

Mangotsfield Folly: Artist Open Call

Former Mangotsfield Railway Station, near Bristol

www.mangotsfieldfolly.uk

Issued: 16/6/22



Fees:

- 3 x commission bursaries of £1,500 each inc VAT, all fees, materials & expenses
- Possible display/activity period: end of July 2022 – May 2023



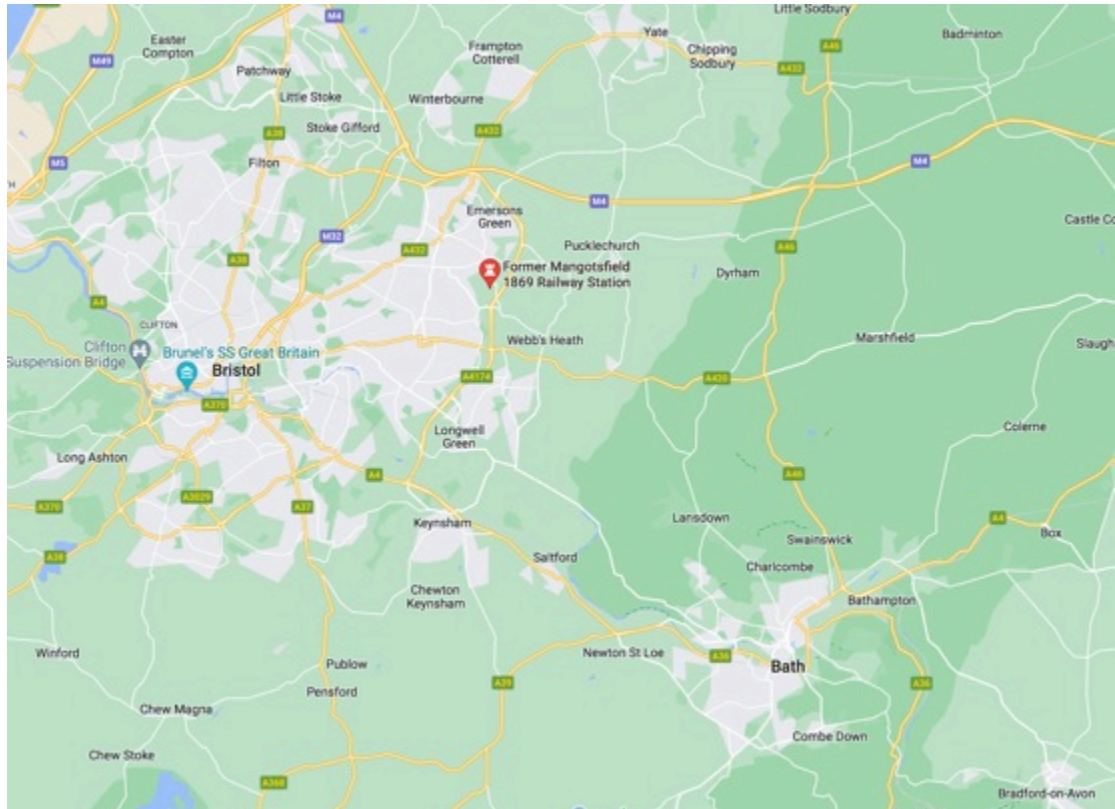
Mangotsfield Folly designed by Rob Elkins of Artel 31, installed at Mangotsfield Station, April 2022. Photograph by Charles Emerson.

Introduction

Mangotsfield Folly is a 12-month site specific creative programme to activate a disused former railway station platform along the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, on the eastern fringes of Bristol. The project began in April 2022 and is framed around a new temporary Folly structure designed and built by architects Artel 31, and a forthcoming outdoor table and bench to be installed within the former booking office foundations (see site photos).

We are keen to diversify opportunities for artists in public spaces through this programme, and support emerging artists who have had limited opportunity to install work, and realise creative activities, outside.

Site location



<https://goo.gl/maps/UXo6Y3mihxwNaFbB9>

Mangotsfield to Warmley: 1.5 miles (2.5 kms)



Background information and history of the site

Mangotsfield is close to Fishponds, Downend and Staple Hill. The Railway path is a 13 mile traffic-free route maintained by Sustrans, the charity making it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle. The railway path was the first route to be developed by Sustrans, opening in 1984. It was also the first part of what would become the National Cycle Network (NCN). The area was once a railway station on the Midland Railway route between Bristol and Birmingham, serving what is now the Bristol suburb of Mangotsfield. The station closed in 1966 when services to Bath ended, and the line through it closed in 1969. The railway line became an 'active travel' route in the 1980s, and Mangotsfield station became a popular place to stop and rest as several of the station's walls and platforms are still in situ (and grade II listed). The station is leased to Sustrans by South Gloucestershire Council.



