

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## Artist Commission 2023-24

### Dunton Hills Garden Village: Fanns, Woods and Waters

**Budget:** £10,000  
**Deadline:** 17 October 2023  
**Interviews:** 1 November 2023

**Suggested Commission Start date:** November 2023  
**Suggested Commission End date:** March 2024

#### Full Creative Brief

Essex Cultural Diversity Project and Brentwood Borough Council invite proposals from creative practitioners for a commission that celebrates the new Dunton Hills Garden Village. We are seeking a project with strong environmental themes, that celebrates biodiversity, and encourages positive attitudes and behaviours around Climate Action and the environment. It will be inspired by the three neighbourhoods of the new housing development: Dunton Fanns, Dunton Woods and Dunton Waters. Working alongside local primary school children, the project will capture the diversity of past, present and future communities, within and surrounding the new Garden Village.

Dunton Hills Garden Village is a new settlement for Brentwood, designed to meet the needs of a growing population. The new Garden Village will be a self-sustaining community providing up to 4,000 homes, new schools, job opportunities, health and community facilities, and shared public spaces. It will be located on a site that sits within the Brentwood Borough and borders the districts of Basildon and Thurrock. As part of the community place-making process that supports the new development, Essex Cultural Diversity Project and Brentwood Borough Council are inviting proposals from creative practitioners for a new commission.

We are seeking project proposals that directly engage children from four primary schools in the area, selected in advance by partners and supporters. Proposals should have a strong focus on nature, biodiversity and the environment. As a starting point, the project should draw from the vision, character and environmental considerations of each of the three distinct neighbourhoods proposed for the new Garden Village: Dunton Fanns, Dunton Woods and Dunton Waters. More details about each neighbourhood are below.

Projects should also consider the five key themes underpinning the development: A Strong Sense of Place, Land Use and Design, A Forward Thinking Village, Sustainable Movement, and Landscape.

Overall, the project must reflect and promote diversity and inclusion, and capture the voice of the community. We are interested in seeing a project that harnesses creative ways to explore the concept of culture and community in relation to the Garden Village as it develops.

#### Dunton Hills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

<https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/dunton-hills-garden-village-spd>

<https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/BBC-DGV-SPD-230131.pdf> /

This creative brief reads in tandem with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Dunton Hills, which has been formally adopted following a public consultation process. It details the outcomes of a community co-design process and will guide how the development will come forward in the future, so proposals should be synonymous with this guide.

## About the Three Neighbourhoods

Dunton Hills Garden Village will comprise three key neighbourhoods, knitted together by a rich variety of green spaces weaving through woodland, play areas, water features and nature areas, with exceptional views across the wider area from a ridgeline park. Historic farm buildings will be retained and incorporated within the central village green, a focal space for community events. Here are more details about the three neighbourhoods that make up Dunton Hills:

### **Dunton Fanns** (Section 4 of the SPD, page 85)

Dunton Fanns will be the most vibrant and most urban area of the Garden Village, and will play a vital role as it will contain the Village Centre and the Market Square, which will be important hubs of social, commercial and cultural life for the new community. The name of this area is derived from its natural landscape which is mostly fenland. Historically, this area consisted of fens, forests and farming land. The vision for Dunton Fanns is for a neighbourhood which retains the qualities of openness and long views which were observed in the original landscape. This area will be the village's main access (from the A128) and will act as a gateway to the village. Dunton Fanns also includes the innovation park, which will be the largest employment area within the Garden Village.

### **Dunton Waters** (Section 5 of the SPD, page 115)

With a village atmosphere of quietness and serenity, Dunton Waters will be the most tranquil neighbourhood of the Garden Village. Its character is defined by the historic ponds and wetlands, which will be largely retained in the new neighbourhood. The vision for Dunton Waters is for a neighbourhood which maintains a close relationship with its water bodies and allows residents easy access to those assets. It will become an area with bright buildings aligned along green streets, leading onto ponds and lakes, with views towards the blue infrastructure. Its architectural compositions and materiality will be reminiscent of water, with material palletes referencing reflections and brightness.

