

***Interconnection* - Public Art EOI**

Smith Street Streetscape Improvement project

9 August 2024

City of Darwin is calling for expressions of interest from Darwin-based visual artists for exciting contemporary public art commission opportunities within the Smith Street Streetscape Improvement Project in Darwin's CBD.

Background

In the 2023 Budget, the Northern Territory Government identified \$3 Million for Smith Street Darwin greening and cooling as a part of the Darwin City Deal. Continuing Urban Greening and Cooling strategies will mitigate heat in the CBD, increasing public amenity and pedestrian traffic, decrease energy usage, and increase economic benefit by encouraging people to stay longer in the retail, commercial and recreational areas.

Objective

The broader project aims to increase pedestrianisation of Smith Street through greening and redevelopment to activate, invigorate, and contribute to placemaking. City of Darwin wants artists to stimulate the imagination of the public, enriching the surroundings and permeating the location with meaning.

Public art will contribute to these aims through:

- Integrated visual art (horizontal road murals and street furniture)
- Small scale sculptures



Project Scope

Opportunities: There are up to four opportunities spanning the length of the Smith Street Streetscape Project: three opportunities for horizontal road murals and/or integrated visual art and one opportunity for contemporary multiple small-scale sculptures and/or integrated visual art.

Remuneration: The successful artist/s will be paid up to \$20,000 and the artwork/s may be used for visual interventions on roadways, vertical infrastructure, urban furniture, and stand-alone small-scale sculptures.

Payments may include funds for the creation and installation depending on the work or may be focused on artists' fees only. Payments will vary according to the scope and type of public art opportunity.

Project Timeline

Expression of Interest Open	Friday 9 August 2024
Guided site visit 1	Thursday 22 August, 10.00am 2024
Guided site visit 2	Wednesday 28 August, 5.15pm 2024
Expression of Interest Close	Sunday 11.59pm, 8 September 2024,
Applicants notified	Wednesday 18 September 2024
Selected artists confirmed and engaged	Wednesday 25 September 2024
Artwork concepts 90% completed	Friday 28 October 2024
2D Artwork completed	Thursday 14 November
3D Artwork completed	Thursday 30 January
Installation period	3 April – 30 June 2025

Project Site

Streetscape upgrade to Smith Street from Knuckey Street to Whitfield Street, with a focus on the intersections at Searcy Street, Edmunds Street and the Rainbow Crossing at Knuckey Street.



Theme *Interconnection*

City of Darwin invites artists, in a site-specific way, to explore and respond to the theme of Interconnection.

Interconnection is a condition in which multiple things are connected to one another in a complex and mutually dependent way. It refers to the intricate relationships and interactions between people, places, and the environment. In biology an ecosystem is an interconnection of living and non-living components that work together to sustain life.

Traffic intersections create moments of social connection for pedestrians and, more literally, intersections are where roads connect. In art, human connections are made when the viewer interacts with an artwork via one or more of the five senses (sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch) and the interaction elicits an emotional response. Artists are encouraged to consider the concept of interconnection in a contemporary and distinctly Darwin manner, highlighting the vibrancy and colour of our eclectic city.

Eligibility

Artists must be an individual or a group who are:

- 18 years or above
- Have an ABN
- Australian citizens or permanent residents
- Residing in the Darwin region

- Agree to your artwork being used for, including but not limited to, visual interventions on roadways, integrated visual art, integrated street furniture and small-scale sculpture. (see definitions below)

Submissions

To be considered, you must include the following:

- **Response** to assessment criteria (max 300 words)
- **Support material** of up to 7 work examples (either new concept/s responding to theme and/or indicative previous work and projects or both. Png and Jpg format)
- **Artists CV and Biographies** outlining skills, knowledge, and experience (max. 2 pages per artist)

Please submit expressions of interest and artwork via the City of Darwin website link [here](#)

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a public art assessment panel based on the below criteria:

- **Relevance:** Artwork relevance to theme (The why and how your artwork or approach responds to the theme).
- **Merit:** Artistic merit and originality as evidenced by the support material provided.
- **Experience:** Demonstrated history of public art, three-dimensional art practice and/or exhibition.
- **Viability:**
 - Ability and willingness to develop artwork in collaboration with City of Darwin and stakeholders.
 - Commitment to deliver artwork from Thursday 8 August.
 - Responsibility and commitment to the project and timelines.
- **Priority will be given to EOIs that:**
 - Deliver on City of Darwin's Creative Strategy
 - Elevate artists living and working in the Darwin municipality

City of Darwin encourages EOIs from artists from a diverse range of ages, gender, and cultural backgrounds, including First Nations creatives.

Guided Site Visits

City of Darwin staff will host two guided site visits of the area for potential applicants, where there will be an opportunity for face-to-face questions onsite.

- **Dates of the site visits** are **Thursday 22 August 10:00am** and **Wednesday 28 August 5:15pm**. Please register your interest in attending by RSVP to arts@darwin.nt.gov.au and indicate which you will be attending (you are welcome to attend both). Site visits to meet at Raintree Park, adjacent to The Mall.

Definitions

Integrated visual art (horizontal road murals): Mural style visual artworks on roadways and pathways through various application methods.



1. *Intersection mural*, Cecilia Lueza, Photo: Beth Reynolds.



2. *Everyday People*, Slaven Lunar Kosanovic 2023, Zagreb. Croatia.

Integrated visual art (street furniture): public seating, tables, bike racks and benches etc

Vertical infrastructure: The integration of visual art onto the vertical plane of new construction. This could take the format of concrete stencil or laser cut screens.



1. Universal Precast architectural concrete. 2. Trash can with text 'Garbage' in different languages, Poland. 3. XOXO, Hamilton, USA.



Modified Social Benches, Jeppe Hein, *The Dipped One*, *The Pointy One*, *The Curved One*.



Jeff Knight's sign language bike rack functional art installation *Fargo* 2018.

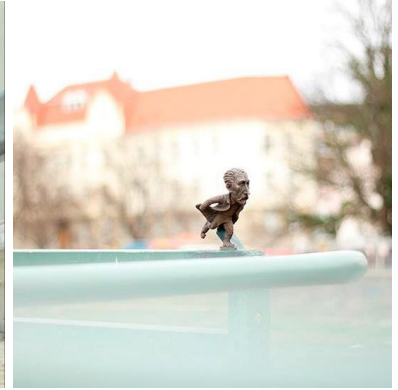
Multiple stand-alone small-scale sculptures



Douglas Coupland, *Canoe Landing*.



Mihály Kolodko, *Moszkva Ter 2018* and *Tivadar.Csontvary Kosztkn 2015*



For more information, please contact the Arts and Cultural Development Officer:

Email – arts@darwin.nt.gov.au

Phone – 08 8930 0674 | 0476 489 169

(NB: Office phone and mobile are only monitored on Tuesdays and Wednesdays – please leave a voicemail or send a text if contacting outside of these days).