Brief for repair of planters

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wethecurious.org
Introduction – Who we are
We The Curious is an educational charity and South West England’s leading science centre. We produce experiences that bring people together to play, get creative with science and explore different ideas. We work with partners locally and nationally, supporting people to be inquisitive, develop new skills and improve their wellbeing.

Our vision asks ‘what if everyone is included, curious and inspired by science to build a better world together?’
We’re guided by our Manifesto, which shapes our strategic objectives, and works with these key pledges:

• Cultivate curiosity
• Open up science in our city
• Enable diverse participation
• Strive for sustainable futures
• Build resilience

In a previous life, we were known as at At-Bristol Science Centre (2000-2017) but changed to We The Curious in 2017.

Site Description
We the Curious site extends 11 acres which consists of a visitor attraction, public squares and a 525 place 2-level subsurface car park - Millennium Square Car Park.
Public Spaces
This includes Anchor and Millennium Square which are open to the public with no physical barriers between us and our neighbours.

These spaces have several artworks – statues and sculptures - together with large water features, fountains and waterfalls. There are also several large planters with various trees, plants and shrubs.

Millennium Square Car Park
The car park operates 24 hours a day, every day. The We the Curious Estates Service Team is responsible for patrolling the car park and assisting customers.
Millennium Square Planter Repair

Millennium Square has a feeling of unique sophistication with beautiful French limestone paving and the spectacular chrome-plated Planetarium. There are two water features situated on the square - the Explore Pool which runs along the north of the square and the We The Curious building and the Aquarena on the Eastside of the square which has fountains and the water walls.

An integral part of this square are five raised planters which are currently used as urban allotments, providing a range of free crops for the local community. Each planter also offers our visitors somewhere to sit and enjoy the atmosphere, we have two cedarwood benches recessed within each.

Left to right: Bug Hotel, garden planter during Bristol Green Capital 2015, current crumbling state without accessible seating.

What we need, expected outcome and measurements

The planters have been cladded French limestone which unfortunately over the years has become damaged, we are now in the situation where we no longer have any spare stone for repairs and the quarry is no longer supplying this stone type.

We are now looking at a more cost effective and maintenance free solution. The proposed plan is now looking to move away from the stone cladding and replace with cedarwood battens which will follow directly below the seating section. Each of these seating sections will also have new retrofitted arm rests to improve visitor accessibility requirements.

The scope of works is as follows:

- Remove current seating sections, treat/stain and reinstall.
- Remove existing stone cladding directly beneath seating.
- Fit new cedarwood battens to render.
- Retrofit two arm rests to each of the seating sections.
Crumbling cladding which is causing health and safety problems (top 2 images) And one planter in 2018 with an Energy Tree which is now barren.
What are we looking for from you?

/ Quotation
Please provide a quote that outlines scope of works and a breakdown of costs.

/ Commitment to sustainability
We are guided by our Manifesto, and ‘strive for sustainable futures’ is one of the key pledges that shapes our strategic objectives. We’re aiming to be a carbon net zero venue by 2030. How can you help us to achieve this. Please provide us with information on your sustainability policy and goals.

Next Steps
If you’re interested in working with us, please respond with a statement of interest. We’ll then be in touch to arrange a meeting where you can talk us through your proposal.

Timeline & Dates
Our rough timeline is as follows:
- expressions of interest to be in by 26/05/2023
- pitches / meetings to discuss project to be carried out between 29/05/2023 to 09/06/2023
- decision made and supplier agreement in place by 16/06/2023

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