Dundee Christmas Trees 2024



Introduction

In cities all around the world, festive tree displays are a highlight of the season. Beautiful and inspiring trees are created by designers who combine festive traditions and contemporary design.

This year, UNESCO City of Design, in partnership with Dundee City Council are looking to commission four designers or creative practitioners to create bespoke and unique ‘Christmas Trees’ as part of Dundee’s Festive Celebrations, celebrating the diversity of the winter period.

Concept

For a third year we will be displaying unique interpretations of ‘Christmas Trees’ made from reused and recycled materials as a festive celebration of the ingenuity of our local designers.

Rather than simply decorating a tree, this brief seeks designers who will create a ‘tree’ which tells its own story. The design must use the ‘Christmas Tree’ as the central focus and inspiration, but final designs can take

any form. The project is seeking creative, unique designs which respond to the concept of a central Christmas Tree in festival celebrations.

While the main inspiration for this brief is the Christmas Tree, we are looking for responses that celebrate the diversity of the winter period from different perspectives.

The ‘Trees’ will form part of a display located at City Churches.

As you would expect in the home of the only UNESCO City of Design designation in the UK, the final installations must represent the highest quality of design.

Considering the environmental impact of large-scale festivities and the commitment from the city to celebrate our own living Christmas tree, this project centres the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle. All elements of the ‘tree’ and its decoration must be made from 100% reused or recycled materials and utilise multiples of an object or material.

It is preferrable that the tree’s materials are made from materials that are recognisable as having been recycled. We particularly welcome ‘trees’ made from leftover, or waste household and everyday items.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to:

- Designers and creative practitioners who live or work in Dundee (defined as living or work address with a DD1 - DD7 postcode)

- Designers and creative practitioners from Dundee (defined as DD1 - DD7 postcode) and recent graduates (graduating in the last 4 years from a Dundee university)

Award

Four successful designers will be awarded £2,000 each to cover all materials, production, installation, and fee.

Essential considerations

• The ‘tree’ must be between 1.6m minimum and 2.5m maximum in height.

• All elements making up the tree and its decoration must be made from 100% reused or recycled materials and utilise multiples.

• If the design requires a real tree, you must demonstrate how this is sustainable. Single-use trees are not permitted.

• The trees must be transportable and suitable to be stored. They must be able to be moved by two people safely. It is preferrable if they come apart into easy to move pieces.

• There is no power supplied. The display area will have general floodlights for illumination of the trees unless that is not required by the designer. If the design includes lights, then details on how these are reused and sustainably powered must be provided.

• Each tree will have a brief explanatory text displayed which will tell the story of the design, its designer and context.

• The ‘tree’ will be required to be secured to protect it from adverse weather. The UNESCO City of Design Dundee team will work with those selected to ensure the structure is safe and conforms to Health & Safety requirements.

• The ‘tree’ will be situated outside in the elements of winter for seven weeks. The reused/recycled materials selected must be able to withstand high winds, heavy rain, low temperatures, and potentially heavy snow.

Install / Deinstall

• Selected ‘trees’ will be installed on the grass area in front of City Churches.

• Exact location and positioning is at the discretion of the UNESCO City of Design Dundee team and cannot be negotiated.

• Tree’s must be delivered to site on the morning of Thursday 21st November at a time agreed with the UNESCO City of Design Dundee Team.

• Installation will be the responsibility of the designer. This process will be supported by the UNESCO City of Design Dundee team and must be approved in advance.

• ‘Trees’ must be installed on the morning of Thursday 21st November and must be ready for public view by 3pm on the same day.

• Trees will be dismantled on Monday 6th January 2024. The UNESCO City of Design Dundee will carry out this work. Designers will need to provide instructions regarding the dismantling. It is important to consider the storability of your design - ‘trees’ will be kept in a storage unit outwith the festive season and should be robust enough to handle assembly and disassembly multiple times.

Look and Feel

The installations must be design-led, cool, contemporary, and eye-catching. They can be fun or edgy, or anywhere in between, as long as they uphold the highest qualities of design and are accessible to a public audience. Designs should include the use of multiples; previous ‘Christmas Tree’ examples of this include tin cans, records and skateboards.

Submission - How To Apply

Submission is via the application form below, and must be completed by all applicants:

Submission form

Applications will be scored using the following weightings:

- Quality of design and how it meets brief: 40%
- Relevant skills and experience: 40%
- Credibility of installation plans: 20%

To help you plan your submission, please find a copy of the application questions below:

- Name of designer
- Lead contact name
- Contact address
- Contact number
- E-mail address
- Social media account and/or other website
- Please give a brief summary of your tree design proposal, no more than 300 words. This is to help us understand your ideas and how they fit the brief. We may also use this in publicity and reporting to describe your project.
- Please upload any outline sketches, mood boards and images to support your proposed design of your tree design including lighting option (PDF or other digital format). Please ensure to label your file(s) with your name before you upload.
- Materials
  Please outline your planned materials and their sources, bearing in mind the need to utilise reused/recycled materials and multiples.
- Delivery proposal
  Please briefly outline your installation plans - will you pre-build, paint on site, subcontract help or other?
- Budget
  Please give indicative costings, to demonstrate that the project is achievable in the budget available to you?

- Removal
  What will removal involve? Does the tree come apart in sections or break down? Outline any plans here.
- Please tell us about your previous works, detailing if they were public artworks and their audiences if that applies.
- Please submit images from at least three previous works. These do not need to have been made public or displayed. Please ensure to label the files with your name before you upload.
- Please briefly summarise your creative career to date. This can be a copy of your CV or a short descriptive paragraph.

Deliverables

• Design, production and installation of a tree within dimensions between 1.6m and 3m high, with a diameter no more than 2m, though stability solutions such as guy ropes, wide bases etc may exceed this footprint.

• 50-100 word text outlining your inspiration for your design; 50-100 word biography, both for public display. Please note, this text will be edited by the UNESCO City of Design Dundee team to match the tone of existing project texts.

• 300dpi JPG images of previous representative work, provided with clearance for promotional use for the project including but not limited to website, social channels, events listing sites, on site screens and e-news.

Budget

£2,000 to cover all materials, production, installation, and fee; as noted above.

Schedule

Activity	Date
Applications Close	11:59pm, Thursday 24th October
Designers Awarded	Friday 25th October
Install	Thursday 21st November
Deinstall	Monday 6th January

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

We actively encourage applications from across all communities in our city and from a range of life experiences. In order to monitor whether we are reaching as widely as we could, we ask that you complete the Equalities Monitoring Form by using the link below. This will not be shared with the evaluation panel.

Fill in Equalities form here.

Intellectual Property

The organisers (UNESCO City of Design Dundee and Dundee City Council) retain permission to use images of the installations with clearance for promotional and reporting use including but not limited to website, social channels, events listing sites, on-site screens and e-news.

It is expected that images of the displays, and some design drawings or mock-ups may be used on social media and organisers' websites, and for future promotion of the organisers' activities.

The organisers will store the 'trees' and retain permission to present the 'trees' in public for up to 5 years. Should the 'trees' require remedial work, or repair this will be negotiated between UNESCO City of Design/Dundee City Council and the designer.

All intellectual property rights, computer files and paperwork remain the property of the designer.

The physical artworks and displays remain the property of the designer. They will be held in the care of UNESCO City of Design Dundee/Dundee City Council for a maximum period of 5 years at which point they will be returned to the designer, or further negotiation will be carried out.

UNESCO City of Design Dundee reserves the right not to display any tree for any reason. It is at the discretion of the team as to which trees are shown, and which are re-shown again in the future.

Questions

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Lizzie Day, Project Coordinator, on elizabeth.day@vandadundee.org

Dundee Christmas Trees 2024 is a project coordinated by UNESCO City of Design Dundee, funded by Dundee City Council.

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