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## Exeter Custom House

### Quay Words Winter writer-in-residence

### In partnership with Met Office Informatics Lab

### February-March 2020

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#### Literature Works programming at Exeter Custom House

Following the success of our very first Quay Words writer-in-residence at the historic Exeter Custom House in summer 2019, Literature Works is delighted to announce a second writer-in-residence opportunity for **Quay Words Winter**. We are the literature development agency for South West England. Our mission is to support creative writing and the development of writers and readers of all ages, from all walks of life, in our region.

On behalf of Exeter Canal and Quay Trust, Literature Works has been exploring the potential of the Custom House, a Grade 1 listed building, as a hub for literature - a place where all are welcomed to explore and enjoy the social, educational and wellbeing benefits of reading and writing. This summer, we produced the first Quay Words, a six-week, broad ranging programme of writer events, writing workshops, storytelling, book market, printing and free events. Further information can be found [here](#). Our overall aim is to attract the broadest possible audience by demonstrating that literature has something for everyone.

**We are looking for a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other artist working with words. They will be in residence or actively applying their creative practice to the residency for the equivalent of at least two days per week during a four-week period from 10<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The selected writer will be engaged on a contractor/ freelance basis as writer-in-residence for the term.**

#### The nature theme

This second residency will be a partnership with the Met Office Informatics Lab. The writer-in-residence will be very much based at Exeter Custom House, but with supervised access to the Met Office Informatics Lab for discussion about their climate-science work and its cultural crossover. This, we hope, will inspire creative writing about nature and the environment.

At the end of 2018, we consulted with a range of partners about our plans for a literature hub at Exeter Custom House. Writing about nature and the environment emerged as one of the preferred distinctiveness theme for further exploration.

The nature theme covers a wide range of writing, from traditional poetry, prose and creative non-fiction inspired by nature, to socially engaged environmental writing and nature poetry. We are looking for creative responses to this brief. We seek to appoint a writer-in-residence who will be inspired to explore, connect and create within this setting.

### **Residency terms**

The writer-in-residence will be contracted to be at the Custom House or engaged in residency business for two days each week – or equivalent - during the four-week period. They will deliver two events based on their time in this unique setting. These may be after the residency has ended and could be workshops, talks, discussions or other creative activities: we are open to ideas.

Following this - and within one month of the end of their residency - we invite the author to write a short piece or performance inspired by their residency which Literature Works may publish or produce. The nature of this commissioned piece is to be negotiated during the recruitment process.

### **Residency package**

We offer an inclusive fee for the residency of £1,800 to include the delivery of two events.

We want our writer to find time to develop their own work at Exeter Custom House and we invite them to spend as much time on site as they wish. We will provide a private writing space in the building for the duration of the residency.

### **How to apply**

Please apply in writing on no more than two sheets of A4, outlining your relevant experience, why you would like to undertake this residency and the impact it would have on your own work and creative development. Please summarise your availability within the time period required and your ability to meet the requirements of the commission. Please also include a writing CV, with full details of your writing and publishing record.

Please email your applications to: [customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk](mailto:customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk)

**Closing date for receipt of applications is: 5pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Candidates selected for interview will be notified on or before Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

**Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

[www.literatureworks.org.uk](http://www.literatureworks.org.uk) / [www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk](http://www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk)