



FEAST OF FIRE: ARTIST COMMISSIONS FOR MK50 AND CITY CLUB Milton Keynes City Centre

Overview

Outdoor arts specialists Walk the Plank invite artists in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to submit ideas for commissions to animate Milton Keynes' iconic portes cochères* structures on Midsummer Boulevard with fire, sound and music.

The artworks or installations will need to be installed for public view in mid-October 2017. The works will form part of a large-scale celebration in the city centre - Feast of Fire - created by Walk the Plank as part of City Club to mark Milton Keynes' 50th Anniversary.

There are two commissions available, each with a budget of up to £4k (inclusive of VAT).

Each commission is expected to animate one porte cochère, which could be used as a plinth, stage, rig, canvas, frame, etc.

Deadline for submissions, by email or post, is 4pm on Monday 19 June 2017.

* Portes Cocheres

Historically, portes cochères (from the French and Latin) were shelters or porches erected between a building and carriage, enabling people to alight under cover.

Milton Keynes has around 200 of these simple black 'modernist' structures, generally measuring 3m x 5m x 7m, marking the pedestrian routes across the city.



Milton Keynes received its formal new town designation in 1967. There are many features online about the city and its unique urban design, including this overview: <http://bit.ly/2joMjsT>

About The Feast of Fire Event: Saturday 21 October from 6pm, Central Milton Keynes. Free Admission
Feast of Fire will be made up of a series of fiery events on one evening.

- Large-scale shadow show
- Torchlight procession

- A fire garden by Walk the Plank
- Installation by French artist Denis Tricot: www.denis-tricot.com
- Live music stage
- Fire drawings



Feast of Fire is designed to reach as wide an audience as possible, ranging from ‘culture vultures’ to people who do not normally attend arts events.

PORTES COCHÈRES COMMISSIONS: BRIEF FOR ARTISTS

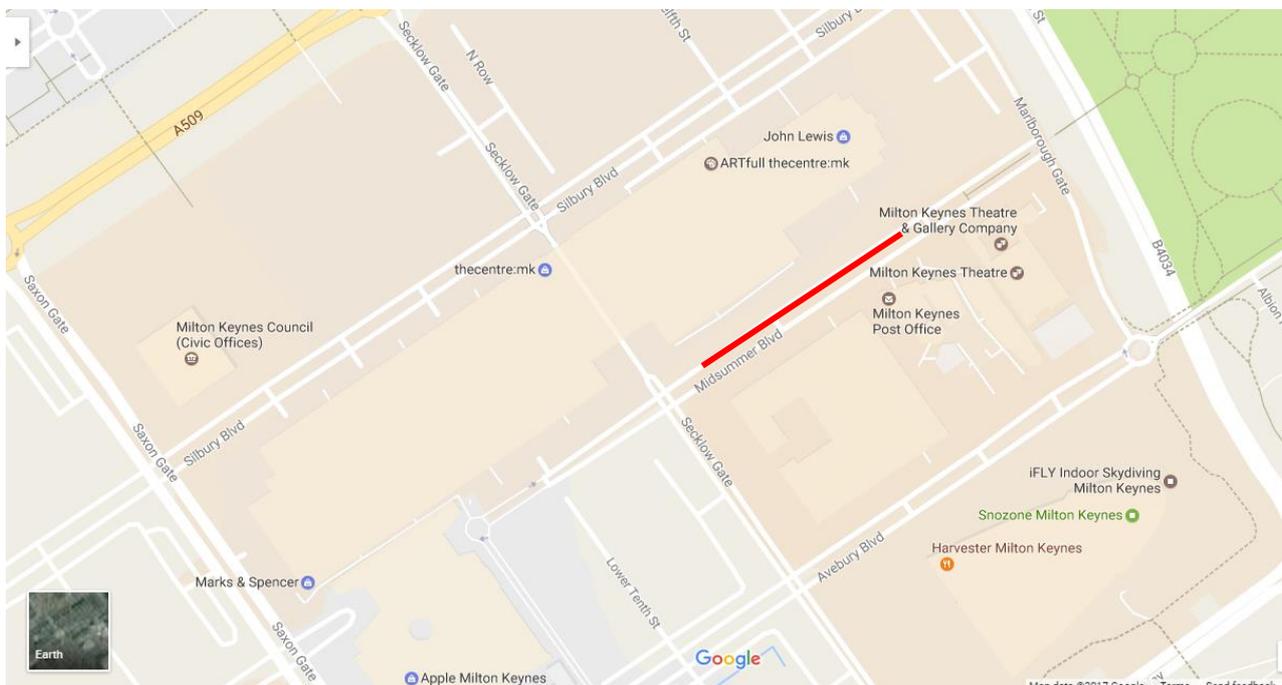
At the heart of Feast of Fire will be a series of temporary installations by Walk the Plank and Dennis Tricot, complemented by the two portes cochères commissions available for artists based in Milton Keynes, or within the three counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

Artists are invited by Walk the Plank to submit proposals to create temporary artworks or installations to animate in, on or around Milton Keynes’ portes cochères on Midsummer Boulevard (near to MK Gallery and the Theatre District area) with fire, sound and music.

The work will need to connect with diverse audiences of all ages and make an impact outdoors, at night, in the public realm. Commissions have a budget of up to £4k (inclusive of VAT) each.

