

Cobden Works – on-site construction photography

Photographic brief



[Photo: Geoff Davies, Mark Waugh]

Location: Cobden Works, 37-41 Cobden Street, Salford, M6 6WF

Date: Starting 17th October, 2016. Completion May 26, 2017

Duration: 1-2 hours per session (dependent on the stage of the project)

Background – a bit about us

Walk the Plank is one of the UK's leading outdoor arts organisations with an award-winning portfolio of work drawn from an exciting range of creative projects nationally and internationally. From village square to international stage, we work in collaboration with diverse communities and artists to enrich lives through shared creative experience. We create work that gives people a sense of pride, a sense of identity and a sense of place.

Visit www.walktheplank.co.uk

See how we work and view our [showreel](#)

Our creative values

We're a highly creative and disruptive force in outdoor arts. Our work challenges and inspires both the artists who create it and the communities in which it is seen, experienced and shared. Everything we do tells a story in some way. The very nature of our work and its outdoor context means that it is ephemeral. Once it has been performed and experienced it disappears. But once we've gone, our aim is to leave a lasting legacy among both artists and communities.

The creative challenge for this photographic brief

We're about to start work on a new £1m+ creative hub for outdoor arts in Salford and want to document its construction and development from the first day that work starts on site.

However, in light of our creative credentials, the photo documentation needs to be creatively exciting and disruptive. We're not looking for the standard photos of workmen in hard hats and dignitaries from Salford Council smiling around a spade half sunk into a prepared piece of ground. The location of our site in a predominantly light industrial area within Salford also provides an unusual immediate hinterland in which to set the context of the construction project.

We want to capture the key stages of the project within the context of performance or pieces of work (props, costumes) that are made by our artists and performers. These will be supplied by us at key moments in the development of the project and might include some of the following:

- Aerialists
- Pyrotechnicians
- Circus arts performers
- Performance artists in elaborate costumes
- Dancers
- Artists with a specific piece of work created for us
- Movable props used in parades and carnival settings

The construction project will run for 26 weeks from October 17 through to May 26 during which time we want to capture the building's external and internal development in the changing seasons, using both performers and artists to animate some of the key elements of the build.

Subject to health and safety clearance from the site manager, we're looking for a photographer who can capture different aspects of the build from exciting and unexpected angles to create images that are both literal documentary shots as well as more abstract and surreal images.

An aerialist, for instance, might hang upside down from a crane while a circus performer might balance along a beam. Also, Walk the Plank office-based staff might appear alongside an artist/performer in an unexpected setting - or props from an event (from a cauldron to Cinderella's carriage) might help animate a half completed space. A character in costume might, for instance, take on a role performed by a construction worker – laying bricks, stirring concrete etc.

The key elements of the brief are to create a suite of images that:

1. Document the month by month progress of the construction building
2. Capture pivotal moments in the project – start, completion of key phases, topping out, interior fit-out, completion – as well as incidental moments in the construction timeline.
3. Provide a series of images from the project that help to reflect our creative values

Images will be used for both current-time press releases to local, regional and national press, on social media and on our website, and possibly within the completed building.

For consistency, we need a photographer who can commit to the full duration of the project and apply their creative stamp to the visual documentation of the build. We also want a photographer who can interpret the creative possibilities of the project with little or minimal creative production. We will however work in collaboration with the chosen photographer to organise artists, performers and props.

Fees

Fees are open to discussion but as we are a registered charity part funded by Arts Council England we do have a limited budget. We hope the creative possibilities presented by this project provide a compelling proposition for a photographer looking for more unusual work in their portfolio.

Technical considerations

Images should be shot in both landscape and portrait formats, with a significant emphasis on landscape so that we can apply them to our new website. Image file sizes need to be varied so that we can use them across a range of social media.

The work will take place entirely on our new site at 37-41 Cobden Street, Salford M6 6WF.

Interested? Here's how to apply.

Please send us a link to your website and 3-5 photos that show your creative approach to unusual pieces of work.

Also, in around 100 words briefly tell us what excites you about this project and why you want to work on it.

Please send your response to both tom@walktheplank.co.uk and susan@walktheplank.co.uk

Our telephone number:

0161 836 8964