

## **Journey to the Podium -**

**We are seeking 6 artists to create new pieces of artwork inspired by athletes involved in Essex 2012 Legacy programme Team Essex Ambassador Scheme**

**Artist's fees: £2000 plus a materials budget of £300**

### **Context:**

In the build up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, Essex 2012 Legacy Team have set up the Team Essex Ambassador Scheme (see Appendix 1), which aims to support and nurture local athletes who have been identified as having the potential to compete in the London 2012 games . This year 12 talented Essex Athletes were awarded funding to develop their potential and enable them to focus on their training in the build up to the London 2012 Games (<http://www.essexlegacy.org/sports/team-essex-ambassadors> ) Awards will be given every year up to 2012.

To celebrate and capture these talented athletes Essex County Council Arts Development Team would like to commission 6 artists to 'Adopt an Athlete' and create an artwork that marks their Journey to the Podium or at least the 2012 Games. The works can be realistic or abstract and in any medium, artists must be prepared to work with the athletes to develop an art work that captures the essence of their personalities and sport. Journey to the Podium will be an annual commission up until 2012. Last year we commissioned we very successfully commissioned 8 artists to create artworks inspired by last years Team Ambassadors.

Essex County Council's Heritage and Archive Teams will also be working with museums and the athletes to record their progress on film and CD creating a sound and film archive that will, along side the art commissions create a valuable legacy of Essex athletes Journey to 2012.

Each athlete has also been assigned a partner secondary school in Essex to work with students to inspire future athletes.

### **The process:**

Each artist will be paired with an athlete. It is expected that the artist should attend training sessions and interview the athlete to enable them to gain an insight into their personalities and training style (see Appendix 3). Gifted and talented art students from the athlete's adopted school from the Partner Schools Sports Partnership (see Appendix 2) will also be creating artworks inspired by the athlete as well; the artist will be also be expected to give a presentation about their work and approach to the commission to inspire the students.

It is intended that the work created by the artists and students from the partner schools will be exhibited on the Essex 2012 Legacy On Line Gallery, at various Essex Pre Training Camps, toured around various Essex Venues and if possible at London 2012. The work will then be given to the partner's school as a lasting legacy to their involvement in the scheme.

Artists will be employed for the following amount of time:

- 4 x ½ days attendance at assigned athlete training sessions and interview with athlete
- ½ day presentation at partner school to the gifted and talented art students
- ½ day training with other artists involved in the scheme
- Seven days artist time to create new work

### **Key Dates and Timescale**

Deadline for Submissions	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
Short listing	Week beginning 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
Interviews	14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
Artist Preparation day	29 <sup>th</sup> April 10am – 2.30pm (please if selected you will be asked to give a 10 minutes presentation about your work)
Journey to the Podium Exhibition The Gibberd Gallery, Harlow	1 <sup>st</sup> November – 3 <sup>rd</sup> January (exhibition with 2009 artists as well)

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **HOW TO APPLY**

*Please return the completed application form by **26<sup>th</sup> March 2010** together with:*

- A CV.
- A letter of application (see application form) explaining why you would like this commission and also outline how you would:-
  - approach the commission
  - work with the athletes
  - and what you hope to gain as an artist

Plus outline ideas of education work that could accompany your commission that the art teachers from the partners schools could deliver

- Up to 8 images (**in JPEG format**) on CD or memory stick
- A stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of your visuals.

To Lindsey Strange Arts Development Manager, Arts Development, Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6YT.

## **SELECTION**

A short list will be drawn up on the week beginning **30<sup>th</sup> March 2010** and these artists will be invited to attend a short personal interview at Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, and give a presentation about their work and experience and to discuss how they would approach the commission.

**Interviews will be held on either 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010** (Please note we can only interview on these dates due to availability of the interview panel)

Essex County Council

## Journey to the Podium Commission

### Application Form [please print in black ink]

Name:

Address:

Tel [day]:

Tel [evening]:

Email:

Website:

#### Educational Qualifications

Institution	Qualification/s	Date/s

#### Work Experience

Employer	Post	Date/s

Exhibitions, residencies, art projects undertaken [*continue on separate sheet, if required*]:

### **Letter of Application**

*[Please outline **why** you are applying for the Journey to the Podium commission, and also include how you would :-*

- approach the commission
- work with the athletes
- what you hope to gain as an artist

Plus outline ideas of education work that could accompany your commission that the art teachers from the partners' schools could deliver

I enclose the following eight photos (in JPEG format) on CD or Memory Stick of my work:

Slide/Photo No.	Title of work	Medium	Dimensions in cms.
<b>1</b>			
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			
<b>4</b>			
<b>5</b>			
<b>6</b>			
<b>7</b>			
<b>8</b>			

***[Please ensure that you name your photo file on your CD or Memory Stick]***

Signature of applicant:

Date:

*Please return the completed application form by **26<sup>th</sup> March 2010** with:*

- A CV.
- A letter of application outlining how you would approach the commission (within the application form).
- Up to 8 images (in JPEG format) of previous work.
- A stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of your visuals.

