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# SEEKING INITIAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR:

- **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**
  - **SERVICES ENGINEER**
  - **FIRE ENGINEER**
  - **PRINCIPAL DESIGNER**
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FaulknerBrowns Architects are acting on behalf of New Writing North as Architect and Interior Designers for a new Centre for Writing and Publishing. In line with their procurement policy, as lead designers we have set out a brief to establish a shortlist of potential design consultants to be considered for the following appointments as (1) Structural Engineer, (2) Services Engineer, (3) Principal Designer, (4) Fire Engineer.

## **THE CLIENT**

New Writing North is the writing development agency for the North of England. Recognised as a leader in their field, they have produced nationally significant work from their base in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996. They are a charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. In 2019 they were awarded the North East Creative Business of the Year, an award that recognises businesses which demonstrate confidence, determination and innovation alongside commercial success.

Their business model is built on working in partnership and with connections in and out of the region. They work with national broadcasters such as BBC, Channel 4 and Sky Studios; major publishers such as Hachette UK, Faber & Faber, Penguin Random House and HarperCollins and leading higher education institutes to connect talent to opportunity.

Their alumni and networks include award-winning writers, Oscar nominated screenwriters, and many people who have gone on to build successful careers in the creative industries. They were the first regional writing agency, creating an innovative model of working that inspired six other organisations across the country and have consistently led the way in their field.

## **THE PROJECT**

New Writing North's next venture is a new Centre for Writing and Publishing which will be the first of its kind within the UK to bring together a wide range of arts organisations, charities, universities, schools, and the commercial creative industries with a broad and meaningful civic purpose at its heart. The building will enable further growth of activities and partnerships whilst enabling them to build a financially resilient future. It will lever investment and participation from many commercial partners and will help to position Newcastle upon Tyne as a major centre of writing content production both in the North and the UK. The current building (a turn of the 20th century department store) under review is located on the edge of Newcastle Grainger town, a significant conservation and heritage location within the heart of Newcastle. Whilst the building is not listed consultants will be required to have the appropriate skill and experience to enable high quality and sensitive design solutions.

To help us realise the vision we are seeking several consultancy appointments to become part of our design team. The client has secured funding to take the project forward, initially to RIBA Stage 3. Subject to further funding, the procured consultants will take the project through to a completed build project. The intention at present is to complete a technical design and then a formal contractor process, however the client has not ruled out a design and build procurement approach if the appointed contractor has the necessary design capabilities.

This is a high-profile project, we are looking for proposals from parties who can show a track record in work on public buildings, leisure, retail and preferably the cultural sector and with experience of reporting against the requirements of funders such as Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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### **APPOINTMENT 1 – STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**

We are searching for a skilled and experienced design practice to work with us to help realise our client's vision of a building that is home to offices, collaboration spaces, education facilities, retail, cultural and event spaces. This appointment as Structural Designer will be as part of a fully appointed team of subcontracted design disciplines to FaulknerBrowns LLP, with the intention of novating the design team at Contract stage, if appropriate.

### **APPOINTMENT 2 – SERVICES ENGINEER**

Again, we are searching for skilled and experienced design practice to work with us to help realise our client's vision of a building that is home to offices, collaboration spaces, education facilities, retail, cultural and event spaces. This appointment as Mechanical and Electrical Services Engineer will require the necessary skills to deliver the client's sustainability and wellness agenda, will be as part of a fully appointed team of subcontracted design disciplines to FaulknerBrowns LLP, with the intention of novating the design team at Contract stage, if appropriate.

### **APPOINTMENT 3 – FIRE ENGINEER**

Fire Engineering consultancy services to assist the design team to achieve a design which meets the requirements of the relevant authorities and compliance with building regulations. This appointment as Fire Engineer will be as part of a fully appointed team of subcontracted design disciplines to FaulknerBrowns LLP, with the intention of novating the design team at Contract stage, if appropriate.

### **APPOINTMENT 4 – PRINCIPAL DESIGNER**

Principal Designer to provide services in accordance with regulations and other related requirements of the CDM Regulations for the planning, managing, monitoring and co-ordinating of health and safety during the pre-construction phase of the project. Liaise with the principal contractor in accordance with the CDM regulations.

The selection process will be conducted in two stages.

Stage One: Expression of Interest:

Interested parties must email [e.alborough@faulknerbrowns.com](mailto:e.alborough@faulknerbrowns.com) for a copy of the Initial Expression of Interest form. Once completed, these should be submitted by email no later than 5pm on 4th February to [s.dickson@faulknerbrowns.com](mailto:s.dickson@faulknerbrowns.com)

**Please do not submit any paper copies.**

Stage Two: Detailed Proposal:

Following receipt of expressions of interest, we aim to invite a shortlist of a minimum of 3 parties to submit a comprehensive fee proposal in accordance with a more detailed scope, programme, and project description. The exact date for the submission of the detailed proposal is to be confirmed but will be approximately 1 weeks after the initial submission.

Our intention is to notify the selected party within 2 weeks of receipt of final submissions.

The selected parties must be able to illustrate a track record in multi-use developments, a strong regional awareness and connection, experience in working with heritage buildings, display innovation in tackling access and diversity and climate change priorities as part of the built environment and work closely with us to develop a comprehensive brief and design to bring this vision to life. As the project location is specific to Newcastle, and we anticipate a need for the design team to be in attendance on site regularly, proposals received from consultants who are located in the city centre will be treated with preference.

We intend to make an appointment by the end of February with the appointment commencing immediately.