

HELIX SENTINEL

Artist Selection Ironside Farrar Comments

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following report provides Ironside Farrar Ltd's comments on the 5 artists short-listed for the Helix Sentinel artwork.

2.0 SCOPE OF COMMENTS

Ironside Farrar's remit is to provide engineering support to the chosen artist. We consider that, given the materials, the site and the wider Helix considerations, any artist requires to be practical, flexible and able to work within certain given project constraints. A good working relationship and the ability to interact regarding technical issues is also important from our perspective. Comments below relate to these aspects rather than to quality of art/ community engagement etc aspects.

3.0 SHEILS FLYNN/ MAKING MARKS

No comment - it is understood these artists will not be considered further.

4.0 RACHEL O'NEIL

Practical/ Technical: Little experience of this type of project so probably requires supporting on practical/technical aspects.

Flexible: Appears to be willing to let project evolve in conjunction with input of others.

Working Relationship: Likely to be very positive.

Overall: We would support Rachel's selection but would note that the practical/ technical aspects may require more input than for some others.

5.0 KEITH BARRATT

Practical/ Technical: Some previous experience in this area.

Flexible: Appears to be willing to take on board other's ideas.

Working Relationship: No particular concerns.

Overall: We would support Keith's selection and have no particular concerns.

6.0 RICHARD HARRIS

- Practical/ Technical:* Significant previous earthworks experienced and has demonstrated awareness of some of the issues involved.
- Flexible:* Seems open to suggestion although appears used to making many of the decisions himself.
- Working Relationship:* Likely to be positive.
- Overall:* We would support Richard's selection and have no particular concerns.

7.0 JEPHSON ROB

- Practical/ Technical:* Jephson's stated intent, as we understand it, is not to build an earthworks structure but to leave the majority of materials at Helix Central and perhaps to distribute small amounts around the Helix Sentinel area. He specifically commented that if he has to build a hill "he's not the artist for this project".
- Others in the selection panel had slightly different understandings of the above comments and it's also possible his ideas may change. However, if Jephson is the preferred artist (on the basis of other factors) the above issues/proposals require to be clarified. They may have a significant impact on the overall feasibility of the scheme.
- Flexible:* Appears to have developed a defined approach, in outline at least, already. Whilst good from some perspectives, this may not be appropriate in the case of the Sentinel. We would recommend further discussion on this aspect.
- Working Relationship:* Likely to be positive (subject to flexibility)
- Overall:* We would support Jephson's selection, subject to a positive outcome to the above discussions/ queries.

8.0 SUMMARY

On the basis of our particular remit, we would support selection of any of the four artists, subject to an appropriate response from Jephson Rob on the issues noted above.