



NAVIGATE

Visual Arts Programme



CONTACT

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INTRODUCTION

Richard Woods,
Holiday Homes, 2017
Folkstone

Portsmouth City Council's *Navigate* programme will bring high-quality art and creativity to the new public spaces formed by the Southsea Coastal Scheme. The programme aims to build a sense of place; celebrate local themes and stories; and make the seafront a unique destination for locals and visitors to enjoy. Using a central theme of 'navigation', the programme will encourage exploration of this new urban waterside environment whilst referencing Portsmouth's rich seafaring history.

At its core, the project aims to raise cultural engagement in Portsmouth, an area identified as a priority place for Arts Council England. By introducing a visual arts programme into this new public space we are creating free to access opportunities to experience high quality art outside of the traditional cultural institutions. Our outreach strand, 'Young Explorers' will engage young people to learn about the ideas and processes behind the artworks.

Portsmouth City Council will lead the project supported by local partners including Portsmouth Creates, Aspex Visual Arts Trust and University of Portsmouth.

Most of the images used in this document are from other UK or international projects and have been included to illustrate the quality and ambition of work that we are aspiring to for the *Navigate* programme.



SOUTHSEA CASTLE LIGHTHOUSE

Delivery: Spring 2025

Budget: £25,000

Southsea Castle Lighthouse is a significant historic feature of the seafront. The lighthouse was shut down in 2017 following changes to the harbour to allow for the new aircraft carriers to enter and exit the port. Its light hasn't shone for seven years.

Working with our colleagues from the city's museums service, we will commission a contemporary light artist to let Southsea Castle Lighthouse shine again. The lighthouse offers a truly unique canvas for a light installation and the correct choice of artwork has the potential to create an iconic landmark on the seafront.

Portsmouth Creates' We Shine light festival has proven incredibly popular with audiences from across the city. We intend to launch the light installation at Southsea Castle Lighthouse as part of We Shine 2024. While We Shine lasts for one weekend, we intend for the installation at Southsea Castle to have a lifespan of at least two years.



(This page) Mario Merz,
Fibonacci-Reihe, 2000
Germany
(Opposite) Studio Vertigo,
End Over End, 2019
Amsterdam



NAVIGATE COMMISSIONS

Delivery: Summer 2025 - Summer 2026

Budget: £200,000 (+ £5,000 from Portsmouth Creates)

Central to the Navigate programme is a series of commissions for artists to create new work which responds to the environment, celebrates local themes and tells Portsmouth's stories. These will be spread throughout the coastal scheme to add interest to the environment and encourage exploration. We aim to raise aspirations in the city by bringing work by high-profile artists into the scheme. We also want to use these commissions to engage and nurture local artists. To achieve this, we will have a three-tier commissioning programme:

