



CITY
ART

CITY OF SYDNEY  

CITY CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

East-West Connectors

Stage One Artist Brief EOI E1113

city of villages

city of villages

Cover image George Street looking
north from Town Hall at Druiitt St
All images courtesy of the City of Sydney

City Centre Transformation

Introduction

Over the next ten years, the Sydney City Centre and George Street – the city's main north-south spine and one of Australia's first streets – will be transformed. Alongside a range of strategies to improve the liveability of our city, site-specific art will be commissioned and play a major role in the transformation.

One of the catalysts for the broad-scale commissioning of site-specific art is the support of the City of Sydney for the New South Wales State Government's initiative to expand Sydney's light rail network. In the last century, Sydney enjoyed an extensive network of light rail that was removed in the 1960s. In keeping with the City's commitment to sustainability, light rail will once again be implemented in the city centre, running along George Street, as part of a network connecting areas such as Kensington, University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) to the heart of Sydney. Reinforcing the improvement represented by the re-introduction of light rail, vehicular traffic will be removed from a one-kilometre section of George Street, extending from Hunter Street to Bathurst Street. The City has developed a plan with new trees, lighting, paving, and street furniture that will give form to this transformative infrastructure project for the benefit of its constituency, to a value of A\$220 million.

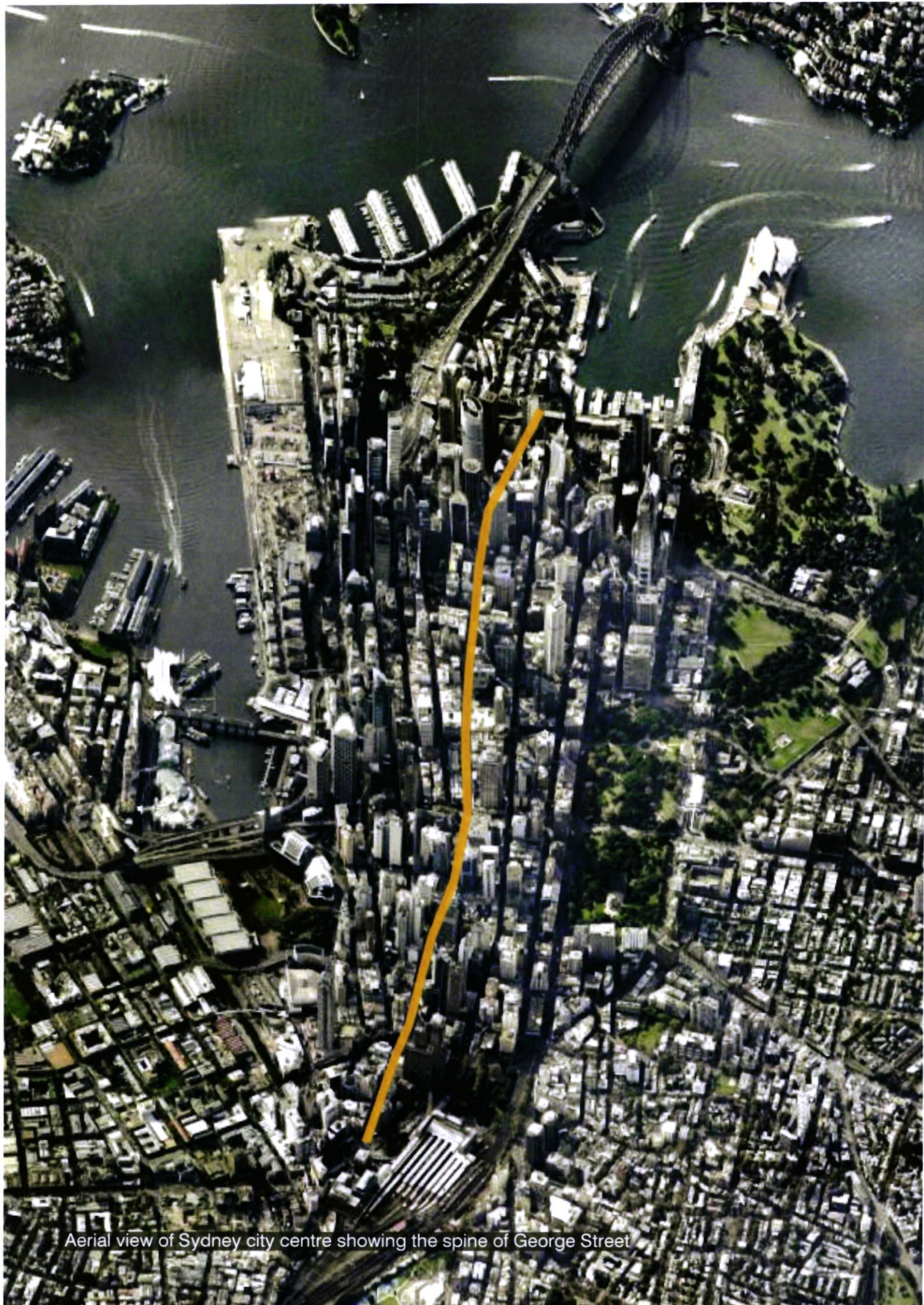
Seen Australia-wide, the transformation of George Street and the Sydney City Centre is one of the most significant public works projects to occur in generations. In concert with the infrastructure improvements, art will transform the city centre, improving the tenor and texture of life. Precisely how this transformation is projected to occur is detailed in the City Centre Public Art Plan.

The City Centre Public Art Plan outlines how works of art, comfortable seating, shade, and plantings will go hand-in-hand with design improvements, creating spaces people will want to spend time in.

To challenge preconceived notions of public art, the research for the Plan has been rigorous and its recommendations are wide-ranging. Sydney's public art must aspire to match the excellence already achieved in Australian architectural projects and the uniqueness seen in our other cultural assets.

A legacy of new permanent works of art will be created to underscore the civic and historic importance of George Street through the George Street spine project. Art will unify George Street and be highly memorable – possessing a gravitas and landmark quality equivalent to that of Sydney's great civic buildings and spaces.

In a second brief, artists will have the opportunity to conceive art to address the east-west



Aerial view of Sydney city centre showing the spine of George Street

connecting streets that cross George Street. Overall the Plan identifies, five priority sites for art in the city centre, with works of art for George Street and the east-west connecting streets to be the first projects for artists to address and be realised.

Sydney is Australia's international gateway and only global city. It is Australia's largest and most densely-populated city, a multicultural village that is home to more than 200 nationalities.

As the capital of the State of New South Wales, Sydney has been the beneficiary of the achievements of many artists over the years, apparent in the number of works of art already in existence and part of the City's public art collection – providing the opportunity for new art projects to be integrated into an urban fabric that has been significantly enriched by artists.

The City Centre Public Art Plan stresses the importance of the role of artists who will be involved in the project in its earliest stages. The Expression of Interest will be inclusive and open to all artists – Australians and non-Australians, who can demonstrate the potential to work collaboratively on site-specific art projects. By casting a wide net and insisting on a superior level of quality and ability among artists, diverse and significant new works of art will transform George Street, the east-west connecting streets, and other city centre spaces into places people will frequent and enjoy.



Invitation to artists

The City of Sydney invites artists, (as distinct from curators or non-artist lead teams) of any nationality and place of residence to submit Expressions of Interest for a major work or works of site-specific public art to address one or more of the east-west connecting streets crossing George Street.

There are five important east-west connecting streets that cross the 2.4-kilometre expanse of George Street between Central and Circular Quay:

- Park Street – Town Hall/Sydney Square – Druitt Street
- Market Street
- King Street
- Hunter Street/Curtin Place – Margaret Street – Wynyard Walk
- Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – Kent Street underpass

Just as the spine of George Street runs along one of two north south ridges, so too do the multiple east-west connecting streets conform to the underlying structure of the city, following the earliest Aboriginal walking tracks and connecting harbour to parkland. At certain points along George Street the views afforded by the connecting streets are stunning, providing a welcome relief from the built environment.

All five east-west connecting streets present remnants of the years following settlement, which are perhaps most prevalent in Bridge and Grosvenor Streets. Bridge Street, for instance, is lined with grand buildings that remain today, including the Department of Lands, Department of Education, and the Chief Secretary's Building. Bridge Street also contains Sydney's oldest park – Macquarie Place, a type of urban sanctuary rare in Sydney – comprising monuments of an import equal to that of the buildings in the street. As it proceeds west across George Street and up the slope of Grosvenor Street, the east-west connecting Street formed by Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – and Kent Street underpass encompasses other icons of early colonial Sydney in Lang Park and the three churches of Church Hill.

This brief recommends focusing on three of the five east-west connecting streets that in the opinion of the City, present the greatest potential to be activated through site-specific public art.

Park Street – Town Hall/Sydney Square – Druitt Street

The east-west connecting street comprising Park Street – Town Hall/Sydney Square – Druitt Street will be of even greater importance to the city with the funding of capital works for Town Hall Square at a future date. The difference in tenor between Town Hall Square and Sydney Square – the one being active, the other, tranquil – presents one of the more fascinating design challenges in the city centre. The Park Street – Town Hall/Sydney Square – Druitt Street connecting street is one of those offering iconic Sydney views extending from Hyde Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens to Darling Harbour.

Plan of Sydney
Indicating George Street and the east-west connecting streets



Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – Kent Street underpass

Site-specific public art commissioned for the connecting street comprising Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – Kent Street underpass could address the city's history and some of its finest examples of architecture, old and new, including the Museum of Sydney (MoS). Any new work of art for this particular east-west connecting street will benefit from the opportunity to reference such a significant contribution to the built form of the city. Designed by Richard Johnson of DCM Architects in 1995 on the site of the Governor's first house (1788), the MoS is adjacent to a consummate work of site-specific art, *Edge of the trees* (1995), a sculptural installation by Janet Laurence and Fiona Foley. In its use of Aboriginal language, *Edge of the trees* will be seen as an important precursor to the work by Jenny Holzer at 8 Chifley Square (completion date: January 2014), which will incorporate the writings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors.

Following the construction of the Western Distributor in 1972, Kent Street underpass has become a jumble of noisy roadway and nondescript buildings providing a significant challenge to urban design and site-specific public art.

Hunter Street/Curtin Place – Margaret Street – Wynyard Walk

This east-west connecting street includes one of the few existing pedestrianised sections of the city centre at Curtin Place, and Lang Park, which is owned by the City of Sydney. Lang Park is historically significant as the principal reminder of Governor Phillip's 1788 foundation plan for the layout of Sydney, a remnant of Sydney's first urban design strategy.

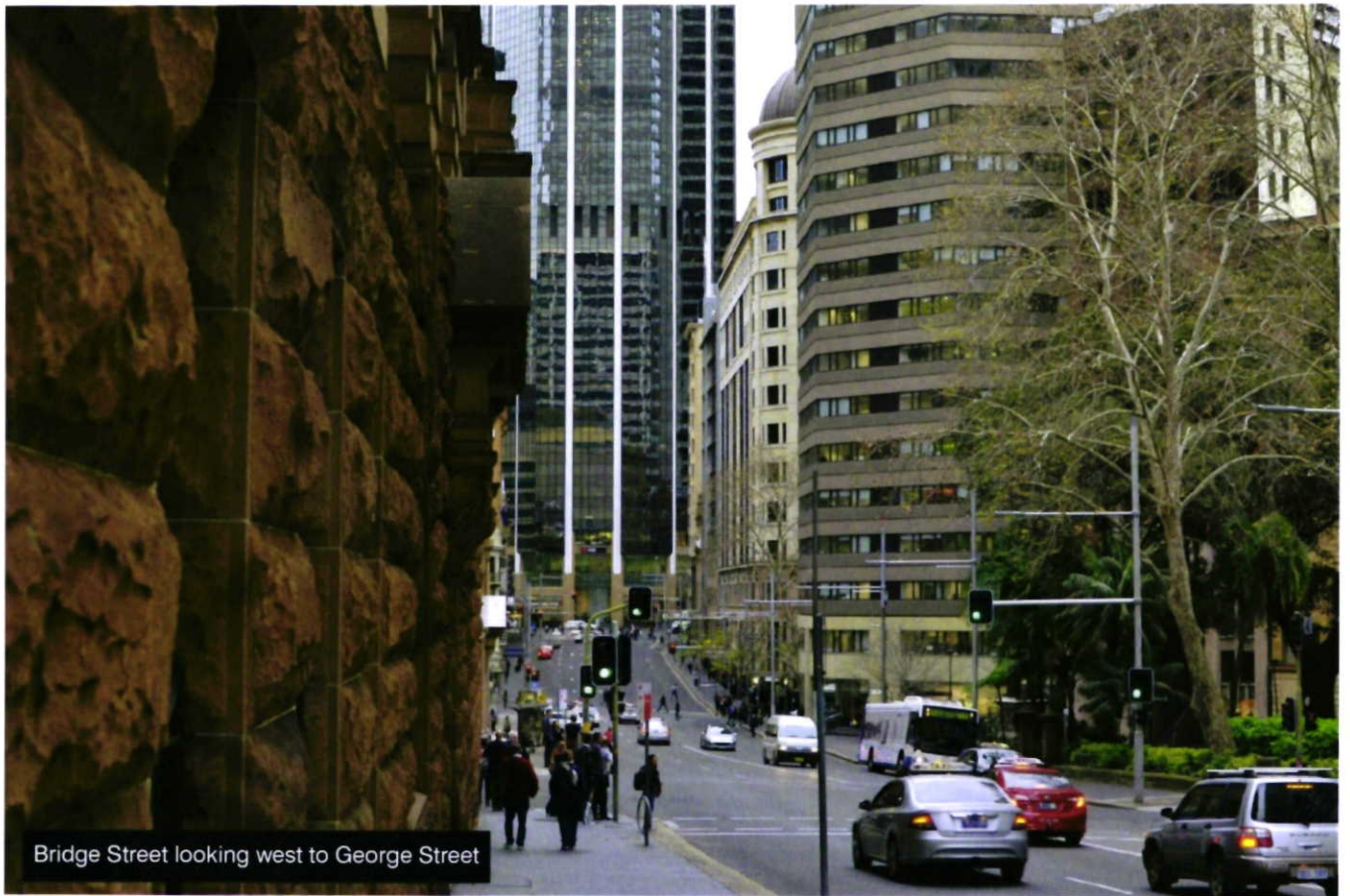
Important intersections

Sydney's most important and dynamic intersections are those formed where the east-west connecting streets cross George Street. The intersections are large and capacious, offering the opportunity for site-specific public art to be equally imposing. The most important of them will not be closed to traffic, presenting an added challenge to artists or artist-led teams attempting to activate them without obstructing traffic flow.

The successful artist will be expected to provide significant input into design development and realisation of their concept. The list of relative responsibilities outlined below, indicates the City's expectations of the artist along with the responsibilities the City will assume.

The City of Sydney prefers to keep all options open to artists for purposes of the invitation to artists to submit an Expression of Interest in Stage 1. It will consider all proposals, including those that could eventually require the City's assistance, related to the interface of the art with existing infrastructure.

Given the multi-block scale of the east-west connecting streets – on average, 8 blocks long – artists who can evidence previous experience or demonstrated potential to work collaboratively on site-specific public art projects will have the greatest chance of being successful. In order to assist artists, the City of Sydney recognises that artists may wish to form teams comprising others in addition to themselves with expertise, for example, in architecture, landscape architecture, and/or urban design. Any such teams must be artist-



Bridge Street looking west to George Street



The intersection of George and Druiett Streets, looking west.

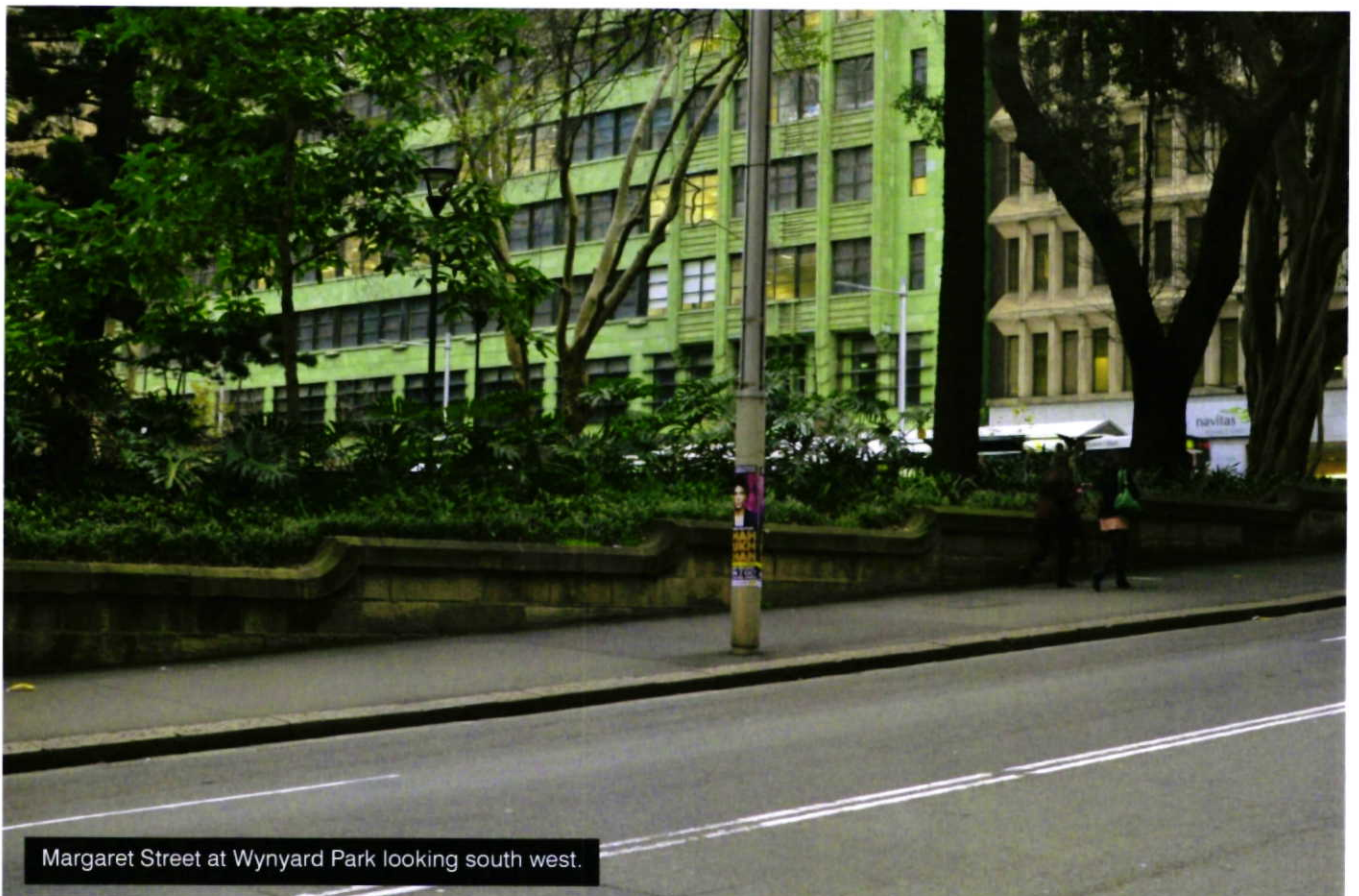
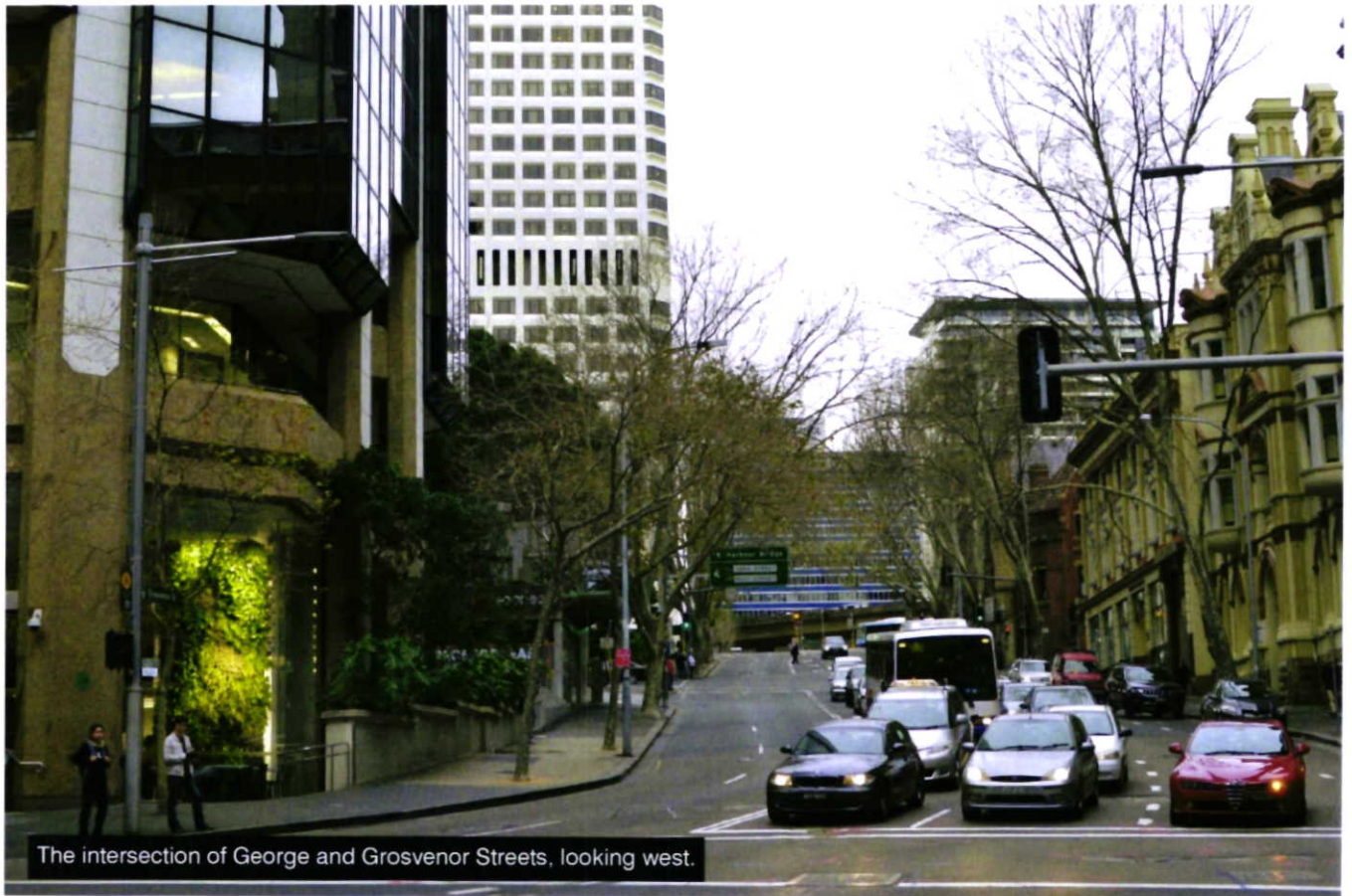
led, with the artist to serve as the principal contact for the duration of the project, should the team be successful.

Alternatively, artists may apply individually. Artists who prefer to apply individually can be teamed with practitioners with the relevant expertise at a later stage, with the help of the City, if required.

Possible approaches to the east-west connecting streets

A variety of possible approaches to the east-west connecting streets are listed following, which are shared less as a set of guidelines to be followed than to provoke discussion. The City wishes to emphasise its openness to all approaches, and its anticipation that artists may well have ideas better, more applicable, and more exciting than these outlined below.

- Approaches particular to Sydney are encouraged, extrapolating from Australia's physical distance from other parts of the world, which the City perceives as representing an opportunity to be original. Distance facilitates freedom from the temptation to copy strategies or to borrow techniques of urban regeneration that would be inappropriate within the Sydney context.
- Art can focus on Sydney's well-known features including its unique topography, urban structure, and harbour identity.
- Art can reference Sydney's history by magnifying the ideas that founded the city and highlighting those places most important to people. For example, some of the central city's finest examples of architecture and its oldest park are located in the east-west connecting street comprised of Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – and Kent Street underpass, offering an unusual opportunity to artists with an interest in referencing history.
- Art can unify and provide greater legibility to the city centre.
- Of the five priority sites identified in the City Centre Public Art Plan, it is the east-west connecting streets that could lend themselves to being addressed in block-long or multiple-block increments.
- In spite of their length, art on a micro-scale – expressed through multiple small works of art that could personalise and add texture to the city – may be an appropriate way of working in the east-west connecting streets.
- Art has the potential to direct our gaze to views of the harbour and the park at either end of the east-west connecting streets.
- Art can mark and distinguish important corners and major intersections – the 'vertebrae' – where the connecting streets – the 'ribs' – cross the 'spine' of George Street.



Site constraints

Even as George Street is pedestrianised, vehicular traffic will continue to flow along each of the east-west connecting streets crossing George Street. With the exception of a few existing pedestrianised sections – in Hay Street, and at Sydney Square, Curtin Place, and Kent Street underpass – art will need to skirt the roadbed, and vehicular volume and vehicular noise will continue to be a feature.

City-owned parks are a feature of Margaret Street (Lang Park) and Bridge Street (Macquarie Place). State-owned heritage-listed buildings line Bridge Street (including the Department of Lands, Department of Education, and the Chief Secretary's Building). Otherwise, the majority of the properties along the east-west connecting streets are privately-owned: The city will undertake and manage discussions on behalf of the successful artist in negotiations with the owners of properties that could be impacted by the work of art proposed.

A capital works project of the City of Sydney is in the planning stages for the Kent Street underpass. The Kent Street underpass can be addressed by an artist or artist-led team in connection with the larger east-west connecting street comprised of Bridge Street – Grosvenor Street – Kent Street underpass, or alternatively, the underpass can be addressed through a separate brief for site-specific public art which would be advertised at a later date with a considerably smaller budget.

Project budget

The budget for a work or works of art for the east-west connecting streets is A\$1.7 million (excluding GST), to cover all costs of conceiving and implementing the artwork.



Margaret Street looking west to George Street

Evaluation criteria

Expressions of Interest in Stage 1 will be evaluated by a panel comprised of a subcommittee of the Public Art Advisory Panel, City of Sydney staff and other experts in the field applying these criteria:

- Artistic excellence as demonstrated in previous practice;
- Previous experience or demonstrated potential to work collaboratively on site-specific art projects;
- Statement confirming capacity to meet the program – mandatory; and
- Statement confirming capacity to meet the budget – mandatory.

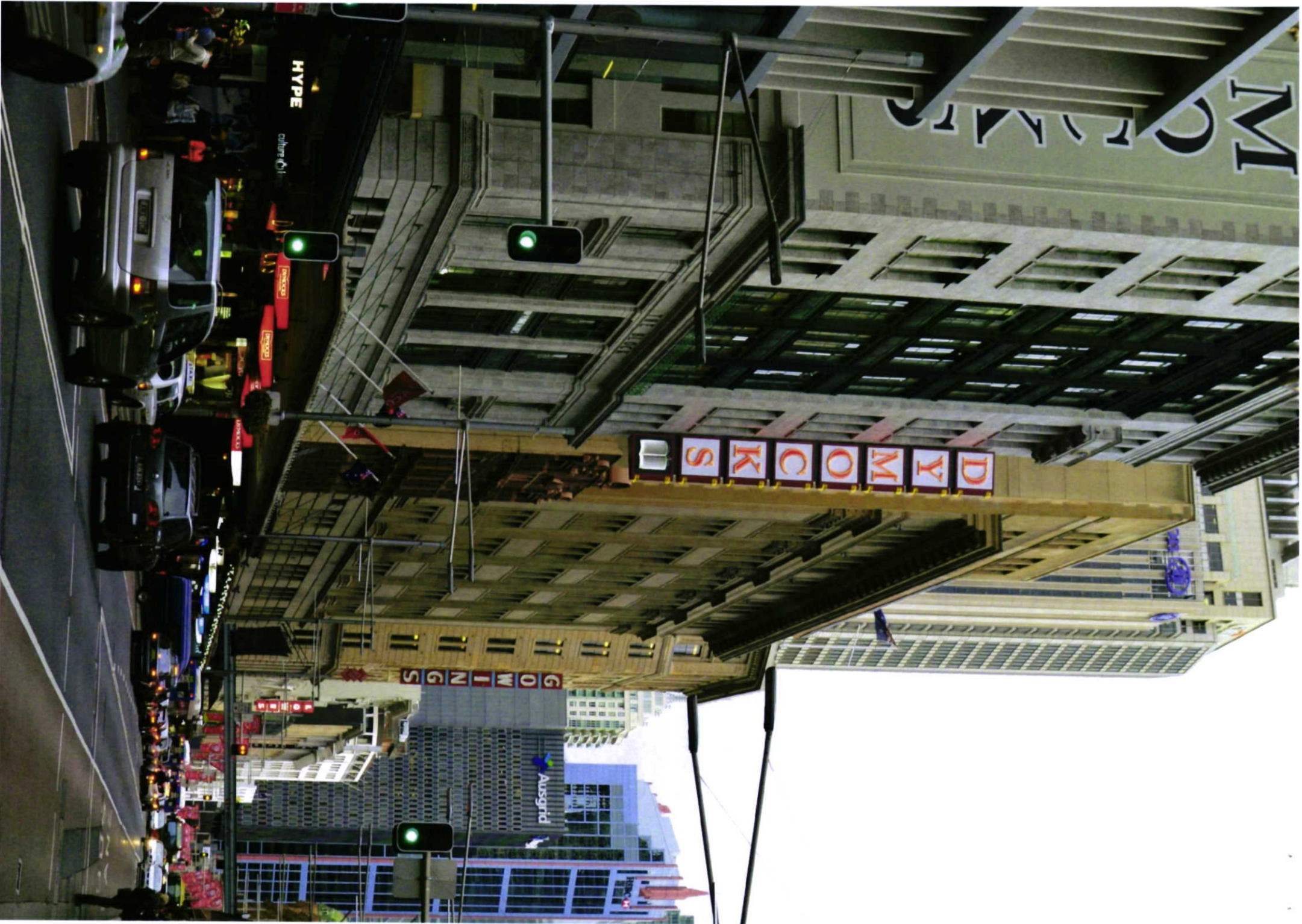
Resources

Further information may be obtained from the following links:

- City Centre Public Art Plan: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/150947/City-Centre-Public-Art-Plan.pdf
- George Street Concept Design: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision/on-exhibition/closed-exhibitions/details/draft-george-street-concept-design>
- City of Sydney City Art Public Art Strategy: <http://www.cityartsydney.com.au/cityart/documents/FinalVersionCityArtPublicArtStrategy.pdf>
- City of Sydney Public Domain Design Codes: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/planning-controls/development-policies/public-domain-design-codes>
- Transport for NSW Light Rail brochure: http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/projects/CSELR_Project_Update_August_2013_0.pdf
- Public Spaces Public Life, Gehl Architects 2007 part 1 and part 2: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/143963/PublicSpacesPublicLifeSydney2007_final_Part1.PDF
- http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/143964/PublicSpacesPublicLifeSydney2007_final_Part2.PDF