Mangotsfield railway station in 1966



Mangotsfield Station looking towards the station platform and route towards Bath (right hand path)



An aerial photo of Mangotsfield Station (the 'triangular' area shows the area within the station walls – the inner garden - and elevated on the platform)

About the project so far

Mangotsfield Folly is funded by Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants and Emersons Green Town Council, with in kind support from Sustrans. The project was developed and led by freelance curator Suzanne Heath www.suzanneheath.co.uk and architect Rob Elkins of Artel 31 Architects <https://artel31.co.uk>

Mangotsfield Folly is a partnership with Sustrans to encourage more people to visit and enjoy this part of the National Cycle Network that lies between the cities of Bristol and Bath. The project creates an adaptable space suitable for artist takeovers, classes, lectures, performances, cinema screenings and workshops, with the aim of enabling artistic and intellectual exchange. This brief aims to encourage and enable creative activity to take place.

A number of artists have been invited to respond to the site by making site specific commissions for Mangotsfield over the next year, including:

- An artist residency by Feral Practice (artist Fiona MacDonald), exploring the area's biodiversity to create a new audio drama which will be heard at Mangotsfield Station in Spring 2023 www.feralpractice.com
- A site specific commission by Bristol based writer Holly Corfield Carr who will collaborate with printmaker Nick Hand of the Letterpress Collective www.hollycorfieldcarr.co.uk & www.theletterpresscollective.org Printing will be done on site using Nick's Printing Bike later in 2022.
- A new mural on the interior of the Folly structure by Bristol street artists Lucas Antics www.lucasantics.com due for installation in June 2022
- New hand painted signage by the Straight & Narrow Sign Co
- Photography capturing the site throughout the year by Bristol based photographer Charles Emerson www.charlesemerson.co.uk



Mangotsfield Folly designed by Rob Elkins of Artel 31, installed at Mangotsfield Station, April 2022. Photograph by Charles Emerson.

At the end of May 2022 Mangotsfield Folly was also used by twelve 2nd year Fine Art students at Bath Spa University to display their 'off site' project. (see the instagram feed for examples of work shown)



One of the mural panels designed by Lucas Antics (WIP)

Listening Station

by Feral Practice

Contribute to a new audio drama inspired by Old Mangotsfield Station

SHARE YOUR STORIES!
Our theme is journeys. We are keen to hear about your arrivals, departures, meetings and partings - with human and other beings.

Recording sessions in the Folly
Wed 15 June 8-9am / 2-3pm, Thurs 16 June 10-11am / 5-6pm
Book an event, or make an appointment for another time: fiona@feralpractice.com

Meetings With Birds, Saturday 18 June 8-11am
Walk, talk & draw with Feral Practice and ornithologist Aurora Gonzalo Tarodo
Learn about migration and partnership in the bird world. See birds up close.
More info: www.mangotsfieldfolly.uk / Insta @mangotsfield_folly @feralpractice



Nick Hand with his Printing Bike

The Artist Brief

This brief is aimed at diversifying opportunities for emerging artists aspiring to create, install and perform work in public spaces.

Alongside the named artist commissions mentioned above, we are offering:

- 3 x £1,500 bursaries for emerging artists to make new site specific temporary work in any medium for display/performance/realisation at Mangotsfield railway station between July 2022 and May 2023.

Who can apply?

Due to the limited budget and the site specific nature of the emerging artists commissions, this opportunity will prioritise responses from artists based within the local region of the site, including Bristol and Bath, to keep travel costs to a minimum and support the local arts ecology. However, we do welcome responses from UK-based artists outside the region, provided they are able to deliver within the budget available.

What we are looking for:

- UK-based artists and artist collectives who have had limited opportunity to site work outside
- Emerging artists working in any medium (there is no upper age limit, but artists should be a minimum of 18 years old)
- Artists who plan to create new work responding to some aspect of the Mangotsfield site and its history, and ideally has not been shown before
- Artists seeking an opportunity to experiment or expand their practice through site specific research
- A range of artists' work across the 3 commissions
- This opportunity is open to artists who make work in any medium, including but not limited to visual arts, live events and performances, creative planting and landscaping (please note all permissions are the responsibility of the artist)
- Work must be suitable for display or performance outside at Mangotsfield, and selected artists must complete a risk assessment and consider health and safety of their work being displayed outside in an area that is open to the elements and not monitored by CCTV
- Artists are encouraged to explore the display of work in the Inner Garden (between the station walls) as this area has permission to be used as a sculpture garden
- Work does not need to be displayed for the entire duration period available (July 2022 – May 2023) but we are ideally looking for work that could be installed for longer periods to enable more people to see it (up to 28 days, to ensure there is no need for planning permission, or longer where the artist is willing to negotiate planning, or work that won't require planning permission if installed for longer than 28 days eg planting)
- Artists who have experience of engaging with communities, running workshops and public activities (NOTE: not all artists will need to deliver community engagement, but we are seeking some who do)
- Artists with sufficient experience to undertake the project independently, but with some guidance/support from the project curator Suzanne Heath
- Artists must hold valid public liability insurance for the duration of the project (available through A-N <https://www.a-n.co.uk/about/insurance/>)

