

# NADFLY STUDIO

## Urban Oats

We envisage planting a field of oats (one hectare in size) in a stalled space in central Glasgow. With the yield we would like to provide breakfast for people in George Square.



NADFLY STUDIO's **Urban Oats** wishes to challenge perceived notions of sustainability, transforming city-dwellers into 'urban crofters' by use of the humble oat. Traditional crofting utilised small plots of land within the vicinity of the home to grow enough food to sustain the family living on the croft. We aim to create an oat meadow on a brown-field site, on an area delayed for planning in Central Glasgow (one hectare in size) highlighting and contrasting the disused or paused space by growing a traditional crop, a practice which was once so integral to our culture and heritage. We will host a harvest celebration event in George Square which will have multiple strands; feeding commuters, city workers, tourists and school children. The bowl of **Urban Oats** will turn to energy, which will then translate into a critical mass cycle and walking event leaving from this civic square - the final stage in the process of energy generation.

**Urban Oats** will be documented from preparing the soil and planting to consumption and energy use. It will be an informal public space grounded in nature, somewhere between an allotment, learning space and work of art. Our idea is ambition in action. Taking the gardening and allotment model and essentially 'super-sizing' it to demonstrate the creative possibilities of working together with partners and stakeholders to re-imagine urban environments. It is fundamentally an art project with a sustainable heart, simple, modest and bold. Addressing the legacy of vacant and derelict land across Central Scotland, we can demonstrate a model which creates a temporary landscape where nature can flourish, which ignites the imagination of communities and maximises the benefits of working together on a well managed green space with health improving outcomes. This idea has the potential to move from stalled-space to green space and will be fully inclusive in terms of demographic and place. For the purpose of this pilot we will focus in one site across the growing season, placing heavy emphasis on community activity, demonstrating the empowerment of mobilising as a society in order to achieve larger goals.

**Urban Oats** aims to be as carbon neutral as possible across the whole process, ultimately using a cycle powered milling system post-harvest. The emphasis is also on energy in terms of consumption but more importantly in how it connects through the food chain. Technical advice and support has already been secured from LDA Design - an independent design, environment and sustainability consultancy. Established for over 35 years with a professional team of over 130 people, working in the UK and internationally, and equally for the private & public sector.

NADFLY STUDIO are currently investigating a site situated in the Anderston Quay neighbourhood of Glasgow. The stalled space is situated in a unique and recognisable urban setting - backed by residential streets, it faces the River Clyde and is overlooked by the M8 motorway and the city's Kingston Bridge. This project is designed to move in location on an annual basis filling spaces stalled for planning and therefore highlighting in a bold, impactful way, something which is presently missing within the city. In this way mobilising city residents to understand the need to repair and create a better built environment. Our programme of community engagement, will extend right across the city, involving participants in a wide range of growing initiatives. It is our intention to work as a community in every sense, collaborating together with neighbours and volunteers to plant and farm the land. The **Urban Oats** project will adhere to a spring planting & summer growing season.

NADFLY STUDIO would like to improve partnerships and encourage landowners to develop and manage their land, to actively support the greening of derelict land. We see the temporary nature of each site to be a positive point in the potential to deliver and a way to forge liberating relationships with landowners, to provide a transitory adventure which highlights how open-mindedness can be a powerful force for change. We would like to encourage involvement with developers to participate in ambitious temporary, creative projects by absorbing the risk. After completing the pilot and proving what is possible through our process it would be our intention to mobilise landowners and communities across Scotland to maximise all the opportunities the **Urban Oats** project offers.

NADFLY STUDIO is an award winning company with an independent and unique perspective on art participation and engagement. Our studio is based in Glasgow. Nicola Atkinson, artist, is the director of NADFLY STUDIO. We seek to develop art projects that will promote the values of the built environment, and in doing so create a new and potential unexpected cultural perspective. We believe there is a need to demonstrate imaginative yet achievable initiatives which continue to contribute to the local green network. NADFLY STUDIO continually works in urban settings using our experience and knowledge on cohesive creative projects which spark the imagination and deliver.