*To Andrew Ward Arts Development Assistant, Arts Development, Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6YT*

## Appendix 1

These are the athletes that were highlighted in the brief that artists could be working with. Please state your preference within the interview.

No	Forename	Surname	Sport
1	Adam	Alderman	Disability Power Lifting
<p>Adam first took up Disability Powerlifting at the age of 12 when he entered the Powerlifting competition at the 1995 Dwarf Athletic Association's Annual Games and won, with a winning lift of 27.5kg, and in 1996 and 1997 set a World and British record in the 30kg bodyweight class.</p> <p>He was invited to join the GB Powerlifting team for the French Open Benchpress Championships in January 2005, where he won Gold and later in the year was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the British Powerlifting Championships, also in that year he achieved a Junior Bronze medal in the European Powerlifting Championships.</p> <p>In 2006 he entered the British (Able Bodied) Benchpress Championship and won Gold, also breaking the Junior record, which had stood for 15 years and later that year took Junior Bronze at the World Championships.</p> <p>He is now a Senior, lifting in the 48kg bodyweight class, juggling a full time job with training 3 times per week and weekends in Leeds every fortnight, with schedules set by the GB Head coach, but to be selected for the GB team at London 2012 will make it all worthwhile.</p>			

<b>2</b>	<b>Alex</b>	<b>Dowsett</b>	<b>Cycling</b>
<p>Alex discovered cycling when he was 13 and soon realised he was better on a bike than any other sport so now, as a 21-year-old male he is fully committed to spending the majority of time in lycra and shaving his legs. He has regularly been in the top 2 or 3 of his age group, and as an U18 and now as an U23 Great Britain Squad member has several National Titles, with his career highlights being part of the Bronze Medal ride at the World Under 18 Team Pursuit Championships in Belgium and achieving 7<sup>th</sup> place in the World Under 23 Individual Time-Trial Championships in Switzerland last September. He is the current U23 GB number one.</p> <p>His aims are to go 6 better this year in the World Championships and take top spot in Australia as well as turning professional for 2011 and competing in, and ultimately winning future Olympic Gold medals.</p> <p>He has recently been selected for Lance Armstrong's U23 development team for 2010 the TREK-Livestrong U23 team presented by Radioshack and is proud to be selected as an Ambassador for Team Essex and extremely grateful to have the support it really makes a difference.</p>			
<b>3</b>	<b>Emma</b>	<b>Hollis</b>	<b>Disability Swimming</b>
<p>Emma started swimming at the age of four after doctor's suggested it would help to protect her bones by building up muscle as a non contact sport. She joined Epping Forest District Swimming Club at the age of 9 and is now both club Captain and East Region Captain.</p> <p>Her first National Competition was in 2005 age 13 and her first International Competition the IPC European Championships in Iceland in October 2009, aged 17</p> <p>She has broken and holds numerous National and Regional records in 2009, with a clutch of medals to prove it. Her highlights have been representing Great Britain at the European Championships in Reykjavik, where she gained one silver and 3 bronze medals and achieving the qualifying times to progress to the British Disability swimming Development squad – her number 2009 goal!</p> <p>She has been offered a place at Loughborough University to study Geography and Sport Science but aims to compete in the 2010 World Champs in Holland, and the London 2012 Paralympic Games</p>			

<b>4</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>Huckle</b>	<b>Shooting</b>
<p>James first experience of shooting was with an old air rifle belonging to his father, when he was 14 which led to him joining a local air rifle club to learn more about shooting as an International sport.</p> <p>His focus since then has been on learning all he can about the sport, competing in larger competitions and enjoying hours of training which has got him to where he is today. Shooting has taught him that excellence is not always about beating an opponent, but also about following your own ambition with the upmost dedication, where your physical stature is no marker for success, only determination and hard work will prevail and he believes success will come to those who work hard for it.</p> <p>His top achievements include: 3 Gold Medals at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games India, a Gold medal at The Australian Youth Olympic Festival (Air rifle), a Gold medal at the International Shooting Competition Hanover (Junior Air Rifle), 2008 Senior British Champion in 50m Three Positions and 10m Air Rifle and the Junior British Record in 50m Three Positions and Junior Final British Record in 10m Air Rifle. As well as shooting he enjoys competing in many sports because people put 100% into it whether they come first or last, but his ultimate dream is to compete in the in the London 2012 Olympic Games.</p>			
<b>5</b>	<b>Alexander</b>	<b>O'Connell</b>	<b>Fencing – Men's Sabre</b>
<p>Alex hails from Brentwood where he started fencing at the age of 7 and since then has won just about every domestic title possible at Cadet, Junior and Senior levels.</p> <p>He won his first international at the age of 12 and became Britain's first World Fencing Champion for over 30 years when he won the Under 17 World Championships in Austria in 2005. In 2006 Alex won both the Junior and Senior Commonwealth titles despite being only 18 years of age. He was ranked Number 1 in the World at Under 20 in 2008 and represented Great Britain in the Men's Sabre discipline at the Beijing Olympics later that year, where he narrowly lost 15-14 to an older and far more experienced Russian.</p> <p>Alex finished his degree at Cambridge University in July 2009 and is now fencing full time in readiness for 2012. In 2009 he reached the Last 16 in two major, senior international competitions and increased his Senior World Ranking from 127 to 61. Alex's goal for 2010 is to break into the World top 50, with a view to reaching the top 20 by 2012.</p>			

<b>6</b>	<b>Faith</b>	<b>Pitman</b>	<b>Judo</b>
<p>Faith is a full-time athlete who trains at the British Judo Performance Institute in Dartford. Originally from Todmorden, West Yorkshire she now resides in Harlow and attends personal and club sessions at West Essex Judo Club, in addition to full-time training at the Performance Institute.</p> <p>She started judo at 11, and by 16 had moved out of home to train full-time at the then National Judo Academy in Bisham Abbey. As a junior she won 4 national titles and a junior European bronze medal. In 2007 she won bronze at the U23 Europeans and came 7<sup>th</sup> in the World Championships, narrowly missing qualification for the Beijing Olympics.</p> <p>She is now ranked senior number 1 in the country and finished in the top 16 at last years World Championships. She is keen to support women in judo at all levels, and hopes to attend a coaching course targeted at women in the near future.</p>			
<b>7</b>	<b>Chloe</b>	<b>Rogers</b>	<b>Hockey</b>
<p>Chloe is a current GB and England International hockey player with a 101 caps to her name and still rising. She has risen through the ranks playing at England level at U16, U18 and U21 squads.</p> <p>She has competed in all major tournaments in hockey including the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games where the team finished 6<sup>th</sup>, as a Commonwealth Games 2006 Bronze medallist, and European Cup Bronze Medallist 2009 .</p> <p>At present she plays for Leicester Ladies hockey club who so far are unbeaten this season at the top of the English National League, although a lot of her playing career has taken place in Dunmow, Braintree and Chelmsford.</p> <p>She has also been involved in playing Golf at a junior and senior level at County, University and England level.</p> <p>For the England team the 2010 international calendar is packed with competitions with the Champions Trophy (top 6 teams in world) in July being hosted in Nottingham, the World Cup this September and then the Commonwealth Games in October.</p>			

8	Hannah	Stodel	Disability Sailing
<p>Hannah started sailing at the tender age of three in a “Mirror Dinghy” at her home club in Brightlingsea. In 1995, she joined the Mirror National Squad, an initiative by the Royal Yachting Association to fast track youngsters into the Olympic classes with her first World Championships in Ontario, Canada at the age of 12.</p> <p>In the late 1990’s she took part in the filming of a TV advertisement to promote disabled sport and she was presented with the “BT Young Sailor of the Year Award” in 1999. At the age of 13 she took part in the “Round the Island Race” one of the premier events in British Sailing, with Ellen MacArthur aboard her 60 ft trimaran, Foncia Kingfisher.</p> <p>In 2001 Hannah was selected for the British Paralympic Sailing squad and in 2003 she took the European title and was third in the World Championships. She was subsequently picked for the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, where she became the first British woman to sail at such an event.</p> <p>After the Paralympic Games in Athens, Hannah gained a sports scholarship to Loughborough University. In 2005 and 2006 Hannah won the Sonar World Title alongside Gold and Silver Medals in the Miami and Hyere Olympic Classes regattas. In 2008 Hannah was selected to compete in Beijing where after winning the Gold Medal in the Test Event she was disappointed with her 6th place. However Hannah quickly bounced back and in 2009 won Gold or Silver in all 3 World Cup events to take the inaugural Paralympic World Cup.</p> <p>She has currently taken timeout from her university studies to focus fully on the Paralympic Games for London 2012 with one aim: to win Gold! She is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to become an Essex Ambassador but can’t be with us tonight as she competing abroad</p>			

9	Jodie	Swallow	Triathlon
<p>Being a member of the GBR junior swim team, and winning European junior medals along with England schools track and cross country titles gave Jodie a major head start to her triathlon career that begun whilst studying Sports Science at Loughborough University.</p> <p>She is lucky to have been consistent in her career with wins and podium places scattered throughout the years in the London triathlon and major British races, along with World Student, European/World Junior and World Cup podium places and competing in both the Commonwealth games and the Athens Olympics.</p> <p>Through injury she was unable to compete in the Beijing Olympics but is determined to gain a medal at London 2012 and aims to cement herself in the world top ten ranking next year in preparation for 2011. Few girls have the chance to win an Olympic medal on home-soil let alone in their home town!</p> <p>Her pathway as a Team Essex Ambassador has started off on exactly the right note, having won the World Long Distance Triathlon Championships in Perth in November 09 and now turns to the 2010 season and her aims in the World Series and for the 2012 Olympics qualification.</p>			

## **Appendix 2**

### **Specialist Sports Colleges and School Sport Partnerships**

Specialist Sports Colleges are at the hub of the Government's strategy to enhance young people's opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports as well as raising the standards of teaching and learning in Physical Education and School Sport. They position Physical Education and Sport at the centre of the curriculum and act as beacons of excellence. They use Physical Education and School Sport as a vehicle to develop and improve opportunities for all. School Sport Partnerships are groups of schools working together to develop Physical Education and School Sport opportunities for all young people. Specialist Sports Colleges and School Sport Partnerships are strategically placed across Essex Local Authority. From September 2006, full expansion of schools to a School Sport Partnership took place, so all primary, infant, junior, special and secondary schools were allocated to one of these Partnerships. For further information related to the role of Sports Colleges or School Sport Partnerships refer to [www.youthsporttrust.org](http://www.youthsporttrust.org)

## **Appendix 3**

### **Journey to the Podium – ‘Adopt an Artist Scheme’**

#### **Athlete’s Brief to working with an Artist**

##### **Context:**

As part of the lead up to London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, Essex County Council’s Arts and Heritage Development have joined forces with Essex 2012 Legacy Team to create Journey to the Podium – ‘Adopt an Artist Scheme’. The aim of the project is pair up athletes with either an artist, film maker or sound archivist to document their year on the Team Essex Ambassador Scheme. It is intended that there will be a series of artworks, films and recordings that will not only celebrate participating athlete’s achievements but also be a lasting legacy of the scheme.

##### **Arts Development ‘Adopt an Artist Scheme’**

Arts Development will be commissioning 4 artists in the first year who will work with 4 athletes. They will each create either a portrait of their ‘adoptive athlete’ or an artwork inspired by the athlete. The works will either be realistic or abstract and in any medium. The artists have been briefed to work with their athlete to develop an art work that either captures them, the essence of their personalities or their chosen sport.

##### **Partner Schools ‘Adopt an Athlete Scheme’**

Each athlete has also been assigned a partner secondary school from the Schools Sports Partnerships. Arts Development will also be working with Gifted and Talented students within athlete’s partner school, who will also be tasked with creating a piece of commemorative artwork that will go on show with the ‘Adoptive Artists’ work. The assigned artist will also be asked to give a presentation about their work and their ideas for the commission to the Gifted and Talents students to inspire them and prepare them for the project.

This is a pilot scheme we hope that the project will be both inspiring and enjoyable for all concerned.

It is intended that the work created by the artists and students from the partner Schools Sports Partnerships will be exhibited on the Essex 2012 Legacy On Line Gallery, at various Essex Pre Training Camps, toured around various Essex Venues and if possible at London 2012. The work will then be given to the partner’s school as a lasting legacy to their involvement in the scheme.

##### **What should the Athletes Expect**

We are aware that the athletes first priority is their training programme and it is intended that the artists and the Gifted and Talented students will fit around the athlete’s timetable however, to get the most out of the scheme and to obtain the best results athletes will need to do the following:-

- provide photographs of themselves in action,
- write personal statement about why they became an athlete and what drives and inspires them,
- an overview of the athlete’s sport for background information
- press releases and other information that could be used to draw inspiration from
- allow both artists and students to attend up to 4 training sessions or competitions to enable them to photograph/sketch/record the athletes in action
- give an interview / informal chat to discuss ideas for the commission

Artists will be employed for the following amount of time:

- 4 x ½ days attendance at assigned athlete training sessions and interview with athlete
- ½ day presentation at partner school
- ½ day training with other artists involved in the scheme
- Seven days artist time to create new work