Important notes for Stage 1

- The City of Sydney reserves the right to commission one or more artist or artist-led teams to create a work or works of art for George Street.
- The City of Sydney is inviting artists to submit Expressions of Interest for two city centre sites concurrently, George Street and the east-west connecting streets crossing George Street.
- The City reserves the right at its sole discretion, to move artists from one site to the other, as part of the evaluation process (in consultation with the artist).
- Equal access of artists to the Tendering Officer, City of Sydney, will be facilitated during the Expression of Interest stage (Stage 1).
- The shortlisted artists will be asked to make themselves available to be interviewed by videoconference, Skype or in person in early February 2014 as part of the evaluation for Stage 2.
- The City of Sydney recognises the importance of the shortlisted artists visiting the site and will provide further details prior to the Stage 2 brief being issued. November 2013 is projected as the time likely to be proposed for the visit.



Important notes for Stage 1

- The City of Sydney is inviting artists to submit Expressions of Interest for two city centre sites concurrently, the east-west connecting streets and George Street.
- Equal access of artists to the Tendering Officer, City of Sydney, will be facilitated during the Expression of Interest stage (Stage 1).
- The City reserves the right at its sole discretion to move artists from one site to the other as part of the evaluation process (in consultation with the artist).
- The shortlisted artists will be asked to make themselves available to be interviewed by videoconference, Skype or in person in February 2014 as part of the Stage 2 (select tender) evaluation.
- The City recognises the importance of the shortlisted artists visiting the site and will provide further details prior to the Stage 2 brief being issued. November 2013 is projected as the likely time to be proposed for the visit.

Project development stages and timeline

This invitation to submit an Expression of Interest forms the first stage of a two-stage selection process for which the stages and timeline detailed following are indicative only at this stage (provided for purposes of information only).

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

Fee: unpaid

Deadline: 11am Thursday 31 October 2013

Notification of short list: mid-November 2013

Stage 2: Concept Design (Select Tender)

Following debrief by the evaluation panel, short-listed artists or artist-led teams will develop concept designs as part of a select tender.

- Artists site visits will occur during Stage 2 concept design (select tender)
- As part of the evaluation process, a first cost review will be undertaken by a City of Sydney-appointed project quantity surveyor.

Fee: A\$15,000 + GST (if applicable)

Timeline: twelve (12) weeks, from mid November- 11am Friday 7 February 2014

Notification of successful artist or artist-led team: March 2014

Stage 3: Design Development

Development of successful artist's/artist-led team's concept design for the work of art; commencement of working relationship between the artist/artist-led team and representatives of the City of Sydney; provision of feedback from Curatorial Advisor, City Centre, City of Sydney

- Execution of artist contract: April 2014

Timeline**: Six (6) months, April-September 2014

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 4: Construction Documentation

- Preparation of construction documentation
- Engineering and services of other specialist subcontractors, as applicable

Timeline: Eight (8) months, 2014-2015*

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 5: Fabrication

Timeline: Six (6) months, 2015*

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 6: Site preparation

- Site preparation, including provision of necessary services
- Arrangements for applicable additional insurances

Timeline: Six (6) months, 2015-2018*

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 7: Installation

- Delivery and installation of artwork
- Provision of maintenance manual

Timeline: Six (6) months, 2016-2018 TBC*

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 8: Rectification and Final Inspection

- Defects rectification
- Final inspection
- Acceptance by the City of Sydney

Timeline: One (1) month: 2016-2018 TBC*

Mandatory approval by client (City of Sydney)

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Anticipated project completion date: December 2016

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Stage 9: Launch and Documentation

Photography, media release and any publications, marketing, previews, launch or dedication

Timeline: 2016-2018 TBC*

**Indicative only and subject to change*

Appendix 1

Submission requirements for Stage 2 (Select Tender)

The following is indicative and provided for information only at this stage, and will be reviewed and re-issued prior to Stage 2, as the final Stage 2 concept design (select tender) documentation.

- One-page description of the site specific work of public art proposed;
- Documentation of any relevant previous experience or projects by the artist/artist-led team; or in lieu of previous experience, examples demonstrating potential to work collaboratively on site-specific art projects;
- Visual documentation of the work of art proposed, in the form of computer-rendered images or a model, showing the work of art in context of the particular east-west connecting street;
- Details demonstrating the anticipated impact of the work of art proposed on the public domain as currently designed;
- Technical details and specifications of the work of art proposed, including a preliminary summary of the anticipated maintenance requirements;
- Detailed list of items excluded from the artist's/artist-led team's proposal which the artist or artist-led team requests be undertaken by others, if appropriate (these still to be calculated against the art budget of A\$1.7m, whether undertaken by the artist or others);
- Detailed budget including a list of nominated fabricators with their contact details;
- Signed statement, confirming capacity to meet the program – mandatory.
- Cost plan in consideration of the project budget – mandatory.

