**Outdoor artist/maker opportunity**

**Overview**

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| **Project Title** | Wayfinding Wonders Project (working title) |
| **Who?** | Sculptor(s) / Craft maker(s) – specialists in either metal / wood / stone, brick / mixed media. Experienced in:   * Outdoor public art / features * Community engagement * Partnership work * Being resourceful and solution based.   Will consider individual artist/maker or creative partnerships. |
| **What?** | Create 16 innovative rest stops using standard oak sleeper benches as a base and  features could adorn, surround, or be attached.This will involve a series of community workshops to develop designs for the artist to produce, or support the community to solely create them, or a mix.  *(Benches purchased separately to artists fee)*  The successful artist / maker will also collaborate with a digital artist. Each rest stop will feature interactive QR code content, whereby the trails will offer multi- experiences in one eg a mental health trail / a nature / heritage / physical activity.  The digital experiences will then be placed on the Cannock Chase Can app, for the public to follow using the rest stops as their way-markers and cross marketed via www.chaseFit.co.uk |
| **Where?** | The creative rest stops will be sited on 2 connecting circular routes on Cannock Chase. Marquis Drive Visitor Centre, Hednesford is central to each route.  **Route 1**  Brindley Heath Car Park Hednesford Brindley Heath Rd, Hednesford, WS12 4DR to  Marquis Drive Visitor Centre WS12 4PW (Return loop)  8 rest stops  **Route 2**  Campfield Car Park, Brindley Heath Rd, Hednesford, WS12 4PW onto Toc H trail circular and viewing platform (Found opposite Marquis Drive entrance)  Improvements to trail support disabled access to Cannock Chase.  8 rest stops  The artist / maker will be expected to undertake workshops with residents of Hednesford North and visit such venues as Pye Green Community Centre / Museum of Cannock Chase / Hednesford Primary schools / Hednesford Park Pavilion etc  They will be expected to walk and visit each route on several occasions with support from staff at Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. |
| **Why?** | The Hednesford North Ward Area has evidence of low physical activity and high sedentary levels, yet the beauty of Cannock Chase is within reach. The project aims to address real and perceived barriers, to regularly make the most of what they have available to them on their doorstep.  The creative process, will spark a greater understanding of these barriers to inform the fun and friendly rest-stops will act as way-markers, motivate longer walks, provide activity on route, and much needed rest stops at strategic points to support people in a variety of circumstances. Eg those with breathing, mobility difficulties, weight management requirements, rest for wheelchair, push chair pushers, dog walkers / keep children motivated to advance physical activity for both child and adult etc  The project will require evaluation to prove its impact and the difference it has made on its community. This will be achieved through capturing before and after data on the routes where the rest stops will be sited, and personal outcome based consultation and feedback derived from project participation. |
| **Funding and Fee** | This project is being funded by Sport England, via its Wayfinding scheme and is part of a larger initiative to improve access by Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Cannock Chase, Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council, supported by partners Together Active and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles.  The artist/maker will work with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles team to shape the project on time and on budget. EG work with one group to create two rest-stops, develop a standard format with individual design elements/features etc.  The fee is all inclusive of design to production - materials, travel, delivery of items to site and community workshops, - £26,000.  This does have the potential to be increased – awaiting confirmation.  Please discuss with lead contacts any details regarding fee. |
| **Main liaison and reporting contacts** | Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles  Creative Development & Delivery Lead - Louise Rose  Integration Lead – Lisa Shephard |
| **Timescale** | January 2025 – August 2025  Commence workshops and siting dates will be negotiated with landowner. |
| **Based** | Home or Studio  Participating schools & community groups  Office space provided for meeting by IHL – Chase Leisure Centre, Stafford Road Cannock. |

**Project in Details:**

The successful artist(s) will work alongside various community groups from the area of Hednesford, Staffordshire, principally residents from the Hednesford North Ward area to codesign and generate 16 rest stops which will be placed on two interconnecting circular routes on Cannock Chase forest.

The rest stops will use the standard oak sleeper bench as its core, and creative and imaginative features can surround them, adorn them, enabling the bench to be replaced if need be over time. For example, they could have back rests / curved screens / carvings acting as arm rests, relief work attached etc.

**Community involvement**

Community workshops will co-create designs, resulting in a combination of artist/maker production and community led production (EG a group is taught techniques and create their own feature over an agreed time). Groups could be craft groups, scouts, guides, elderly residents, primary schools, SEN school or adult disability groups etc. The amount of workshop sessions will be agreed with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles leads, to reflect the needs of the project to achieve the features. EG some groups may require more workshop interaction than others, depending on how ‘their’ bench/rest stop is achieved.

**Creative Rest stops / Benches (ideas and themes)**

All of the rest stops must be viewed as cohesive collective through standardising its format, or elements, its materials or technique, but within each is unique element which incorporates the communities ideas and designs, therefore encouraging the visitor to walk to the see the next one.