Additional guidance

- It will be up to each selected artist to make the best use of the available budget.
- Please note there is no separate travel budget so we recommend that artists consider how they will access the site, and their costs for each journey.
- Artists are discouraged from going to the site alone, if possible, particularly outside of daylight hours.
- Artists will retain copyright and ownership of all work produced for the project, however we would be interested in discussing and exploring the opportunity of selling work following its exhibition to benefit Sustrans who are a registered charity.
- Artists are encouraged to consider the sustainability of materials used
- Artists will be responsible for installing all work at Mangotsfield at the beginning of the exhibition period, and removing all work at the end of the exhibition period, leaving no trace on site and causing no damage.
- Appointed artists will be required to work in a safe and professional manner throughout the install and de-install, and any associated events, ensuring they have produced a suitable risk assessment and meet health and safety requirements.
- Artists will not be permitted on site to install their work until their risk assessment has been signed off by Sustrans, who lease the site from South Gloucestershire Council.

Useful information

- The site is fully accessible as it has sloped access at both ends of the former platform
- There are height and width restrictions on the platform itself due to the amount of tree cover
- There is no power or water on site
- There are no toilets available on site
- There is a nearby secondary school <https://www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk> who we have not actively engaged with yet. Artists are welcomed to propose developing this relationship through their commission.
- There are an estimated 160,000+ users of the Bristol – Bath Railway Path each year

Press and communications

One press release will be issued to announce the emerging artist commissions. Specific information publicising individual emerging artist commissions are the responsibility of each appointed artist, but we are able to re-post information provided by selected artists on instagram via the Mangotsfield Folly instagram account. We can also share information about the selected artists and work on the Mangotsfield Folly website.

Timeframe

Each appointed artist will be invited to create work for installation / activation of the site for up to a period of 28 days, or longer if they would not require planning permission. Projects could also be a single performance/event on a single day (eg a mini programmed festival or theatrical performance), depending on the nature of the work produced and how it is best shown/performed at the site. These periods could overlap depending on the proposal, or be grouped together.

How to apply

Please send:

- A current CV highlighting relevant past projects and experience
- Up to 10 images or files showing examples of your past work (ideally in a pdf or single 'portfolio' document)
- A link to your website (if you have one) and/or a link to your instagram account (if used)
- An artist statement or summary description of your practice
- An expression of interest outlining your approach and potential ideas for Mangotsfield, and what you are hoping to gain from participating in this project
- Your contact details

As well as written responses, we can accept audio and video responses. If you want to submit a response via video or audio, please record your response, save it on Youtube, Vimeo, Google Drive or Dropbox and then add a link to the video within your application. (Max video/audio length 7 minutes in total.)

Please send your application by email to: info@suzanneheath.co.uk

Deadline for submissions: 5pm, Monday 11th July 2022

Artist selection process:

A panel will review all submissions including the project curator Suzanne Heath and Folly architect Rob Elkins. Preferred artists will be invited to interview, to be held via Zoom.

Access:

Please let us know if you need any of the information provided in a different format.

Further information

Visit the project website: www.mangotsfieldfolly.uk

Follow the project on instagram: https://www.instagram.com/mangotsfield_folly/

Read a March 2022 article about the project on Bristol 24/7 here:

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/exciting-project-unfolding-at-site-of-former-railway-station/>

Site images



Wide shot showing the Folly in the context of the inner garden



Looking up onto the platform towards the inner garden (accessed through the gap)



Looking along the platform towards Bristol



Looking along the platform towards the booking office foundations



The former booking office foundations (planned site of outdoor table & bench)



Inside the 'inner garden'



Mangotsfield Station, 1967



Mangotsfield Station, 1972



Mangotsfield Station, 1977



Interior of the Folly (pre-mural), 2022



The Folly, 2022



The Folly showing the path, 2022





The booking office foundations (site of proposed table) looking towards the Folly and telegraph pole