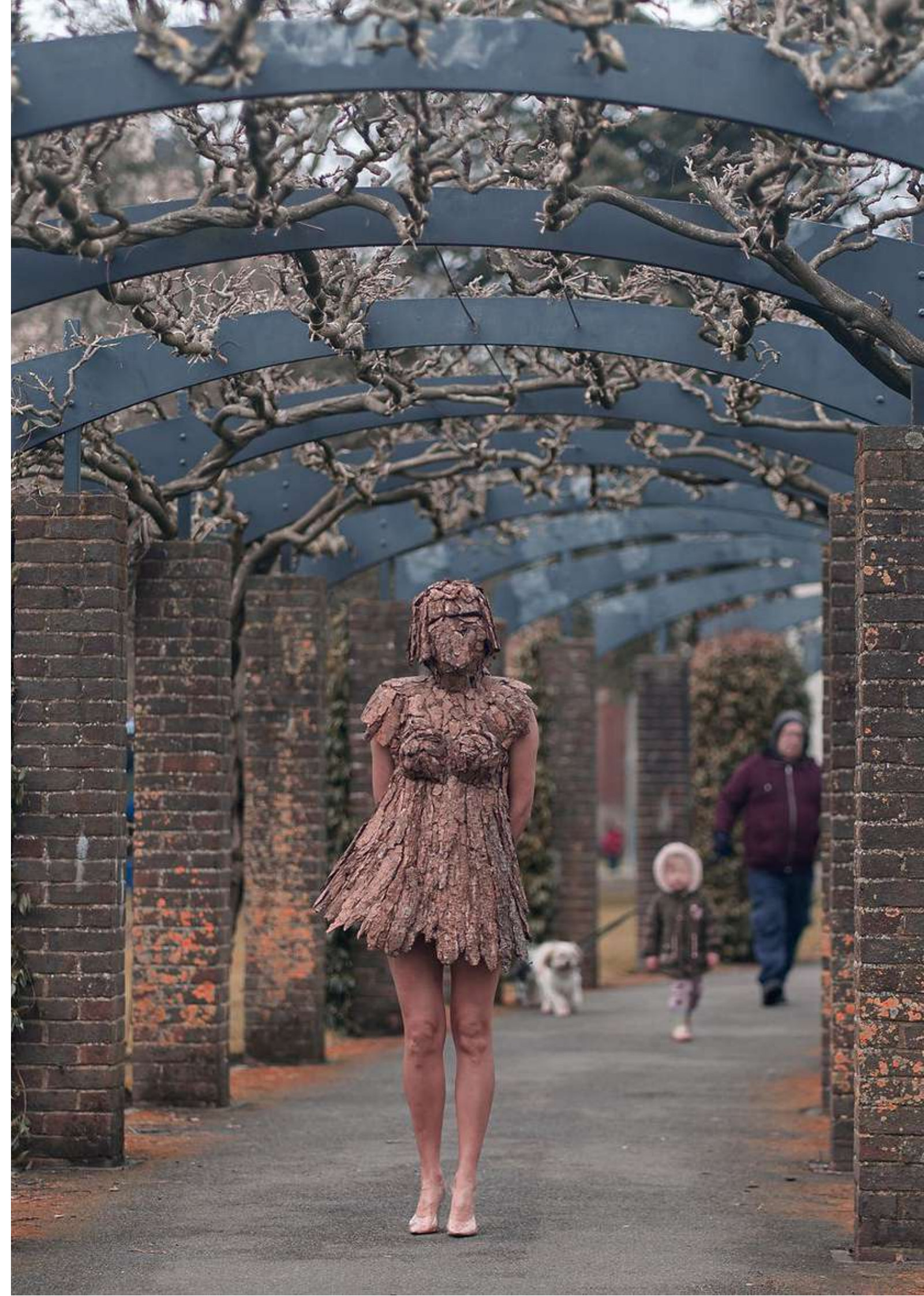
Tier One

Five commissions of up to £6,000 each

Tier One will be an open call opportunity to commission five smaller works for the scheme. These could be permanent or temporary works, performances or happenings/events.

There is a limited pool of artists in the city who have experience of creating art for the public realm. We want to use these five commissions to support local artists to develop their skills and learn about creating public art from an experienced professional. Portsmouth City Council will fund £5,000 for the creation of each work and Portsmouth Creates will provide an additional £1,000 to fund a programme of mentoring for each artist. We hope that these commissions will provide a foundation from which the five selected artists can develop their practice, empowering them to take on larger-scale public art projects in the future.

Olana Light,
Invisible Woman, 2023
Southampton





(This page) Damien Hirst
Verity, 2012
Ilfracombe
(Opposite) Yuri Suzuki
The Welcome Chorus, 2019
London

Tier Two

Three commissions of up to £25,000 each

The Tier Two commissions will be open call opportunities for artists with some previous experience of producing art for the public realm. We want to bring the seafront to life with a dynamic, engaging series of artworks. Applications will be open to artists from across the UK and we will actively encourage artists from the local area to apply.

Tier Three

One 'signature artwork' commission of up to £100,000

For Tier Three, we will invite three artists with experience of delivering dynamic large-scale public art to submit proposals for a sculpture to be located at the heart of the scheme's new piazza, Serpentine Square. The proposals will be exhibited publicly and audience feedback will be collected. The three proposals will be reviewed by a panel before one artwork will be chosen. The panel will include local artists and residents. We want a signature artwork which will make real impact, become an iconic landmark on the seafront and help establish Portsmouth as a cultural destination.



THE PORTSMOUTH MARKERS

Delivery: Spring 2025

Budget: £40,000

The Portsmouth Markers is a series of stone sculptures carved by John Maine RA which are sited at five locations along the seafront. The sculptures are the only remaining artworks from a 1974 citywide sculpture exhibition and have become much-loved fixtures of the seafront. *The Portsmouth Markers* was originally a series of six sculptures however one of the pieces disappeared from its location in the late 1970s.

2024 marks 50 years since the sculptures were first installed and to celebrate the milestone, an artist talk and display at Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery is planned for autumn 2024.

Following this, as part of the Navigate programme, we plan to commission John Maine to produce a new work to take the place of the missing sixth marker. This will not be a like-for-like replacement but rather a brand-new design which echoes the form of his original work. Maine was in the early stages of his career when he originally produced *The Portsmouth Markers*. Now a greatly respected artist, we delighted to have him involved in the project.



MAPPING THE SEAFRONT

Delivery: Summer 2025

Budget: £25,000

A key aspect of the programme will be the creation of an artwork developed with members of the public.

Mapping the Seafront will draw inspiration from John Maine's *The Portsmouth Markers*, which places a series of sculptures in a formation along the coastline, evoking nautical navigation points. This project will play with the idea of sculptures in a formation or constellation. These sculptures will be smaller in size but greater in number. Their appearance and the stories they tell will be decided by the artist and the members of the public that they work with. The intention is that these sculptures are objects to follow and discover as visitors explore the seafront.

This part of the programme will be delivered by an artist facilitator under the guidance of Aspex Visual Arts Trust. Aspex are the perfect partner for this project, having a proven record of producing high quality community engagement projects.

Budget permitting, this project could be scaled-up in the future, adding further elements to the 'constellation' as the later phases of the coastal scheme are completed.

(Opposite) John Maine RA
The Portsmouth Markers, 1974
Portsmouth

YOUNG EXPLORERS

Delivery: Summer 2025 - Summer 2026

Budget: £12,000

Our outreach strand, Young Explorers will engage young people with the programme to learn about the ideas and processes behind the Navigate artworks.

We will work in partnership with the engagement team at Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery, using their successful 'Talking Pictures' visual arts workshops as the blueprint for a fun, accessible and educational introduction to the programme. These will encourage active exploration of the seafront on foot to discover the artworks as they go. We will target schools in Paulsgrove, Hilsea, Nelson and Charles Dickens wards in the north of the city. This will be delivered thanks to a partnership with local transport operator Lucketts Travel who will provide heavily discounted coach travel.

This is a really valuable element of the project as we want the Young Explorers strand to inspire local audiences who may not otherwise engage with contemporary art. We aim to use this to build a larger, stronger audience for culture in the city.

(Opposite) Ivan Morison and Heather Peak
Luna Park, 2021
Southsea

TRAIL GUIDE & VIDEO CONTENT

Delivery: Autumn 2025 - Summer 2026

Budget: £5,000

Together, the Navigate artworks will form a seafront arts trail bolstered by existing works in the area including Richard Perry's memorial to the Cockleshell Heroes; Bruce Williams' *Peace Frieden Paix*; and Ivan Morison and Heather Peak's *Luna Park* sculpture.

We will produce printed trail guides and a digital version which can be accessed online via smart devices. This will allow audiences to explore the seafront and discover all the artworks as a collection.

A series of short films will also be produced to give context to the navigate artworks. These will be shared on social media and will be retained as a record of this project.



MAP



Project Zone

Area in which Navigate artworks/activity will be sited



Serpentine Square

Proposed location for Tier Three signature artwork



The New Portsmouth Marker

Proposed location for the new John Maine sculpture



Southsea Castle Lighthouse

Proposed location for the light installation



The Portsmouth Markers

Location of two of the existing Portsmouth Markers.

The other three markers are 1km further east in Old Portsmouth