Imaginative ideas to produce each rest stop/ bench could involve;

* A group taking charge of their bench(es) and they need support and guidance from the artist, eg a relief carving workshop and artist monitors and support progress
* Create features onto a supporting structure, eg a row of totems enveloping the rear of bench or arm rest features
* Metal laser work screens eg sited as back rests

The rest stops must celebrate Cannock Chase forest, its flora and fauna, its heritage, its ability to support and promote positive physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We would like artists to be imaginative - Do people have to find hidden things within each bench? Do they reflect the line of a poem you need to complete, does each bench simply reflect one animal, one plant associated with Cannock Chase. The choice is developed by the artist and participating community on what would increase people to walk and visit them.

**Health and Safety**

Whatever is produced must meet health and safety and durability requirements, such as being strong, smooth and secure to;

* withstand unmanaged public usage
* achieve longevity
* withstand all outdoor weather conditions and temperatures all year round
* reduce risk of theft and breakages
* avoid harm to public and nature (sharps, traps and trip hazards)
* avoid water pooling
* mindful that they are in isolated areas, not monitored by staff, eg will be climbed / sat on / rocked.
* Nature can take over – eg grass growing / dog urine / leaves coverage

**The artist/maker will be required to:**

* Work with various community organisations of all ages and abilities supported by their community lead
* Deliver a programme of creative workshops to share skills, techniques to assist in developing ideas for the overall trail theme and completion of their individual rest stop / bench in /with participating schools and local community groups to ensure the principals of community ownership / coproduction / co creation are embraced
* Site visits to routes and settings to fully immerse themselves to gain a sense of people and place
* Work with digital artist (QR Code Content developer) to establish a cohesive approach to the trail
* Support participants to understand the process of creating public art and its health and safety needs to inform its production
* Be available to liaise and share progress with wider project team and partners. Eg in person / email images etc.
* Work with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to co-ordinate workshops / site visits / presentations / delivery and installation on site.
* Support evaluation methods.
* Follow any procedures / policies which are required by Inspiring healthy Lifestyles and those of the projects host sites to ensure health and safety standards are met.
* Ensure that the finished piece is conducive to conditions of location such as ASB, local environment, all year round weather conditions
* Liaise with other organisations involved in areas of responsibility to site the feature such as Cannock Chase Council, Staffordshire County Council if required
* Include any specific requirements regarding siting/ installation eg design height to weight ratio may require additional features to make safe its fixings into ground.
* Be available to launch celebration

**Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles will:**

* Oversee the development of the contract
* Oversee payment schedule and its release in association with meeting contractual obligations
* Support the co-ordination and engagements of groups and key community leads.
* Engage and liaise with relevant partners eg land managers, funders
* Pull the creative team together eg artist / maker and digital artist / project lead.
* Over see wider evaluation requirements to demonstrate impact of project
* Signpost /develop pathways/ provide references to assist the artist with future commissions
* Provide Wellness Wheel tool to measure impact on wellbeing.

**Outcomes:**

* Increased / improved personal outcomes eg self esteem / confidence / support
* Increased / Improved access for all, to Cannock Chase forest from their home / venue / setting
* Increased awareness of Cannock Chase flora, fauna, heritage and its 12 Cannock Chase Code priorities
* Increased awareness in how Cannock Chase contributes to physical and mental health and wellbeing.
* Partners recognise how arts can be used to support communication of key themes and messages
* Improved personal Wellbeing in a person’s priority areas (Wellness Tool)

**Application**

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles wishes to appoint an individual or organisation who can demonstrate the following skills and experience in their application:

**Essential**

* Experience and evidence of generating outdoor public art / features
* Demonstrates practical experience of working with varied ages and abilities in the community which instils community empowerment and ownership.
* Have the appropriate risk management procedures experience and have insurances place to undertake public art installations and community workshops
* Good experience of creating designs sensitive to natural environments eg Parks / Forests / Green Spaces.
* Good project management skills and ability to work to a clear deadline and within budget.
* Innovative and strives for quality in their creative practice

**General requirements**

* Must be available and able to complete works within a maximum of 8 months from commencement. (Jan – August 2025)
* Over see any manufacturing processes they use, eg laser production to welding and be responsible for their quality, meeting health and safety standards and payment of works from the fee provided.
* Provide evidence of public liability, risk management procedures in place in relation to all aspects of project delivery and community participation. Eg risk assessments for workshops.
* An in-date DBS would be advantageous, but one will be undertaken if required
* Be freelance and be responsible for own declarations in relation to tax and national insurance and anything in connection to pension payments.
* Manage their own workload and priorities and deliver commission effectively.
* Be ICT literate and use Outlook tools, social media, and be self-sufficient in office administration.

**To apply:**

* A CV with track record and project examples of similar work including links to any web/social media featuring you, your practice, project examples.
* A covering letter outlining your interest in the work and your approach to the commission.
* Contact details of two referees, ideally linked to similar project experience
* **Deadline:** Monday 18th November (by 5pm)
* **Notification:** Thursday 21st November
* **Invite to interview:** Friday 29th November

**Project start Collaborate on start date – initial works can commence January.**

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