

THE RAPS PROJECT- Public Art Brief

November 2022



INTRODUCTION

Nelson City Council is seeking expressions of interest from sculptural artists, designers, engineers etc. (here after called practitioners) to design and construct a **Relocatable, Autonomous Projection Structure (RAPS)** that also functions as a piece of sculptural art.

Practitioners should lodge their design concepts by 5pm on 09/01/2023.

The RAPS Project is an opportunity to design and build a structure that will resolve a number of technical, rigging and consenting challenges that currently hinder expansion of light art shows in Whakatū Nelson. The structure will support Whakatū Nelson's creative events and in time, potentially become an iconic representation of the city's artistic identity.

Nelson City Council (NCC) wishes to commission a distinctive mobile sculptural artwork to house two light art projectors. It will operate in various locations across Whakatū Nelson for differing amounts of time, but usually between one week and one month in each site. The working title of the piece is the RAPS- Relocatable Autonomous Projection Structure.

BACKGROUND

Public art plays an important role in the social and cultural wellbeing of the Whakatū Nelson community. Nelson City Council supports the rich creative environment the city is known for by supporting arts organisations and events, as well as commissioning art works.

Many festivals, events and art installations throughout the year incorporate laser projector light art technology. Council owns two light art projectors that have been loaned out to support over twenty-five community projects at various locations throughout the city over the past three years.

These projects have included significant community events, such as Nelson Arts Festival, Te Ramaroa Light Festival and Matariki celebrations. They also include smaller community led light art installations on a variety of themes. This combined activity has helped Whakatū Nelson develop a reputation as a nationally recognised light art hotspot.

OBJECTIVES

Practitioners must be able to show they have the capacity and capability to meet the brief. Council is looking for a design and build service for the RAPS that is both practical and creative. This means that:

- The structure must be easy to move, and inexpensive to set up at each new site, where it will be left unattended so will need to be durable enough to protect the light art projectors inside.
- The structure will need to meet multiple technical considerations related to its facilitating light art projection shows. Information on technical considerations required for light art shows, projected from the structure is presented in the separate *“RAPS Light Art Projection Must Haves Report”* available with this brief.
- The structure will need to meet multiple engineering, and compliance considerations, (including Health & Safety Act and Building Act). This will be for it both as a mobile structure located in public spaces and as a worksite. The successful practitioner will be expected to obtain a building consent (or exemption from the Building Act) from Councils Building Control Team. This will include the practitioner providing sufficient information to highlight any design risks and how these have been mitigated. Information on the engineering and compliance considerations for the structure is presented in the separate *“Engineering Specifications”* document available with this brief.
- As the structure will be placed in various locations, its sculptural form must be able to respond to Whakatū Nelson’s overall sense of place rather than being heavily reliant on any specific location for its distinctiveness or story.
- As the structure will facilitate an almost endless variety of light art shows, its sculptural form must be appropriate to all cultures and styles of light art show, rather than being heavily associated with any one culture or story.
- The structures sculptural form should augment, but not override, the creative experience of the viewing public at light art shows during night-time hours. Its sculptural form should, however, be recognisable to the community and generate viewer interest at times when light art shows are not running, ostensibly during the daylight hours.

The Council will not disclose confidential information submitted as part of this proposal offer to anyone not directly involved in the commissioning process without the explicit permission of the practitioner. In making a proposal, a practitioner must declare any actual or perceived conflict of interest.

PROJECT DETAILS

History & Significance of Site/Subject

The RAPS will be mobile, not site specific. However, the RAPS will be used almost exclusively within the administrative boundaries of Nelson City Council.

This wider area from Hira in the East to Omaio/Stoke in the West, has significant historical significance. This relates to prehuman times, arrival and occupation of Māori represented by the eight mana whenua iwi of Te Tau Ihu, pākehā settlement and settlement from more recent migrant groups. Practitioners are advised to research that multi-layered history to aid their submission.

Although the RAPS will have multiple locations, there are two known areas where it will most likely be used. These are:

- In the central city/city fringe streets of Nelson.
- Public parks and reserves in Nelson, Tahunanui and Stoke.

Examples of potential sites where the RAPS could be used are shown in the appendices of the *RAPS Light Art Projection “Must Haves” Report*.

Technical Information

Two documents that are provided with this arts brief provide critical technical information for practitioners. These are the:

1. *RAPS Light Art Projection “Must Haves” Report and appendices.*
2. *Engineering Specifications Report*

These reports are available with this brief.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Selection Process

1. Up to three practitioners will be shortlisted from the expressions of interest/concept designs received.
2. Shortlisted practitioners will be invited to a workshop to explore the vision and themes for the project.
3. Shortlisted practitioners will receive an agreed “detailed design phase payment” from NCC to produce a detailed design for the RAPS.
3. Shortlisted practitioners will be able to request “design feedback sessions” with NCC.
4. Shortlisted practitioners will present their detailed designs to NCC.
5. Selection of a single detailed design will be made.
6. The commissioned practitioner will be contracted to construct and deliver the RAPS to an agreed specification. This will include provision of any producer statements, required for building consent.

Short Listing Selection Criteria

The following shortlisting criteria and weighting will be used:

Criteria	Weighting
Evidence of Past Sculptural or Structural Commissions: Evidence of the practitioner’s record of delivering significant sculptural public art or structural projects of an extremely high standard that achieve critical acclaim and recognition for their artistic or commercial merit.	35%
Project Management and Project Team: The practitioner’s ability to manage projects and assemble an experienced and qualified team, including engineers, to deliver the RAPS Project.	35%

Concept Design(s) The concept designs potential to meet projection, engineering and artistic requirements.	20%
Cost and Deliverability: The practitioner's ability to complete milestones for the RAPS project within the allocated time and to an acceptable budget.	10%

Detailed Design Selection Criteria and weighting

Detailed design criteria and weighting will be released to any shortlisted practitioners in early 2023.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Stage	By 5.00pm
Release of project for expressions of interest	16/11/2022
Deadline for questions from practitioners	09/12/2022
Deadline for submissions of expressions of interest/concept designs	09/01/2023
Practitioners notified of shortlisting assessment outcome	20/01/2023
Council to facilitate design feedback workshops with key NCC staff including pre application meeting with Building Control. Practitioners receive feedback on design ideas prior to making their submission.	20/01/2023 -10/02/2023
Deadline for detailed designs	17/03/2023
Practitioners informed of detailed design selection and supplier contracted for service	24/03/2023
Practitioner delivers constructed RAPS	By 30/06/2023

BUDGET

There is no budget guideline for this commission. Council will enter into direct negotiations with suppliers if they are shortlisted.

Significant funding has been allocated to the project, to be spent within the current financial year, ending in June 2023. Negotiations may allow projects that can be scaled, to be delivered in stages that cross over into Councils next financial year (01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024). This allows the potential budget for the proposal to be increased. However, it is expected that for a detailed design to be selected, a structure that enables the core functions of the RAPS should be delivered and paid for before end of June 2023.

Practitioners are asked to:

- As part of their expressions of interest/concept designs submissions, provide estimated pricing for supply of the RAPS (based on it being delivered to Council in Nelson).
- As part of their expressions of interest/concept designs submissions, provide the suggested funding that they require to deliver a detailed design.
- If shortlisted, negotiate with NCC to agree a final pricing regime for delivery of their detailed design and construction of the RAPS.

The funding from NCC will cover **all** practitioner fees, including project management and design, engineering specifications and reporting, materials and construction, travel costs etc.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payments will be made in two (possibly three) phases:

Payment Phase	To Whom	Price	When
Payment 1 Detailed Design Submission Work	To shortlisted practitioners	\$ To be proposed by practitioners/agreed by NCC	In full by mid-January 2023
Payment 2 Design/ construction/ consenting of the RAPS	To the commissioned practitioner	\$ To be proposed by practitioner/agreed by NCC	Of the available budget in the 22/23 FY: 50% on contract signing. - March 2023 50% on delivery of completed RAPS by June 2023
Possible later payments	To the commissioned practitioner	\$ To be proposed by practitioner/agreed by NCC	There is potential to scale delivery of some aspects of the project to allow payments to cross over into the subsequent financial year (after July 23)

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Practitioners should lodge their expression of interest/concept designs on the RAPS Project page on Nelson City Councils "Shape Nelson" website. <https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/>

For all queries relating to this project please ask a question on the RAPS Project page on Shape Nelson.

Note- All questions and their answers will be posted on the RAPS Project page on the Shape Nelson website. The initial deadline for questions is 09/12/2022. You should allow five working days for answers to be posted.