

IMAGINE PARTY PROM – A PUBLIC ART STRATEGY FOR PORTOBELLO PROMENADE, EDINBURGH

Client: Big Things on the Beach with financial support from the City of Edinburgh and the Scottish arts Council
2009-2010

Portobello Promenade defines an edge, between the Firth of Forth, shaped by the forces of nature, and the urban environment of Portobello, created through human activity over hundreds of years. The Promenade is a truly public space, animated by people and enlivened by the changing climate, providing the auditorium to the City's beach and its seashore life. It offers a narrative thread, a route connecting spaces and events, a line of thought.

RKL's brief was to produce a 'Public Art Plan' for Portobello Promenade, within the context of the City of Edinburgh's Waterfront Promenade initiative. The report, informed by research, consultation, collaboration and dialogue, built on the public art commissioning and community participation work undertaken by Big Things on the Beach in Portobello since 2003.

We recommended that the future of Portobello Promenade should be conceived on the basis of the Promenade itself becoming a public artwork. This would be achieved through an overall design strategy, developed collaboratively by a multi-disciplinary team including a 'lead artist', working with the active participation of the local community. A democratic process to encourage and support the fusion of local knowledge and community imagination with the creativity and skills of artists, architects and others.

www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk

