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Writer-in-residence call out for applications

Libraries as Cultural Hubs programme in Dorset

Dorset Library Service has secured funding to enable an exciting programme of arts development within Gillingham and Weymouth Libraries. The programme is called *Libraries as Cultural Hubs* and will take place across two years. The Arts Development Company are a partner across the programme.

This programme seeks to deliver an innovative approach to expanding the use of the arts in libraries and with the surrounding communities.

An extensive piece of consultation took place prior to the launch of this programme in which both Gillingham and Weymouth communities gave feedback. A summary of the research is available on request from Hannah Baker at The Arts Development Company: hannah@theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk

The brief

Dorset Library Service are seeking experienced and socially engaged professional writers who can offer exciting and inclusive residencies. Applications are welcomed from one or more areas of creative writing, for example poetry, script-writing, fiction etc. and from writers at different stages of their careers. There are two residency opportunities:

Gillingham Library Residency (January – March 2019)

Location: Gillingham Library, Dorset

Target Audience: Adults.

Weymouth Library Residency (January – March 2019)

Location: Weymouth Library, Dorset

Target Audience: Adults

We seek proposals that take an inclusive approach to ensure participatory sessions can welcome anyone regardless of their abilities.

Responses for both residencies should include participatory sessions / workshops, and may include some outreach to existing community groups (e.g. residential homes etc)

The writers' time would be split between working independently on-site at the library and facilitating groups of people in participatory activities.

Proposals must be suitable for the public-access library spaces and must take into account accessibility and health and safety.

The writers will be present while the libraries are open to the public and we would like the writers to engage with people using the libraries and other library staff in a positive and creative way! Both writers will work in partnership with an Arts and Cultural Programme Coordinator and library staff who will offer support.

Whilst the writers will retain intellectual copyright over any works produced, we would like work where possible to be on display/exhibited and we will be using images and coverage of the programme for evaluation, reporting and marketing purposes during and after the residencies.

Outcomes of the project are:

- To deliver writer-in-residencies that encourage and forge new connections between the library, the library staff and local communities.
- Test and evaluate a new way of working together with professional writers to enhance the cultural offer for the libraries, knowing that this may inform work within and beyond the life of the programme and across other libraries.

The writers are required to:

- Use Gillingham or Weymouth Library as a base for up to 12 days work.
- Work closely with the Arts and Cultural Programme Coordinator from Dorset Library Service to deliver the plan.
- Lead sessions with groups, working with them to produce new creative work.
- Participate in discussions about progress and evaluation.
- Implement any appropriate methods to strengthen the evaluation that will be taking place for the programme.
- Subscribe to Dorset Library Service Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines and undergo appropriate background checks, including a DBS check and provision of two references.
- Travel to either Gillingham or Weymouth, Dorset (have own transport).
- Work with community groups identified by library staff (e.g. local schools)

Timescale

Deadline for submission of response to brief	26th October 2018
Interview date	8th November 2018
Residency dates for both locations	12 days within the period of 7th January 2019 to complete by 31 st March 2019.

Budget

Total fee available for each individual residency is **£3000**, to include travel, and materials or resources the artist chooses to use. Payment is in two instalments, the final being upon completion of the brief.

To apply please submit a letter of application which should address the following:

- Why are you applying for this residency and how will it benefit your work?
- What are you particularly interested in exploring as part of the residency? (please describe any specific themes, new connections, research that you are keen to undertake)

- Previous experience and motivation in engaging with communities, e.g. through writing workshops, oral history taking, performances etc.
- How you would propose to share and present work that emerges from the residencies, both your own and from participants.
- An overview of the approach you would take presented as either written info, or a short digital or other visual/audio explanation.
- Budget breakdown of expected time spent and any materials.
- Timeline showing proposed working times (this can be flexible)
- A copy of your C.V including reference to any previous relevant work.

Please state within your application if you have a DBS certificate (within the last 2 years).

Applications should be sent by email to: tenders@theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk
by 5pm on 26th October 2018.

We are committed to ensuring that all employees and job applicants are provided with equality of opportunity in employment

<https://jobs.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/GenText.aspx?page=page23>

If you would like to discuss this brief please contact: Hannah Baker Tel: 01305 224525

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