### **Dunton Woods** (Section 6 of the SPD, page 139)

Dunton Woods is rich in woodlands, trees and ancient natural environments. The vision is for a neighbourhood drawn upon these natural features and characterised by informal and organic urban forms, with an architectural language inspired by the woods. The neighbourhood will be characterised by its green and sheltered setting amongst the ancient woodlands and mature landscaping, with connections to the natural features surrounding the neighbourhood such as the ancient woodlands, the ridge and the ponds. Architectural compositions and materiality will be reminiscent of woodlands, with material palletes referencing wood, mix brick with timber and weatherboarding in darker colours. The neighbourhood will have excellent views due to its elevated topography.

## Project Approach, Delivery and Final Artwork

Proposed projects need to consider the timescales of the development: the creative practitioner(s) should consider that the site will be in a state of ongoing building work and development for a number of years, so any legacy and/or final outcome needs to be flexible.

The creative approach, participatory process and final artwork(s) would be shaped by the appointed creative practitioner(s), their proposed project and practice, as well as the participants they work alongside. We are happy to be led by the appointed creative practitioner(s) and would expect to see ideas of the final piece in the proposal.

Suggested processes and outcomes include inspiring and engaging schoolchildren with ideas for creative designs, assets or templates that developers could adopt and embed into the development. As an example, this could include pavement tile design, decorative brickwork, street furniture, place names and signage, or artistic features for walks and trails.

Proposals should include creative delivery within the schools, a final artwork which can be presented to each school, and some kind of final sharing event to bring together and celebrate participants' achievements.

Costs for production of the work when embedded into the development need to be considered, but do not need to be part of the commission budget.

## Responding to this Commission Opportunity

To apply for this commission please email [jo@essexcdp.com](mailto:jo@essexcdp.com) and include the following:

- An outline of the artistic concept for the commission, including your proposed approach to working with schools, potential creative outputs and legacy (no more than 1 side of A4).
- A brief description on why you are interested in this commission at this time, how your project promotes diversity and any relevant connections with Brentwood/Dunton Hills (no more than 1 side of A4).
- A biography and CV with relevant previous work (no more than 2 sides of A4). Please include links to relevant websites and social media/media.
- An outline budget breakdown showing how you would utilise the £10,000. It is important that all of the funded work takes place within the 2023-24 financial year, so please be clear on availability and resources to complete the commission in time
- An approximate timeline for the work.
- A completed Commissioning Monitoring Form: <https://bit.ly/commission-monitoring-doc>

As a diversity led organisation we are committed to making our application process more accessible, and can be adaptable, should the above procedures not quite work for you. We therefore welcome proposals in other formats, such as a video or audio version of your proposal, following the format above, or a 1-2-1 video or telephone call to talk through your proposal (we will use the prompts as listed above).

Please ensure that proposals are received by midnight on Tuesday 17 October. Send your proposal to [jo@essexcdp.com](mailto:jo@essexcdp.com)

Interviews will be on held on Wednesday 1 November in Brentwood.

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## Supporting information

### About Essex Cultural Diversity Project (ECDP)

ECDP's commissioning programme provides an opportunity for creative practitioners to not only create new work, but also explore diversity and develop their socially engaged and participatory practice. Projects capture the spirit of place, connect communities and give people a platform to tell their stories in their own words. ECDP is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) working across the East and South East of England to support and energise diversity in arts and cultural practice. ECDP has a key role to explore the concept of 'diversity' across Essex, working with a wide range of partners and providing opportunities for artists and creative practitioners from diverse backgrounds and contexts. Through its commissioning programme ECDP aims to support the production of challenging work that responds to specific places and the local context, as well as reflecting on national themes and issues around diversity. For further information on Essex Cultural Diversity Project visit [www.essexcdp.com](http://www.essexcdp.com)

### About Brentwood Borough Council

Brentwood is a borough of many villages which has a current population of over 75,000. The borough has a diverse economy, with a range of different transport links to London and surrounding areas. The combination of country parks and open green spaces make the borough a very attractive place to live. Much of the population in the borough is retired, with a significant ageing population. The population is projected to increase to approximately 78,000 over the next 20 years and as such new places for people to live are needed in the borough.

