

Updates on Commissioning of the Luke Kelly Sculptures

Luke Kelly by Vera Klute

The site for the sculpture at Guild Street / Sheriff Street beside the canal has been surveyed and the engineering company has given a quote to the artist for the foundations and paving around the base of the sculpture. The carving of the stone head has been completed in Italy and is due for transport to Ireland for the installation of the 'hair' to be made from 4mm patinated metal. The artist is very pleased with how the carving has turned out. A steel fabrication company has been contracted by the artist for the process of bending and welding the metal and installing into the stone head. It is now planned that the work will be completed and sculpture installed by mid January 2019 subject to the many variables involved.



Visualisation of the sculpture and carved head by Vera Klute

Statue by John Coll

Seated statue of Luke Kelly by John Coll

Work on locating a site for this statue has been the main focus since the last report. The family and donor wished to have the statue located in the St Stephens Green / Grafton Street area. After examining sites and consulting within City Council a preferred site has been identified. This is at the top of South King Street near the old Mercers Hospital. Granite seating has been recently added to this location (which previously had a water feature) and the seated statue of Luke Kelly would work very well here. It was also the street which was proposed by the original commissioner and donor of the statue, architect Gerry Hunt. At present Roads and Engineering are being consulted to see if this site is suitable and whether there are any utilities which would prevent its location there. If this site is considered suitable, work will commence, in consultation with the artist, on the design of the plinth and the laying of foundations in preparation for the installation of the statue.

Launch of the Sculptures

Both sculptures are proposed to be launched on the same date in order to give due respect to the family of Luke Kelly, the artists and all those who have supported these commissions. The idea of developing music events around the launch of the sculptures is being considered at both locations. The preparation of the sites and conclusion of works by Vera Klute make exact timelines difficult but it is hope to have the sculptures in place for a launch on the 30th of January.

Ray Yeates

Arts Officer