

Brief for Organ Donation Celebration and Memorial, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, new Russells Hall Hospital extension

Background / Introduction

The Organ Donation Taskforce (Department of Health) identified obstacles to organ donation and in 2008 suggested solutions to deliver the increase in transplants that is so desperately needed. The taskforce made 14 recommendations in order for Organ Donation to be seen as a usual, and not an unusual, part of end of life care.

Recommendation 12 said:

“Appropriate ways should be identified of personally and publicly recognising individual organ donors, where desired. These approaches may include national memorials, local initiatives and personal follow-up to donor families.”

The goal of this project is to recognise the contribution of organ donors, particularly local donors, and the gift of life given, and also to raise awareness of the value of organ donation.

Families of organ donors often find great comfort in knowing that their loved one help change or save another person's life.

The Dudley Group has had successful Hospital Arts Programme for a number of years which has included the integration of Public Art installations. These include those by acclaimed land artist Chris Drury into the newly built courtyards, a variety of works in and around the Faith Centre and an ongoing programme of changing exhibitions. We would now like to continue this initiative with the commissioning of an exterior entrance sculpture to celebrate, and memorialise *'The Gift of Organ Donation'*.

Theme of the sculpture

The sculpture would have a twofold role: it is intended firstly to thank former patients/organ donors and their families who have helped save another person after their death, and secondly the artwork/sculpture will promote the concept of organ donation and inspire and encourage others to discuss donation with family and friends, as well signing up to the Organ Donor Register. Thus the memorial needs to do a number of things:

1. Honour the patients and relatives who gave life and hope to others in their final hours of life.
2. Inspire the general public with the gift of life, encouraging the public to give this high standing, support donation, and to become a donor.
3. Raise awareness with hospital staff of the importance of organ donation and the special gift given by donors and their families.

This wide relevance is the reason why the artwork needs to be both celebratory and memorial at the same time.

It is intended for an inscription to be incorporated into the memorial that captures key elements of the message: 'Through giving health and life to a stranger at a time of great sadness we gain immense strength and know that more than the memory of our loved one lives on'.

Examples might include 'The gift of life', 'the circle of life', 'The greatest gift at the hardest time'.

Artists would be encouraged to come up with an original, elegant and powerful message based on these themes. The panel will reserve the right to choose the final inscription.

Parallel Examples

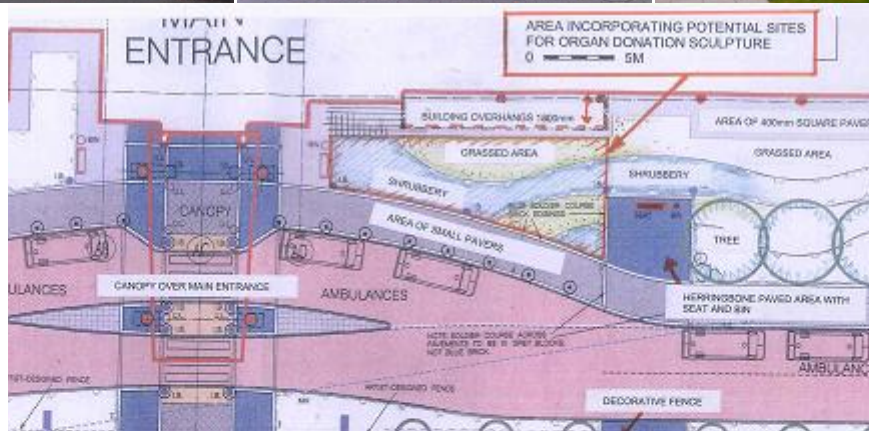
There are many examples of organ donation sculptures from around the world, both abstract and figurative, sometimes incorporating text such as the names of donors.

In some cases the memorial is used during celebratory annual events to thank donors and promote donation, we would like our memorial to have the potential to be used in this positive way.

For some time the hospital has had the successful temporary installation the *Prayer Tree* outside the Faith Centre. Visitors can add prayers written on leaves or flowers, thus at one preliminary meeting about the project the idea of an illuminated '*Tree of Lights*' was discussed as a way of creating a sculpture to which inexpensive small LED lights could be gradually added representing more and more donors or recipients. This is simply a possibility, as at the moment there is no set form for the artwork,

Site of project

The site of the sculpture is proposed to be the entrance boulevard at the front of the hospital. We will have confirmation of this in approximately six weeks time. The preferred site is adjacent to the main entrance of the hospital where there is a linear area of grass and large planting bed running parallel to the main façade (see Site Plan and photos).



