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**Opportunities for 12 community engaged artists (freelance) including writers, poets, photographers, film makers, visual artists, sound recordists and researchers**

**Role duration: 3 months; start date: 18 January, 2021**

**Please note: the roles are open to all West Midlands creatives but we will prioritise those who live in Sandwell and the Black Country.**

Multistory is developing a digital, community engaged arts programme as part of the Wednesbury High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), funded by Sandwell Council and Historic England, to take place between January 2021 and March 2021. To do this, we will co-produce a creative programme that explores Wednesbury’s past, present and future with local partners, groups and artists. The ambition of the project is to inspire people to engage with the heritage of Wednesbury High Street and conservation area and to encourage more people to use the High Street as a social and cultural space.

The programme, ‘Digital High Street Stories’, is designed to harness and develop local people’s talents and creativity and some of the project outcomes and outputs will be curated and produced into an online, interactive map of the Wednesbury HSHAZ conservation area.

We are looking for 12 artists with a background in community engagement /socially engaged practice to work with a range of local groups to co-create 9 digital art projects that explore the historic past and future of Wednesbury High Street.  By ‘digital’ we mean the projects and workshops will need to take place online and the outcomes will also need to be digital as some of these will be included in the interactive map (e.g. photographs, audio, film, moving images, etc). Given the pandemic, and the short time frame of this programme, you will need to be able to work remotely and send images/audio/content digitally.

Multistory will provide introductions to local groups and organisations and we have a Cultural Consortium made up of local people and organisations who will also help to make connections with local groups. A Creative Producer will work with all of the artists to curate and support the production of the content and the interactive map. Further information about the programme and the projects can be found below on pages 3 and 4.

See the ‘How to Apply’ section and key dates on page 5.

We are seeking proposals from artists who have innovative ideas for what they will bring to the projects. Please indicate which project you are specifically interested in working on in your proposal, including what excites you about it and how your practice would inform it. You can apply for up to two projects and we are also open to collaborations.

We are seeking applications from artists regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion and/or belief. We particularly encourage applications from those who identify barriers to their practice and with lived experience of inequality.

**Key Responsibilities for all artists**

1. Design, develop and deliver a community engagement programme of workshops and activities digitally.
2. Provide regular progress reports to the Creative Producer about the delivery of your programme of work.
3. Deliver the workshops and activities in line with the timetable that you will develop with the Creative Producer.
4. Work with the Creative Producer to document and archive the outcomes from the workshop activities.
5. Support the delivery of a public programme eg. giving online talks / hosting workshops.
6. Ensure that all participant consent, data and monitoring collection is undertaken in line with Multistory’s policies and procedures.
7. Support Multistory to reach our goals with regards to equality and diversity, access and inclusion.
8. Work with the Creative Producer and Multistory to evaluate the programme.

**Required Skills and Experience**

1. Experience of working with, and motivating, groups and participants through your practice.
2. Confident to produce digital outputs such as images, films, audio if required by the nature of the project.
3. Passionate about community engagement.
4. Experience of running workshops and working with groups.
5. Ability to communicate to a wide range of people.
6. Confident in filing and indexing content on either Dropbox or Google Drive.
7. Experience in sending image and video files.
8. User of social media platforms.

**Personal Qualities and Values**

We are committed to being an equal opportunity employer and we celebrate diversity in all its forms. You will be expected to share the qualities and values listed below:

* A commitment to equality, diversity, accessibility and inclusion.
* A passion for the arts and creativity.
* A commitment to collaborative working and co-production.

**Projects**

**1 x Illustrator / Project 1 - Illustrating Wednesbury**

**No of Freelance Days: 11**

The illustrator will engage local community groups and artists via 4 online workshops in order to guide participants towards producing illustrations of historical buildings and objects that are manufactured locally or that are culturally significant. They will also produce some of their own illustrations inspired by these workshops and liaise with the Creative Producer to format the drawings so they can be used digitally.

**1 x Artist Researcher / Project 2– Wednesbury Photographic Archives**

**No of Freelance Days: 15**

The artist researcher will research, select and work with archival and historic photographs which will feature in the interactive map and also in the public realm as printed images displayed in shop fronts. They will undertake a period of research, followed by delivery of 4 online workshops with local community groups. They will compile a database of historic and contemporary images from the conservation area, liaising with the Creative Producer in order to format these for the website.

**1 x Oral Historian / Project 2 – Wednesbury Photographic Archives**

**No of Freelance Days: 17**

The oral historian will undertake a research period where they will contact local history groups to identify moments of historical and social significance and then they will identify and interview at least 8 local people. They will produce 8 x high quality edited interviews / MP3 audio recordings, liaising with the Creative Producer and Designer in order to incorporate these onto the interactive map.

**1x Artist / Project 3 - History of Manufacturing in Wednesbury**

**No of Freelance Days: 15**

The visual artist will lead on the research around manufactured goods made in Wednesbury. They will host 2 workshops with community members from local groups to present their findings and record their memories and stories of working in local factories. They will liaise with the Creative Producer and Designer in order to incorporate these onto the map.