### Application process and support

The successful proposal will be selected by a panel of representatives from ECDP and Brentwood Borough Council. A shortlist will be made from the received applications based on how well they meet the commission criteria and respond to this brief, and these will be invited to interview to talk further about their proposal before a final decision is made.

The commission will be managed by ECDP and the commissioned artist can receive ongoing support, advocacy and advice from ECDP and Brentwood Borough Council throughout. There may be opportunities to engage directly with the consultant teams working with the Council, particularly in relation to ongoing consultation and community engagement.

The appointed creative practitioner will be expected to meet commissioners every 6-8 weeks during the project, by Zoom or in person, to discuss any issues arising and generally keep them in the loop with progress made, so that they can feed back to key stakeholders if needed.

## **Budget**

The commission budget is £10,000 (to include VAT) and will be treated as a grant. This is inclusive of all expenses and must therefore cover fees, travel, materials and marketing. Payments will be made in instalments, on receipt of invoice, and subject to progress against achieving agreed activity as outlined above. If this is a joint commission one artist/organisation will need to be the project lead and all payments will be made to them. Promotion for the commission can be undertaken in partnership with ECDP and other partners as appropriate. ECDP will promote the commission and related activity on the ECDP website and support the process throughout on social media (including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram).

## **Tracking Outcomes**

It is very important for ECDP as an Arts Council England funded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) that we can report on all of our activities effectively and accurately. The commissioning of artist(s) is a key element of our NPO programme and we expect there to be important outcomes, which we will work with the commissioned creative practitioner to record and track. ECDP would also want the appointed practitioner(s) to be aware of and engage with the concept of the 'Creative Case for Diversity' throughout the commission. In summary we would expect the appointed artist(s) to record both quantitative and qualitative information to support ECDP in capturing outcomes (as far as is possible). These include:

- numbers of 'sessions' and a list of workshops/events/meetings that took place as part of the commission
- numbers of project participants or volunteers
- numbers of audiences who attended events (who were not direct participants) – i.e. 'live' audiences
- any information on digital audiences (i.e. those engaging or viewing work online) where possible
- reflections on how the commission has impacted on the practice of the appointed artist(s), and how the commission may have impacted on the beneficiaries (volunteers/audiences) and the place
- any recorded feedback from participants/beneficiaries or partner organisations involved
- photos from workshops, events and the artwork/performances (much of this can be shared on the ECDP website and social media)

## **Environmental Sustainability**

ECDP is committed to minimising its potential for negative impacts on the environment. As an NPO we also have a leadership role in the arts/cultural sectors and consider that ECDP can have a positive impact on environmental sustainability as we have for issues relating to ethnic and cultural diversity. This is relevant to the commissioning programme and we are keen that all those interested in this commission for Dunton Hills to consider how they will reduce the impact of their work on the environment. For example, the use of materials – consider whether they are recyclable, made from recycled materials, or can be repurposed after the commission. The aim of this will be to reduce the waste from commissions/exhibitions and the use of non-recyclable materials where possible. Artists should consider where possible choosing accessible locations for activities and events – locations that can be easily accessed by public transport/walking as well as by older people. This fits with the sustainable vision and principles which are fundamental for how Dunton Hills Garden Village comes forward.

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If you would like to talk this brief through or need further information about the commission, we'd be very happy to offer support and answer your questions. Please email Jo Nancarrow on [jo@essexcdp.com](mailto:jo@essexcdp.com) to arrange a meeting.