We require a sculpture that would have an immediate visual impact, but where donor families, and people visiting the hospital could sit and reflect upon the gift of life that is given by organ donors.

Nearby is one of a series of modern artist designed stainless steel benches by Peter Whitehouse. There are also decorative low blue dotted mesh screens running down the centre of the adjacent traffic boulevard somewhat in the manner of Lichtenstein.

The building by Percy Thomas Partnership itself is also modern in appearance clad in a grid of white coated panels rather in the manner of the American architect Richard Meier, with a curved entrance canopy. It is not essential however that proposals echo these modernistic references, a contrast may also be appropriate.

It is hoped that the artwork could be of a reasonable scale to have impact from a distance as the entrance is approached from the car parks, as well as being of interest at close quarters.

Materials/ durability/ maintenance

Any durable sculptural material which would last for at least 40 years can be proposed, although it is noted that to create objects of reasonable size materials such as steel may be appropriate.

An existing memorial in Nottingham appears to utilise bronze, but as a number of small bronze components brazed together to make one large piece economically, a similar process to that originally used to construct the flock of *Arctic Terns* which was donated to the Russells Hall Hospital from a local shopping centre.

The Artwork should be designed to require little or no maintenance, with the chosen artist also providing notes on maintenance and cleaning.

Foundation / installation

Whilst chosen artists will need to provide details of what foundation is required and how the sculpture will be affixed to it, the actual cost and building of the foundation will assumed by Summit Healthcare who maintain the hospital on behalf of the Trust.

The site has good access for installation adjacent to the bus boulevard. Artists should include for the costs of delivery, by Hi-ab lorry or as appropriate, and installation. A method statement will also need to be supplied.

Budget

£15,000 (including VAT) for the material is expected. The artists would be required to attend a celebratory opening (no separate travel expenses) in Spring 2014. This will be paid in three equal instalments: on commission, half way through the project*, and after installation (*by visual evidence obtained (photographically or by visit). Design fees of 3 x £500 separate to the main budget (no separate travel expenses)

Selection Process

The selection process will be in three stages and will be drawn from the *Organ Donation Committee*

Including: Consultant Dr Julian Sonksen

Specialist Nurse Rebecca Timmins

Hospital Chaplain Mark Stobert

Member of Trust Board ; also:

Dudley Borough Artist/ art adviser Steve Field RBSA, and
A representative of Summit Healthcare with ref to H and S, foundation, installation etc
A member from the Hospital Board of Governors
Invitation to participate is particularly aimed at artists with Black Country connections, for example by birth, education or residence.

The process is as follows:

- 1 Invitation for artists to send letters expressing interest along with a CV and six selected printed images of work, to Public Art Studio, Himley Hall, Dudley, DY3 4DF, by 31st July (images are non returnable and should be annotated colour copies).
- 2 Three artists will be selected to visit the hospital and produce sketch ideas. Artists will be given £500 each to produce designs. The sketch designs may be used in the hospital in an exhibition.
- 3 The selected artist will be chosen by the panel, subject to any planning issues.

Timescales (provisional):

Advertisement during June-July 2013

Selection of 3 Artists July-August 2013

Designs including outline costings/technical details by August 2013

Final artist chosen by end September 2013 if planning permission agreed

Completion by April 2014 (6 month period allowed)

Words for inspiration

- Freedom -from ill health
 - Passing on the gift of life
 - Heart felt thanks
 - New beginning Central to life
 - New life and health
 - Joy
 - Gratitude
 - Gift
 - Sadness – at others death
 - Relief (when the recipient is told there is a suitable donor)
 - Excitement (at the thought of a new life following transplant)
 - Playing with the children (transplant allowing them to do this)
 - Going to work
 - Altruistic (the wonderful gift of donation given selflessly)
 - Charity
 - Honour (the gift given and the donor and their family)
 - Thankful
 - Eternally grateful
 - Life changing
 - Life saving
 - Selfless
 - Giving
 - Respect
 - Big hearted
 - Considerate
 - Humble
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|----------------------|
| Legacy |
| Elegance |
| Humane |
| Celebrate |
| Mercy and compassion |

- Devoted
- Bequeath (Bequest)
- Comforting (Donor families knowing they have helped another person/family)
- Courage (to think of others and donate)
- Positive
- Precious
- Caring
- Generosity
- Beauty
- Life