Courtenay Place Park

LIGHT BOX PROJECT

The Courtenay Place light boxes offer an intense, high-profile, public exhibition venue with a backdrop of buildings, buses and trees rather than white walls. The light boxes present a unique public forum for the display of art and provide an alternative opportunity for curators and artists who want to exhibit work in a dynamic and challenging context.
Light box exhibition programme

The light box exhibition programme includes two-to-three curated exhibitions per year – each lasting four-to-six months. The only mandate for the light boxes is that they are used for art displays only. The City Arts team usually calls for proposals at the beginning of each year for exhibitions during the following year.

Specifications

- The light boxes are positioned along the edge of Courtenay Place Park.
- The eight double-sided light boxes each measure 3 metres high and 1.2 metres wide.
- They are constructed from Corten steel, glass, and LED (light-emitting diode).
- Each artwork is credited with the artist’s name, title of work and date of creation in a label holder on the edge of each light box.
- Additional information such as a curator’s essay or statement is available on the Council website, and a link to this information is included on the label.
- Please note that because of factors such as weather conditions, images will be unusable once exhibitions are finished and will be destroyed.
Submitting a proposal

Arts organisations, institutions, curators and artists are invited to submit exhibition proposals. Exhibitions with a curator are preferred. However, in some cases an exhibiting artist has also curated a group exhibition.

We require a written proposal that includes:

- proposed exhibition concept and objectives
- a description of the work to be exhibited with supporting images where possible
- how the work will relate to the site and engage audiences
- information on the participating artist(s) (including CVs)
- images of the artist(s) previous work.

Selection

Wellington City Council’s Public Art Panel assists the City Arts team with the selection of proposals. The Public Art Panel looks for proposals that:

- explore and present new artistic practices that engage in various ways with the physical character, history, culture and social meaning of public space
- seek to engage with specific cultures and communities and their histories – to encourage deeper understanding of Wellington’s rich and diverse cultural heritage and contemporary make-up
- promote a new understanding of public art, and in doing so initiate debate and discourse about the direction of art in the city.

Funding

The Public Art Fund is used to cover the costs associated with up to three exhibitions per year – up to a maximum of $40,500 a year ($13,500 per exhibition). This fund may be used for:

- curator/artist’s fee
- digital reproductions of work
- proofs and printing
- installation/removal of work
- marketing and publicity
- documentation
- opening costs.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the light boxes or you would like to put forward an exhibition proposal, please contact the Council’s Arts Advisor by emailing arts@wcc.govt.nz or calling 499 4444.
Previous exhibitions

Ever Green, 3 April–6 August 2012
Curators/artists: Jenny Gillam and Dieneke Jansen

*Ever Green* by Dieneke Jansen and Jenny Gillam explored how plants and nature exist in built-up urban environments. Giant images of eight native plants were photographed from two sides to suggest real plants growing in the light boxes. Exhibited over a season change, *Ever Green* created a heightened sense of time for passersby. As the surrounding trees lost their leaves the light box plants remained lush and luminous in an almost hothouse environment.

Imaginary Geographies, 8 December 2011–2 April 2012
Curator: Claudia Arozqueta. Artists: Elaine Campaner (Australia), Alex Dorfsman (Mexico), Jae Hoon Lee (Korea), Kerry Ann Lee (Dunedin), Brian Samuels (Wellington), Gemma Syme (Wellington) and Kate Woods (Wellington)

The theme for *Imaginary Geographies* was new ways of interpreting our environments. Artists from New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and Korea combined both real and imagined landscapes to encourage passers-by to take a fresh look at public space. Several light boxes were left empty during the first part of the exhibition, and a public call for proposals in response to the project saw four new artworks join the show.

All the Cunning Stunts, 17 December 2010–31 March 2011
Curator: Mary-Jane Duffy. Artists: Liz Allan, Clare Noonan, Rachel O’Neill, Marnie Slater

*All the Cunning Stunts* was a collaborative exhibition developed to coincide with the second Asia Pacific Outgames. Exploring female experience in particular, *All the Cunning Stunts* was an energised, argumentative and often hilarious conversation focused on the perceptions and intricacies of same-sex relationships. The light box project combined text and image to produce playful juxtapositions. The result was a colourful myriad of works that paralleled the public advertising spaces of Wellington’s urban landscape.