Stage 2 will comprise twelve (12) weeks, commencing mid November and closing at 11am (Sydney time), Friday, 7 February 2014.

The deadline for submissions in Stage 2 is 11am (Sydney time), Friday, 7 February 2014.

A proposal fee of A\$15,000, plus GST, if applicable, will be paid to each of, up to five shortlisted artists or artist-led teams, as remuneration for conforming Concept Designs, within 30 days of submission and presentation of a valid tax invoice.



Hunter Street crossing Pitt street looking east from George Street

Supporting information in Stage 2

The following materials will be provided to artists or artist-lead teams in Stage 2:

- Additional photographs of particular east-west connecting street or streets;

Important notes for Stage 2

- The scope and timeline for concept design in Stage 2 (select tender) is provided as indicative only at this stage and is subject to change prior to the Stage 2 brief being issued.
- The submission of a concept design in Stage 2 is via a select tender, defined as a process in which Sydney City Council invites a limited number of artist-candidates to bid for a contract.
- Feedback will be provided to the shortlisted artists/artist-led teams at the conclusion of Stage 1.
- The City reserves the right at its sole discretion, to move artists from one site to the other, as part of the evaluation process.
- The shortlisted artists will be asked to make themselves available to be interviewed by videoconference, Skype or in person in February 2014 as part of the Stage 2 (select tender) evaluation.
- Equal access of the artists/artist-led teams to the Tendering Officer, City of Sydney, will be facilitated during the Concept Design stage (Stage 2).
- The City of Sydney reserves the right to commission more than one artist or artist-led team/work of art for more than one site among the east-west connecting streets crossing George Street.
- The City of Sydney has in-house interpreters in many languages that non-English speaking artists/artist-led teams may call on for assistance during Stage 2.
- The artist's or artist-led team's list of nominated fabricators will be reviewed by the City of Sydney as part of the Stage 2 evaluation process.
- The City of Sydney recognises the importance of the successful artist visiting the site and will provide further details prior to the Stage 2 brief being issued. November 2013 is projected as the time likely to be proposed for the visit.
- The successful artist or artist-led team will be contracted using a contract based on the standard form of Public Art Commissioning Agreement provided as an attachment to this brief. The type of artwork proposed and the fabricators nominated by the successful artist or artist-led team will determine the method of engagement at the commissioning stage for each artist/artist-led team.
- By submitting a tender in Stage 2 the artist/artist-led team agrees to the basic terms of the standard Public Art Commissioning Agreement provided as part of this brief.

Evaluation in Stage 2

Concept designs submitted in Stage 2 will be evaluated by a panel comprised of a subcommittee of the Public Art Advisory Panel, City of Sydney staff and other experts in the field applying criteria such as these:

- Artistic excellence and uniqueness of the work proposed;
- Relation of the work proposed to Sydney and the site;
- Durability and longevity of the work proposed, in materials and message/content;
- Previous experience or demonstrated potential to work collaboratively on site-specific art projects;
- Capacity to meet the program – mandatory; and
- Cost plan in consideration of the project budget – mandatory.

Following evaluation, one or more artist or artist-led team will be selected, with notification of the successful artist(s)/artist-led team(s) in March 2014.

Should no concept designs meet the selection criteria, the City of Sydney reserves the right to not proceed.

Work health and safety

The successful artist or artist-led team will be required to abide by the City of Sydney's WH&S Policy:

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/careers/working-for-the-city/conditions-of-employment>

Contact

If you have any questions about this invitation or the information provided in this document, please feel free to contact the Tendering Officer, City of Sydney who may be accessed either by:

- the online forum accessed at www.tenderlink.com/cityofsydney

Or

- or by email or telephone call to:

Anthony Manuatu

Tendering Officer

Email: amanuatu@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Tel: +612 9246 7623

Attachments

1. Supporting information
2. City of Sydney Public Art Commissioning Agreement

Breakdown of responsibilities

The following is a breakdown of respective responsibilities for the successful artist or artist-led team and the City of Sydney through design development and implementation of the final artwork.

Proposed obligations of the artist or artist-led team, correlating to the budget for the work, A\$2.5 million:

- Cost of conceiving, designing, devising, developing, creating or producing the work of art;
- Airfares, travel and accommodation expenses incurred by, for or on behalf of the artist in connection with the work of art other than expenses of the kind which the City of Sydney agrees to pay;
- Cost of consultants, contractors, subcontractors engaged by or on behalf of the artist in connection with the work of art;
- Cost of preparing and producing instruction manuals for the maintenance and upkeep of the work of art and its constituent parts.

Proposed obligations of the City of Sydney, over and above the budget for the work, A\$2.5 million:

- Selecting and contracting the artists, commissioning the work or works of art, and guiding and managing the site-specific art implementation process;
- Facilitating to have available as reasonably required by the artist the services of electrical, acoustic and structural engineers, surveyors, lighting specialists, electricians and other professionals, experts or tradespeople to facilitate the efficient delivery and fixing into place of the work of art on the site (please note the fees for these specialists must be provided for from the artists project budget of A\$2.5m);
- The City of Sydney will own, care for, and maintain the work or works of art that are commissioned for the east-west connecting streets in response to this brief for the period of 25 years.

city of villages

Cover image George and Bridge Streets,
looking east into Bridge Street.
All images courtesy of the City of Sydney