

Working pArts is an arts development, public art and public realm consultancy practice founded by the principal, Geoff Wood and specialising in the effective integration of art into the working lives of towns and cities. Established in 1997 the practice has built an enviable track record, offering expertise, consultancy and commissioning services that focus on the contribution art can make to the development of a humane society. Our achievements include :

Developing policies and strategies at national, regional and city level in England and Wales.

Setting up and running complex art in architecture and art in landscape programmes.

Developing mechanisms to involve local people in art's creative processes and helping communities shape the kind of cultural provision they want.

Setting up collaborations between artists and other design disciplines.

Piloting artists as design team members on public transport systems.

Citywide artists' lightworks to improve safety, orientation and image.

Using art and artists to humanise roadside environments.

Funding strategies, PFI, Lottery, Local Authority, Sponsorship or European funds.

Building support through advocacy among clients, elected members, officers, business and community forums and the wider public.

One of our vital skills is the mentoring of client representatives through the critical and often sensitive development stages of projects, when external pressures are at their greatest.

Boldness and enterprise can be overtaken by expediency and opportunities may be lost.

We have highly developed analytical skills and during over 20 years of experience we have developed effective and genuine methods of consultation, evaluation and appraisal. We collaborate frequently with other organisations and have become very efficient in our joint ventures.

Selected Projects Portfolio

Bath and North East Somerset. Appointed to develop an Art and Animation Strategy alongside a team working up a comprehensive 'Pattern Book' for the City Centre World Heritage Site. Due to complete summer 2013.

Bristol City Council. Public Art Consultant for the Legible City Initiative, City wide strategy to improve the information and orientation environment for business and leisure tourists and local people. We led the introduction of Artists for the quality of their ideas and their ability to help people develop mental maps of the city.

Canal Connections Art and Interpretation program. Strategy and commissioning to enliven and interpret the Rochdale Canal between Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden. Working with Pennine Prospects, CRT and communities and commissioning a team of artists. Work in progress to complete in late 2013.

Castleford Heritage Trust. Working with Trustees and a small team to help the community develop a sustainable long term approach to cultural provision and presence in the town. Recently secured the purchase of an historic flourmill on the River Aire as a new home for the Trust. Development ongoing.

Chesterfield Cultural Renaissance. Introducing art as a means of highlighting the historic Yards area of the town and drawing people into the small but delightful courtyards and spaces. The project includes artists' signage, sculptures, lighting and green walling.

2012 Cultural Olympiad Sailing Events and Regeneration of Weymouth and Portland.

Public Art Strategy and public realm consultancy to include refurbishment of the Esplanade, commissioning new buildings and spaces, and formulating and supporting funding bids. Commissioned laser based artists' lightworks for the Esplanade by Atopia and art on relief road by Richard Harris.

Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, London. Working pArts has appointed as part of a team lead by Hokins Architects to reclad the East Wing of the hospital. Our work contributed to the generous atria spaces to enhance the experience for patients and staff.

HCA + Coalfields Regeneration Trust, National Strategy for Creativity in the Coalfields.

National Strategy to Integrate art into regeneration program for the English Coalfields and setting up pilot projects. Projects include a new landmark Artwork in Salford using wind energy but still symbolising the community cohesion surrounding collieries.

Kirkby Town Centre Regeneration. Leading the design and delivery of a series of major artworks to integrate the existing town centre with new development. Services include consultation, advocacy, engagement, design, commissioning, project management. Live project focused on connections to Edward Lear, storytelling and the strength of communities who were translocated from Liverpool.

Landmark Wales. Strategy, Design Commissioning and Funding for a series of Major Gateways to Wales, working with 8 LAs Welsh Assembly Gov and national bodies such as Visit Wales, CCW, ACW. Led International Design Competition. Sites at Second Severn Crossing, Holyhead, Flintshire border, A40, Chirk, Newport, Heads of the Valleys, Cardiff Airport and Fishguard.

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Public Art Strategy for the A13 Corridor visual envelope. Secured £3.9m Arts Lottery award + £7m from PFI, LA and private sources. Strategy protects residents from road effects, improving drivers' experience and raising Borough's image whilst creating a series of extraordinary artworks. We also developed the ideas for and set up Barking Town Square Design Competition which has now resulted in a new Library, Public Square and revitalised Town Hall.

Manchester City Council. Strategy, stakeholder consultation, commissioning plan and project management for 3 major new memorials for Manchester City Centre, dedicated to the Abolition of Slavery; Women's Suffrage and Emmeline Pankhurst; and the Peterloo Massacre of 1819. This strategy has introduced a whole new thread to Manchester's tourism offer and has been endorsed by the Council and a raft of key interest groups and private partners. We are retained to develop the programme into implementation and our commission has been extended to develop a strategy for the **Oxford Road Corridor**, introducing art as a tool to integrate the public realm around the 2 universities, Manchester Museum, the Whitworth Art Gallery and 2 major hospital sites. This has entailed advocacy and workshops with partners and acting as catalysts for the next stage of program development. We have been advising the City Council on the introduction of art into the redevelopment of St Peter's Square and discussing the integration of an anti slavery memorial into the Cathedral site adjacent to Victoria Street.

Milton Keynes Council. Public art strategy and implementation recommendations for MK's growth areas including the City Centre.

North Somerset Council, Public Art Consultancy to Weston super Mare, Connecting Spaces, Places and People Initiative. Providing strategic plan for regenerating the central area and promenade of WsM as part of a major capital bid for funds, which succeeded in attracting £11m from public sector.

Northstowe Public Art Strategy for Homes and Communities Agency and Gallagher Estates. Strategy for the integration of art as a core element in the creation of a new town of 25,000 in Cambridgeshire. Because of our strategy, Public Art has become a means of delivering on several mainstream agenda issues including community consultation, capacity building, cohesion between new and existing populations, place making, transport integration, image development, design excellence in buildings, landscapes and lighting, play provision across age ranges, animation of spaces and places, creative industries development. The team has been retained for the long term implementation of the project.

Poole, Public Art Consultancy and Bridge/Streetscape Procurement Advisor on £15m opening bridge and art integrated into 50 Hectares of streetscape and development. Set up and organised 2 International Design Competitions for the Bridge and the Streetscape, guiding officers through an unfamiliar process.

Pooley Country Park Art Commissions. Commissioning of a major new landscape artwork at Pooley Park and adjacent to the M42. The project includes the integration of the project into an Arts Lead overall strategy for the development of the Park as a major leisure resource in North Warwickshire. Artists Matthew Dalzeil and Louise Scullion have recently completed their work 'Gold Leaf' on the mound, based on the natural history of the site.

SA1, Swansea. Public Art Strategy and follow on implementation for the regeneration area surrounding the Prince of Wales Dock. Our approach is highly collaborative and the proposals harness the innovative capacity of art to change places. We have included ways of making the best use of the existing resources, including the water, and also of integrating SA1 into the city.

St.Modwen. Public Art Strategy for the long term redevelopment program for the Firepool area of Taunton, one of the most significant growth projects currently underway in the South West. Program has involved collaboration with masterplanners and lighting designers, addressing the expectations of the local authority planners and Project Taunton.

Temple Quay, Bristol. Public Art Consultant to Temple Quay Central Development. Short, medium and long term strategy and commissioning for one of the largest developments in the South West.

Workington, Cumbria, Lead the commissioning of £2.7m public realm and public art program raising the design quality of Workington town centre and elevating local aspirations. This programme is now complete and has totally transformed Workington. The outcome has been the creation of series of linked public art spaces that bring character and animation to a once bland environment.

Geoff Wood was on CABA Space's Enabling Panel, is one of only 5 consultants on the Homes and Communities Agency's National Public Art Panel and Chaired the Arts Council's North West Selection Panel for the £5.4M 'Artists Taking the Lead' Programme. He is Vice Chair of the Local Action Group for Pennine Prospects' Leader Funding Programme. Geoff is also on the Board of Outta Place, a fledgling organisation aiming to provide high quality youth arts activities for young people at risk.

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