

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	City Growth & Resources
<u>Date:</u>	26 March 2024
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Remembering Together Public Artwork and Covid Memorial
<u>Author:</u>	Elsbeth Winram & Steven Shaw
<u>Chief Officer:</u>	Julie Wood & Mark Reilly
<u>Email address:</u>	ewinram@aberdeencity.gov.uk stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk

UPDATE:

Remembering Together, Public Artwork and Covid Memorial

Scotland's Covid Community Memorial Programme, Remembering Together is being delivered by Greenspace Scotland at the request of the Scottish Government, as announced by the First Minister in March 2021. The programme involves commissioned artists working with partners, communities, faith groups and those most affected by covid in all 32 local authority areas to co-create covid memorial projects.

Every project has being carried out in two phases. Phase one supported artists/creative practitioners, with a budget of £20k to co-create with communities and shape ideas that reflected local people's experiences of the pandemic. The project in Aberdeen was managed by Culture Aberdeen, SHMU, North East Culture Collective(NECC) project alongside a steering group. The steering group had representatives from Third Sector organisations, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations, (ACVO), Culture Aberdeen, Grampian Health Arts Trust (GHAT), the newly formed Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Public Art Group Aberdeen, (PAPA) Environmental Services and Creative Learning.

The phase one artist recommendations were included in a report to the Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee on the 5th September 2023, when the committee considered and agreed; the site for the covid memorial to be Bon Accord Gardens and the process and artist brief for the second phase commission. The Committee also requested to be updated about the project via a Service Update once the commission was awarded.

For phase two, funding of around £100k has been available to each local authority to realise their projects. This funding was secured and managed by Culture Aberdeen, the SHMU, NECC project. Throughout both phases Greenspace Scotland have continued to support the programme through delivery, learning, connecting, reflecting, and ensuring legacy for all involved. As has the ACC PAPA panel and Environmental Services who have also supported the commission process through meetings, shortlisting and interviews.

The second phase Remembering Together commission received thirteen applications, and four were shortlisted and awarded £1,000 to finalise their designs and prepare for interview. The interview panel consisted of a member of the phase one artist team, a GHAT representative, the ACC, Environmental Manager, PAPA chair, Fairer Aberdeen Project Coordinator and the process was managed by the Culture Aberdeen, SHMU NECC, Project Manager.

The interview was in February 2024 and the group were delighted to award the commission to George King Architects.

The design has originated from the concept of the cairn, which has traditionally been a marker, burial site or navigational aid. It will be crafted from reclaimed granite, from buildings in Aberdeen that have been changed for new developments and the excess granite has been stored by Aberdeen City Council. These stones will be stacked and rotated to give rise to a circular spiral form resulting in an elegantly tapered shape. It will also have reclaimed wooden seating around the memorial and planting will create an amphitheatre style design.

Lines of a bespoke poem created by a local poet based on the experiences of local people will be intricately engraved onto each stone, and through the placement of the words, it will encourage people to walk around the memorial to view it from every angle.

The awarded commission has also received pre application advice and the NECC Project Manager and George King Architects will make a full planning application in line with the pre application recommendations made from Planning.

A press release will coincide with this Service Update and this will include information for the public and the opportunity to discuss the next stage of the project with the artist and project team. Two sessions have been arranged for Wednesday 10 April at Ferryhill Community Centre. The first session will run from 3pm-5pm and the second from 6pm-8pm.

In addition, workshops relating to the project will also run during the public sessions. The first workshop is for children, families, and adults from 3.45pm-5pm and the second is for adults only from 6.45pm-9pm. There will also be an online workshop on Tuesday 7 May at 7.30pm. All workshop places must be booked in advance and members of the public can register here: [Remembering Together – Culture Aberdeen](#)



Remembering Together Memorial
George King Architects