

Mural Artist Brief for Hawes Pier Public Toilet

1. Overview

We are inviting a visual artist or team to design and create a public mural on a newly installed public toilet facility at Hawes Pier, Queensferry. The mural should celebrate the character of the area, engage the community, and help protect the facility from vandalism. Artists working in any medium suitable for outdoor applications (including street art, painting, mixed media, wall sculpture, or nature-based art) are welcome to apply.

1.1 Background

This mural project forms part of the City of Edinburgh Council's commitment to deliver meaningful community benefits through its public contracts. These benefits aim to support social, environmental and economic wellbeing for local communities.

In this case, the artwork is being delivered as a community benefit associated with the installation of a new public toilet. By involving artists and community groups in the creation of murals, we aim to:

- Promote community identity and pride
- Reduce anti-social behaviour by encouraging community ownership
- Offer high quality creative opportunities for local people to influence public spaces
- Provide a visible legacy of the Council's investment in our open spaces

The mural project is a tool for building relationships between the space and its users. The final artwork should reflect themes that resonate with the surrounding community and help make the toilet building feel like a welcome and respected part of the local environment.

The mural should be shaped by the people of Queensferry and resonate with the local setting, history, and users of Hawes Pier.

1.2 Key Objectives

The new public toilet at Hawes Pier in Queensferry sits within a conservation area of national heritage value. Queensferry is known for its historic harbour, striking views of the Forth bridges, and rich maritime culture. The mural will be located on the side panel of the toilet building, facing the L-shaped bench. The key objectives are to:

- Produce a site-specific artwork that responds to the historic and natural context of Queensferry.
- Celebrate local identity and encourage community ownership through co-designed art.
- Improve the appearance of the new facility and contribute positively to the local landscape.

2. Artist Role and Expertise

The selected artist/s will have experience of successfully implementing outdoor mural projects, ideally within sensitive or heritage environments. The application should evidence capability to manage the project from design through to safe and timely installation.

The artist/s will engage with the local community and incorporate feedback from residents and young people. The final design will show sensitivity to the community context.

The artist/s should plan for at least one form of direct engagement with the public and examples of activity could be:

- Direct engagement with local groups
- Facilitated workshop
- Drop-in session
- Pop-up engagement event
- Focus group

The artist/s will submit at least two designs to be shared with the public for selection.

Following public selection, the mural installation will be delivered within a specified 3-week period (to be agreed). The mural must be completed by the end of 2026. Following artist/s appointment, a timeline will be agreed.

The artist must be able to demonstrate that they have appropriate Public Liability Insurance.

2.1 Artist Fee

A total fee of **£3923 exclusive of vat** is available to cover the design and installation of the mural, incorporating community feedback. The total fee will include materials, artist fee, engagement and maintenance costs. Maintenance period to extend up to 2 to 3 years in negotiation with the Council. It will also incorporate artist travel, insurance and any other ancillary costs, including cordoning the site if artist/s requires it.

This is a fixed fee inclusive of all costs; no additional payments will be made.

2.2 Design Considerations

- The final design must align with the heritage and character of Queensferry.
- It should be engaging and accessible to all ages and backgrounds.
- Materials must be weather-resistant and vandal-resistant.
- The mural must be safe, non-obstructive, and suitable for long-term display (minimum 5 years).
- We welcome a variety of mural styles, including traditional hand-painted, spray-painted, or mixed media techniques.

2.3 Limitations and Restrictions on Site and Mural Design

To ensure the mural is suitable for a public-facing facility in a public space, artists should consider the following:

- Content must be suitable for public space (no offensive or political content).
- Materials must be durable and appropriate for outdoor use.
- Artists will be required to complete a risk assessment prior to installation.
- Access during installation must be planned to avoid disruption to pathways and visitors to Hawes Pier. The artists may be required to work around public access needs.

3. Location

The mural will be located on the side elevation of the new public toilet, highlighted in the image with M as specified in the image below:



Newhalls Road, Hawes Pier, South Queensferry, Edinburgh.

Surface dimensions: 3m (L) x 2.9m (H)

The building sits on a wide tarmacked footpath near the entrance of Hawes Pier Car Park.

The panels are Hardie Plank Cladding horizontal Evening Blue from James Hardie. More details about the product can be found [here](#).

Further images of the site can be viewed at Appendix 1.

3.1 Site Specific Context

Hawes Pier is located to the west of the iconic Forth Rail Bridge, a Category A listed structure completed in 1890. The Forth Bridge is recognised globally for its engineering significance and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015, marking its 125th anniversary. Its designation as a World Heritage Site reflects the bridge's Outstanding Universal Value and the stringent preservation standards imposed on its surroundings.

The area's connection to maritime history extends beyond Hawes Pier. For centuries, South Queensferry served as the southern terminus of the vital ferry route across the Forth, linking Edinburgh to Fife and beyond. This link between the two shores formed the backbone of local trade and travel until the advent of the Forth Road Bridge, and later the Queensferry Crossing.

Today, the visual dominance of the Forth Bridge, Forth Road Bridge, and Queensferry Crossing makes South Queensferry a magnet for visitors. These bridges, combined with the town's picturesque waterfront and its vibrant community, create a dynamic tourism industry. The area's rich history, scenic views, and proximity to the water contribute to South Queensferry's ongoing appeal, with tourism playing a significant role in the town's economy.

3.2 Conservation Area Guidelines

The site is located within a designated Conservation Area. The following guidance must be considered in the artwork design:

- The design must be sensitive to the surrounding architecture, use high-quality and durable materials, and avoid garish or disruptive elements.
- The mural should be reversible or re-paintable to enable future maintenance or conservation.
- No historic stonework or original features are being altered as this is a newly built unit. However, the artwork must still respect the conservation setting.

For reference, see the [Council's Conservation Area Guidance](#).

3.3 Audience and Early Engagement

As part of the project, we have engaged with Queensferry & District Community Council, Historic Environment Scotland, The City of Edinburgh's Council Officers and businesses along Hawes Pier.

Target Audience:

- Hawes Pier users and visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- Local residents and community groups who regularly engage with and take pride in their local green spaces.
- Visitors and tourists exploring Edinburgh's World Heritage sites.

Throughout the project, these groups have expressed their views about the mural. Their feedback is:

- The mural should be sympathetic to the local environment and the Forth Bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The mural should connect Hawes Pier with the high street and celebrate the upcoming high street project, inviting Hawes Pier visitors to also explore the high street.
- The mural should be created by an experienced artist who is willing to engage with young people and design it with the community. It should be playful and colourful and respect the beautiful landscape of Queensferry.
- Local business engagement has revealed no opposing views to a mural on the public toilet

4. Application Process

To apply, submit the following to thrivinggreenspace@edinburgh.gov.uk **by 5pm, Friday 11th September 2026**:

- CV and weblinks to at least two relevant outdoor projects, and;
- A statement describing your proposed vision and approach to this project, as well as outline plans for public engagement. Please also include an indicative budget (no more than 2 sides of A4).
- In your statement, please address the local context, paying particular attention to the information provided in section 3 above.

Artist selection will take place by **Tuesday 15th September 2026**.

4.1 Artist Selection

The Thriving Green Spaces, Culture and Neighbourhood services teams will select an artist or collective based on:

- Quality and relevance of past work
- Understanding of the local context
- Feasibility of the timeline and engagement approach

Once selected, the artist/s will work with Council Officers to develop a plan for engagement and timescale for design submission.

At the agreed date, the artist/s will submit two sketches for public selection via the YourVoice Portal, open for 2-3 weeks. The final mural will be based on the most supported concept.

In the event that neither sketch is supported, the artist may be asked to revise the concept.

5. Project Contact

For further information, please contact:

Marco Galli

Green Space Project Development Officer

Thriving Green Spaces Team

City of Edinburgh Council

Email: thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk

Images



