



Scarborough Public Art Mural Brief

Submission Deadline: Sunday 16 August 2026 (11:59pm)

1. Introduction:

North Yorkshire Council invites proposals from artists or artist collectives to design and deliver a public art mural at McBean Apartments, YO11 2ES, commemorating Scarborough 400. This commission sits within the Sprucing up Scarborough project, contributing to the enhancement of the town centre environment and fostering pride in our shared public spaces. A maximum commission budget of £17,500 is available to the appointed artist(s) to cover the design and delivery of the mural.

2. Project overview:

Project vision

This commission aims to transform a prominent elevation through the delivery of a high-quality mural that enhances the visual character of the town centre and celebrates Scarborough's distinctive identity. The McBean Apartments site has been selected for its strong visibility within the surrounding streetscape which features some of the town's

most recognisable landmarks. The elevation also forms a focal point along a well-used pedestrian route connecting the town centre to the South Bay and Esplanade.

The commission also links to the celebration of Scarborough 400, a landmark year commemorating the discovery of Scarborough's Spa Waters, a pivotal moment in the town's development. Artists are therefore invited to respond creatively to the Scarborough 400 theme, offering original interpretations that draw on the town's rich history, cultural identity or coastal character.

For more information about the Scarborough 400 theme, please refer to appendix 1

Project aims

- To appoint a professional artist or artists collective with experience in public art to aesthetically enhance the identified town centre building
- To deliver a high-quality mural that reflects Scarborough's local identity, heritage and culture through an appropriate artistic approach
- To ensure the final design aligns with planning requirements and conservation guidance
- To prioritise durability, safe installation and ease of long-term maintenance through appropriate material and technical choices
- To deliver a durable artwork designed with a minimum expected lifespan of 10 years, with a preference for achieving 10-15 years supported by a low-intervention maintenance plan

3. Site overview:

Location

The mural is proposed for the north-facing side of the McBean Apartments building, St Nicholas Cliff, YO11 2ES. The building is a privately owned, multi-tenanted property and is available for use in principle, subject to the successful agreement of all necessary third-party permissions which are currently being progressed by the council.

The location can be identified using What3words via [View Location \(Years.dock.hurt\)](#), or alternatively, via: [McBean Apartments - Google Maps](#)

Proposed mural elevations

Artists are invited to consider two adjacent wall elevations as part of this commission.

Primary elevation

The primary area is the side elevation of the McBean Apartment building, extending across four storeys and facing onto Harcourt Place and the Sunken Garden. This wall should form the main canvas for the artwork.

To help respect the historic setting, the artist should consider the scale and layout of the design. The final design will be developed in collaboration with the council to ensure it is appropriate for the setting.

Dimensions (approximate)

- Full wall size: **10.6m (w) x 13m (h)**
- Total usable area: **138m²**

Note: The wall surface consists of two angled planes, which should be considered in how the artwork is designed and viewed.

Secondary elevation

The adjoining single-storey wall includes five recessed arches and should be considered as a secondary element within the overall design.

Artists have flexibility in how this area is used. There is no requirement to use the full wall, but proposals should explain how the space will be incorporated to enhance visual impact and complement the main design.

Dimensions (approximate)

- Full wall size: **18.2m (w) x 4.3m (h)**
- Archway size (numbered 1-5, left to right):
 - Archways 1 & 5: **2.7m (w) x 3.9m (h) x 0.2m (d)**
 - Archways 2 & 4: **2.7m (w) x 3.3m (h) x 0.2m (d)**
 - Archway 3: **2.7m (w) x 3.9m (h) x 1.3m (d)**
- Total usable area: **78 m²**

Note: Some archways contain timber door panels, any proposed materials used in these areas should be suitable for timber surfaces.

For more images of the site please see appendix 2



Image taken from the footpath on St Nicholas Street, showing the primary elevation - white gable end wall to the right of the image and the secondary elevation – the burgundy single storey wall shown across the centre left of the photograph.

Site considerations

The site is within the Scarborough Town Centre Conservation Area and sits in the sightline of several listed structures including Grade II* Grand Hotel. Proposals should be sensitive to the historic setting.

An Article 4 direction also applies, meaning planning permission is required to paint the exterior. The council will submit a full planning application once the design is agreed.

Site visits

The site is publicly accessible, and artists can arrange visits independently or through the project team. We'd recommend artists verify dimensions on site if needed for quotations. Due to the wall height, a digital laser measure may be required for accurate measurements.

4. Budget

A maximum budget of £17,500 is available for this commission. Artists should provide an outline of their expected costs considering all elements of the mural's development and delivery. It's recommended the following costs are incorporated:

- Artist fees
- Material costs (including initial wall preparation and protective coatings)
- Equipment hire
- Travel and subsistence
- Any licence or permit fees
- Public liability insurance
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Contingency for any unforeseen costs

Our intended payment schedule is outlined below:

Final design sign off	40% payment
Mural installed and completed	60% Payment

5. Artist's role:

The final scope will be agreed with the appointed artist but is expected to include:

Development:

- Work with the council to develop and agree the final mural design in line with the project vision, Scarborough 400 theme and site context.
- Provide material details and explain how a minimum 10-year lifespan will be achieved.
- Plan how the work will be safely carried out (for example, scaffolding, cherry picker).
- Attend project progress meetings as required
- Prepare any required Health & Safety documentation

Installation:

- Provide all equipment, materials, and day-to-day organisation of the work.
- Prepare the wall surface appropriately for mural installation (for example, cleaning and priming). Any structural repairs will be handled separately by the council/building owner.
- Hold Public Liability Insurance (minimum £5 million) for the full installation period
- Manage site safety during installation

- Minimise environmental impact where reasonably practicable (for example, materials choices)
- Manage and communicate any delays due to external factors for instance, adverse weather

Completion and handover

- Deliver the artwork in line with the approved design, budget and quality standards.
- Leave the site clean and tidy
- Provide a simple maintenance and aftercare plan
- Support project promotion with the council where agreed

Copyright and ownership

The artist will retain the copyright of the artwork. The council will agree a licence to use images of the mural for non-commercial and promotional purposes with the selected artist.

6. Council's role:

The council will act as the project manager and will:

- Provide project oversight and support throughout design and delivery
- Support the artist to secure required permissions (for example, Scaffold licence, permits)
- Submit and fund the planning application
- Help coordinate with key stakeholders and third parties
- Put in place all contracts and any third-party agreements
- Promote the project through its communication channels

7. Project timeline

Item	Date
Brief published	Friday 17 July
Tender submission deadline	Sunday 16 August (11:59pm)
Review of proposals:	w/c 17 August
Appointment of successful artist	w/c 24 August
Introductory meeting	w/c 24 August
Finalisation of artist design	TBD (possibly w/c 28 September)
Planning submission	TBD
Progression of project permissions	TBD
Site preparation	TBD
Planning determination expected	TBD
Installation commences	TBD

Mural completion	TBD
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8. Proposal instructions:

Application process

Please submit your response by email to: Regeneration.North-East@northyorks.gov.uk

The deadline for return of responses is Sunday 16 August 2026 at 11:59pm.

Please include:

- a short artist biography
- a link to your portfolio or examples of previous work
- a summary of your design idea and how it responds to the theme
- a simple sketch (this doesn't need to be a complete design) or supporting images (for instance, previous work or inspiration) that help illustrate your idea
- an outline of expected costs

A proposal template is provided to support submissions; however, alternative formats will also be accepted. Please ensure that all documents are provided in PDF format.

Selection Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel including the project manager, council officers and local partners and will be assessed on a 50/50 split of price and quality. Quality will be judged on the criteria below:

- The strength and relevance of the proposed idea
- Artistic merit of portfolio
- Artist's ability to deliver on time and within budget
- Coherence of design style with the historical setting.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome within three weeks of the deadline.

The council may choose not to appoint if no proposals are considered suitable and may invite other artists to apply. This project brief is not a contract. The selected artist will enter into a formal agreement with the council following appointment.

9. Further information:

For any questions about the project, please contact:

Laurie Wilsher, Community Development, North Yorkshire Council.

E: Regeneration.North-East@northyorks.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Design Concept – Scarborough 400:

Scarborough's spa legacy began in 1626 when Mrs. Thomasin Farrer discovered mineral springs beneath the cliffs near to the Scarborough Spa. These waters, which stained the rocks a russet colour, tasted slightly bitter and were discovered to cure minor ailments. Neighbours and friends were told about the beneficial effects and soon, 'drinking the waters' became the accepted medicine for Scarborough's townspeople. Dr. Robert Wittie published a book about the waters in 1660, and Scarborough soon transformed into a fashionable health resort. By 1700, local entrepreneur Dicky Dickinson had built the first spa buildings and introduced a fee for visitors to "take the waters," laying the foundation for Scarborough's reputation as a health retreat and paving the way for its status as "Britain's first seaside resort". Today, the original spa complex, Scarborough Spa, is a cultural and performance venue, hosting a range of events from comedy nights and pantomimes to conventions, as well as the last remaining seaside orchestra who perform during the summer months. To commemorate the 400-year anniversary of Scarborough becoming a Spa town, a year-long celebration is planned for 2026 with a programme of vibrant events such as exhibitions, culture and arts, family entertainment and community trails. Together, these efforts aim to honour the town's rich past while shining a spotlight on Scarborough as a must-visit destination.

Useful links:

- [Scarborough 400 | Visit North Yorkshire](#)
- [Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre | Thomasin Farrer 1626 - Scarborough 400](#)
- [Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre | Spa History - Scarborough 400](#)
- [Exhibitions, arts events and a new sculpture are all being organised | North Yorkshire Council](#)



Figure 1 - Spa Well 1700s depicted in the Poetical Sketches of Scarborough 1813



Figure 3 – Dicky Dickinson, 1725 painted by Hans Hysing (Via Wellcome Collection Catalogue)

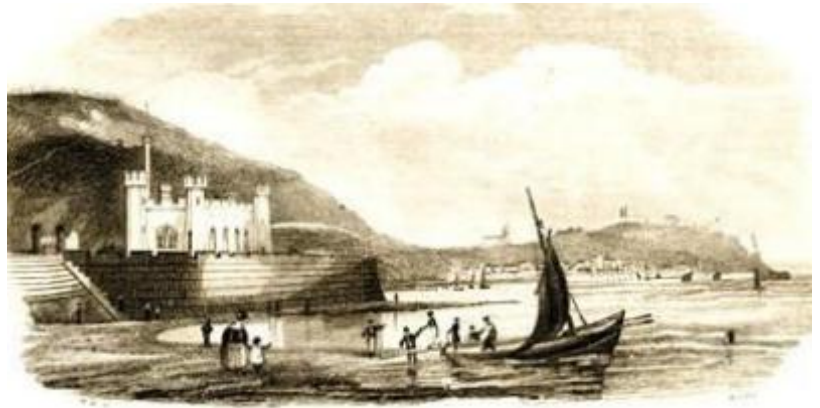


Figure 2 – The Gothic Saloon, 1839, predating the Spa construction (via the Yorkshire Journal, Spring Issue, 2010)



Figure 4 – Aqua Vitalis Sculpture by Jethro Crabb, inspired by Thomasin Farrer

Appendix 2:

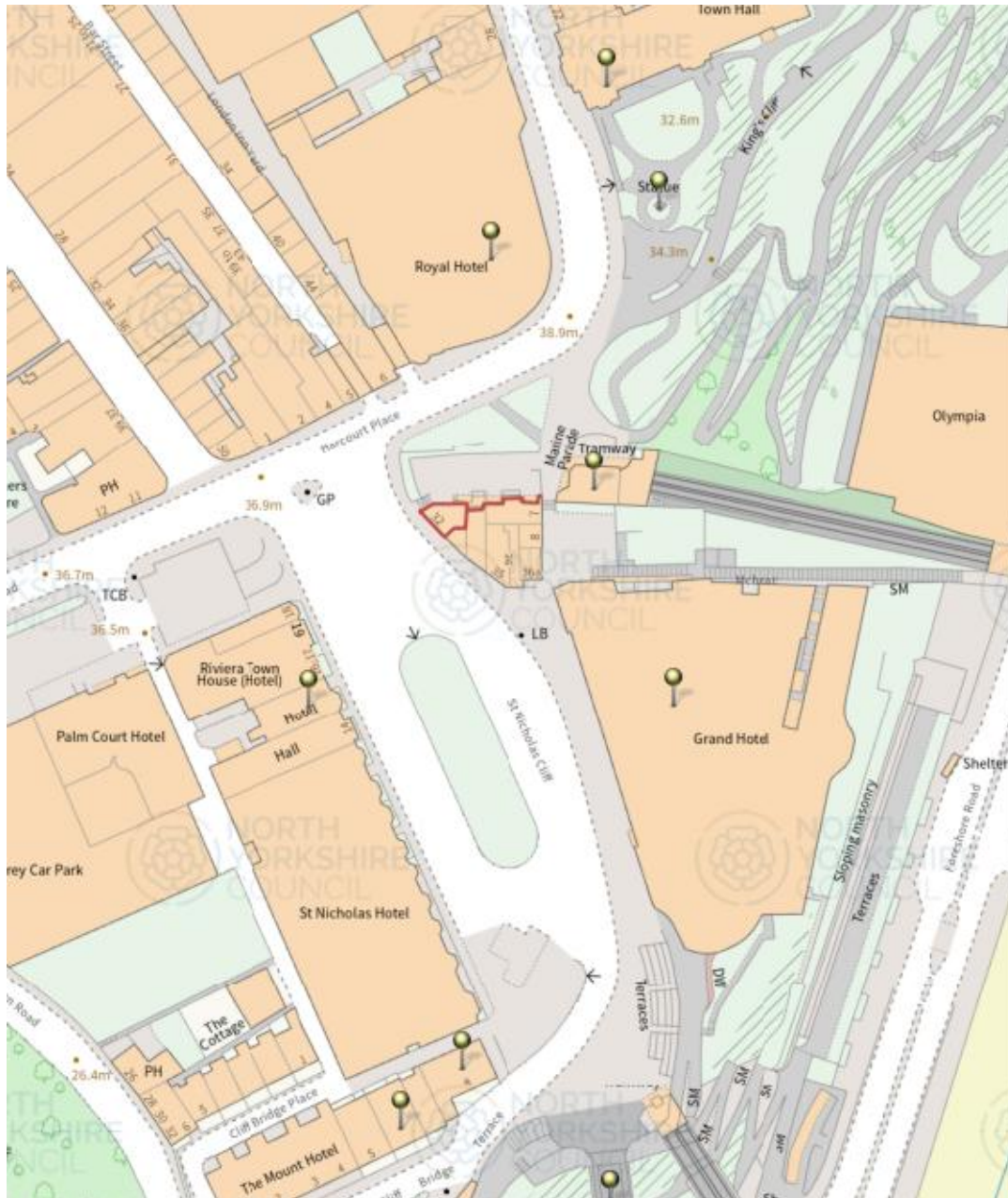


Figure 1 – McBean Apartments Building has been highlighted in red. With surrounding sites of significant historical value highlighted with pins.



Figure 2 – Side elevation at McBean Apartments showing angled wall plane



Figure 3 – Area highlighted by Conservation Officers as the preferred positioning for the main elements of the design



Figure 4 – Adjacent wall identified as an element for consideration in the design proposal



Figure 5 – Elevation view from pedestrian footpath at St Nicholas Cliff