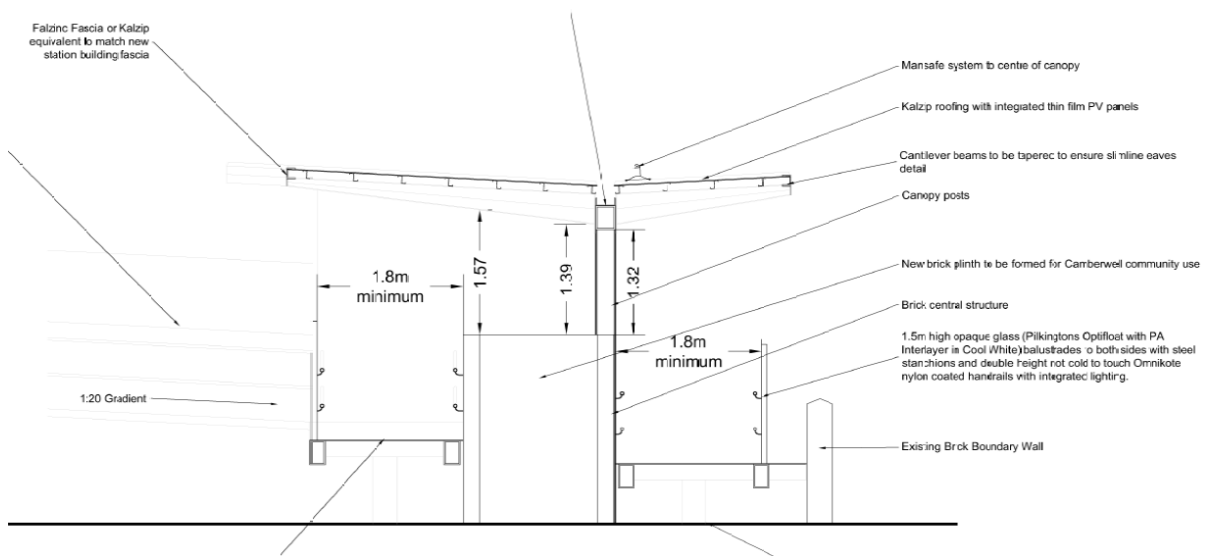
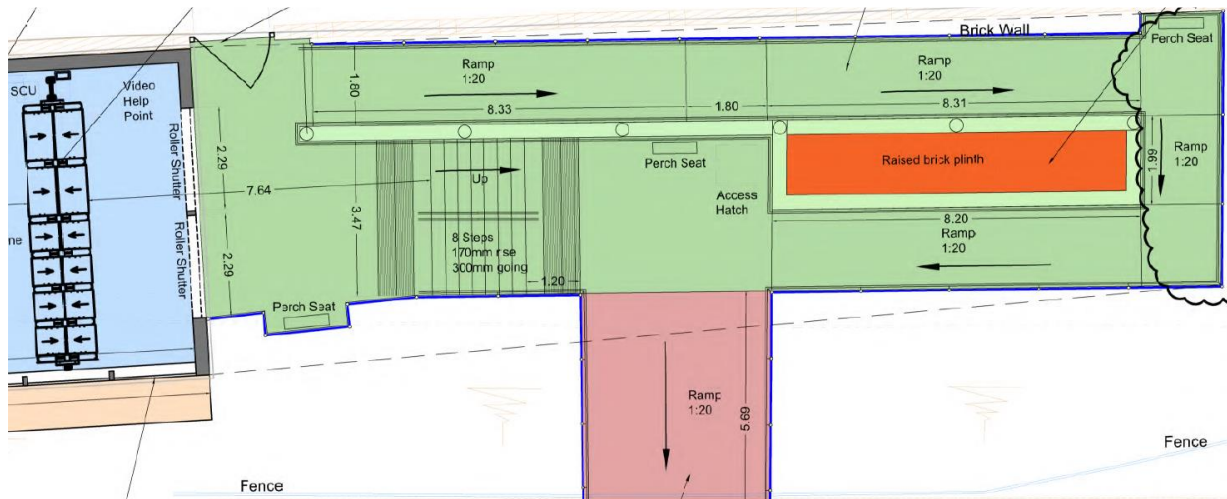
The plinth is 7.55m long and 1.35m wide, with headroom of 1.3m. It is within the secured boundary of the station and, whilst the location is under a canopy, it is open at the sides.

The area will be provided with feature lighting to highlight the piece, the design of the lighting will be by the entrance designers (INVVU) in consultation with the artist(s). Spotlighting and up-lighting in white or colour are possible. Locations to suit the piece.

The location is next to a walkway and as such is touchable. This means that the piece should not have any sharp edges that might cut or have any crevices where rubbish could accumulate or illicit items, such as a knife, could be hidden.

Below is a sketch of the location followed by snapshots of the engineering drawings of the plinth area marked in orange.





### Transport to site and installation

BAM Nuttall have undertaken to collect the piece on a Hiab truck, subject to weight and access, from a workshop within a 5-mile radius of the site at no cost provided it is ready for installation in January 2021. They have also undertaken to perform the lifting operation to position it on the plinth. The canopy sections are due to be installed in early February, after which the piece will need to be in sections and brought up the ramp. This would then be at the artist(s)'s cost. The artist(s) should engage with BAM Nuttall about the lifting processes required early in the construction of the work, as well as engage with them regarding the need for fixings (if required).

### On-site assembly and finishing works

The artist(s) is encouraged to ensure the piece is fully finished in the workshop wherever possible. The site will be an active construction site under health & safety permit rules, which will require the preparation of method statements for works and carrying the works out under procedure which may be onerous. The use of welding, brazing or grinding on site has particular procedures including fire inspections.

### Access platform

BAM Nuttall have undertaken to provide scaffolding access to allow safe working on the piece if required. The scaffolding will limit their own access to the site.

### PPE

The standard PPE for the site is full orange (orange jacket, orange trousers) plus the normal hard hat, safety glasses, ear defenders, safety boots, and gloves. The artist(s) is encouraged to provide what they can. BAM Nuttall can provide the remainder.



**Site working hours**

Site hours are normal weekday hours. The site is closed at other times.

BAM Nuttall have undertaken to protect the piece with boarding after installation. The artist(s) should consider if any protection is needed during transport.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Stipulations by Network Rail**

It is the requirement of Network Rail that the final design plan must meet the following conditions:

- The proposal does not provide stowage space for rubbish or weapons
- The proposal is suitably robust and vandal proof
- The proposal does not provide a danger to users of the station
- The proposal is not flammable
- Any personnel conducting finishing works on site must wear full PPE
- The appointed artist must follow the guidance of Network Rail's principal contractor, BAM Nuttall, throughout the design and installation processes
- The Camberwell Society will work with Network Rail and its contractors to plan the installation and any finishing works