Location of Portes Cochères

Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes





Please note the central run of portes cochères (1, 4, 7 and 10) will be used by Denis Tricot.

Practicalities

Walk the Plank will be commissioning the works and managing the process. The company has considerable expertise in the field of fiery installations - working with gas, fire, and special effects - and in commissioning and curating the work of other artists and companies.

The company's technical team will be available to support artists who wish to use gas or flame but don't yet have the expertise themselves.

The artworks/installations need to be in place for two nights - Friday 20 October (testing and rehearsal) and Saturday 21 October (public event) - and have a duration of up to 3 hours each night.

Security for artworks and installations will be provided on both the Friday and Saturday, including overnight.

Restrictions

The portes cochères are protected architectural features and any temporary fixings or other temporary alterations will need to be done in such a way as to not affect the integrity of the structures.

The structures will need to be returned to their original state as part of the decommissioning process, which is the responsibility of the artist.

Documentation

Feast of Fire will be photographed and filmed for documentation and evaluation purposes by the event's marketing team - this is likely to include the portes cochères commissions. By submitting a proposal and if successful, you will be allowing your artwork or installation to be included in this documentation.

PR and Media

Artists will be required to provide information to the Feast of Fire marketing team for media briefings and publicity.

Submissions

Artists are requested to outline their ideas and their experience to the Selection Panel whilst also demonstrating an ability to deliver whatever is proposed.

Submissions should include:

- Your idea(s) laid out as clearly as possible using drawings, sketches, or in writing
- A realistic budget that includes:
 - Your time
 - Materials and fabrication
 - Any technical and production support (excluding power - this is provided)
 - Travel and transport costs
 - Delivery of the artwork to Milton Keynes
 - Installation and decommissioning the work

Please note that there is no budget beyond the £4k (inclusive of VAT) to cover additional costs, eg. for research and development

- A simple timeline showing the likely development and build schedule of the artwork/installation through to presentation
- Your CV

Your proposal should be one document of no more than 6 pages, including your CV highlights.

If you would like to discuss your idea or explore the technical aspects of working with fire or gas with Walk the Plank's Head of Production in advance of submitting your proposal, please contact Nathan Jackson via nathan@walktheplank.co.uk or via 0161 925 0666

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed for artistic ambition, technical viability and value for money. Walk the Plank's team will review submissions with a view to scoping their technical demands and feasibility.

Technically viable submissions will go forward to a Selection Panel comprising:

- Liz Pugh - Creative Producer, Walk the Plank
- Anthony Spira - Director, MK Gallery
- Monica Ferguson - CEO and Artistic Director, The Stables

Please note that shortlisted submissions may be reviewed by Milton Keynes Council who manage and maintain the portes cochères.

Deadlines

- Deadline for submissions: 4pm, Monday 19 June
- The Selection Panel will meet in early July and artists will be advised if they have been shortlisted shortly after this
- Artworks installed and working in Milton Keynes for Friday 20 and Saturday 21 October

Please send your proposal to Lindsay at Walk the Plank via info@walktheplank.co.uk or by post to Cobden Works, 36-41 Cobden Street, Salford M6 6WF.

About Walk the Plank

Walk the Plank is a creative force of artists, makers and pyrotechnic wizards who work in collaboration with diverse communities to enrich lives through shared creative experience and work that ranges from parades to outdoor performance, in town squares and on the international stage.

With over 25 years' experience creating shows at a national and international level, Walk the Plank has built a reputation for quality and innovation in its outdoor work.

The company create high profile large-scale projects such as opening night of Pafos European Capital of Culture 2017, the Wales-wide celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Wales Millennium Centre and the annual Manchester Day Parade.

The company has considerable expertise in the field of fiery installations - working with gas, fire, and special effects; and in commissioning and curating the work of other artists and companies - eg. for *Lost Eden*, as part of Kendal Calling festival (2015/16), for *Heat the Streets* in Blackpool and for various art trails for Hull Freedom Festival (2013/4/5).

Feast of Fire will be Walk the Plank's first visit to Milton Keynes.

<http://walktheplank.co.uk>

Background Information

The Stables (Milton Keynes-based music organisation) and IF: Milton Keynes International Festival have been commissioned to deliver Feast of Fire by City Club (an MK Gallery initiative supported by Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council) as a one-off event in October 2017 as part of MK50 - Milton Keynes' year-long series of 50th anniversary celebrations.

The celebrations are designed to look ahead to the future, unite people and celebrate locally, thereby sharing with the world that Milton Keynes is an amazing place to live, work and visit.

Feast of Fire will sit within a wider context to support the positioning of Milton Keynes as a destination and leading UK city, underpinning Milton Keynes' 'city-making' agenda and supporting its bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2023.

Funding for Feast of Fire has been secured from an Arts Council England Ambition for Excellence Award through MK Gallery's City Club and Milton Keynes Council. The event will also have sponsorship support.

- MK50: www.mk50.co.uk
- The Stables: www.stables.org
- IF: Milton Keynes International Festival: www.ifmiltonkeynes.org
- City Club information: <http://www.mkgallery.org/downloads/335/city-club-newspaper-final.pdf>

MK Gallery

the
stables

IF Milton Keynes
International
Festival

Supported by
 The National Lottery®
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