**1x Writer + 1x Poet / Project 4 - Wednesbury in Words, Poetry & Song**

**No of Freelance Days: 9 days each role**

The writer and poet will each lead 2 creative writing workshops with local community groups to produce new pieces of creative writing that respond to Wednesbury’s past, present and future. The writer and poet will each compile the writing material and liaise with the Creative Producer and Designer in order to incorporate a selection of these as audio recordings (or text) onto the map.

**1x Photographer / Project 5 - Wednesbury Through the Lens**

**No of Freelance Days: 11**

The photographer will document shop fronts and take portraits of shop keepers in Wednesbury conservation area locations. They will reach out to shopkeepers and co-ordinate times to shoot their portraits, creating 50 x photographic images. (We will explore ways to make the portraits whilst meeting social distancing guidelines or use Zoom.) They will organise 2 socially distanced photo walks around the Wednesbury conservation area with local people.

**2 x Young Artists (under 25) / Project 6 – video / photography project**

**No of Freelance Days: 15 days each artist**

Two young artists will engage with participants from the local community, in order to create a moving image or visual art project that explores how young people engage with the High Street. They will each produce digital events as part of a public engagement programme for young people, using social media platforms. The artists will liaise with the Creative Producer and the Designer in order to incorporate their work on the interactive map.

**1 x visual artist and workshop facilitator / Project 7 - Digital postcards past and future. No of Freelance Days: 12**

The artist will work with a local history group and a school or youth group to facilitate a project around the past, present and future of Wednesbury High Street. This will result in photographs, drawings and stories produced as digital postcards. The artist will need to find ways to engage young people remotely which could be via an art pack (with extra budget available to produce this) or via systems the school or youth group have in place or online workshops. The artist will find creative ways for the two groups to have a conversation and will work with producer to make the outcomes digital i.e. scanning images and turning them into jpgs or making a short film.

**1 x photographer/ videographer/ storyteller / Project 8 - Grow Your High Street? No of Freelance Days: 9**

The artist will collaborate with a local allotment and market stall traders to explore stories about what grows well and what they make with their produce; and the products sold by the market traders and their stories of what sells well and why. If the allotment holders and essential market traders are still working the artist will be required to meet with them in person to photograph/ video or collect stories. The artist will incorporate their ideas, images and stories and include in final multimedia pieces.

**1 x community engagement artist and workshop facilitator / Project 9 - At Yower Wum. No of Freelance Days: 9**

The community engagement artist will run a participatory project and find creative ways to invite local poets, local groups and the general public to write their memories / stories or poems of Wednesbury which will then be turned into audio or multimedia pieces that can be shared online. The artist might, for instance, partner with Wednesbury Library or the local newspaper to encourage people to submit stories and participate.

**How to Apply**

Send a **written proposal** (max two sides of A4) stating the project(s) number(s) that you are interested in and outlining your ideas; what excites you about it; what relevant skills and experience you can bring to the specific project(s); how your practice would inform the project(s); and if relevant what your relationship is to Sandwell and/or the Black Country.  If you prefer you can send a sound recording or video proposal instead (max 5 minutes).

Please also send us up to **three examples of your work** (this could be photographs, audio, film, a website link, text or other documentation) that you’ve done or been part of.

Please provide **two references** (or names and email addresses for two referees)and please complete and return the **monitoring form.**

The Monitoring Form can be downloaded here:

<https://multistory.org.uk/opportunity/community-engagement-artists/>

Email your proposal, along with the monitoring form to info@multistory.org.uk  with **Community Engagement Artist**in the subject line, along with your name, address, email and mobile number.

If you’d like to talk with someone in the team about the project or the role before you apply, please email caronwright@multistory.org.uk Please also let Caron know if we can do anything to make the application process more accessible for you.

**Key dates for your application**

The deadline for getting your application to us is Friday 11 December 2020, at 10 am and, if you’re shortlisted for interview, we’ll let you know on Friday 18 December and give you a date and time (to take place over the period 6 to 8 January, 2021).

Interviews will be with Multistory’s Director and Project Manager and a Community Representative, via Zoom. We will send you the interview questions in advance of the interview, so that there is time for you to prepare.

If we offer you the position, we’ll inform you on Monday 11 January, 2021 and we would like you to start w/c Monday 18 January.

**Contract for Services**

This is a freelance position and you will be responsible for making your own tax and NI contributions.

The fee is £175.00 per day (for the number of days specified for each project) between the start date and mid-April, 2021. You will need to be flexible in order to work with community groups and to deliver the workshops and to meet regularly with Multistory staff (all online) and this may include some evening and/or weekend work.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, we expect that the majority of the work will be carried out remotely / digitally but there may be times when we ask you to join face to face team and / or partner meetings (which will be Covid secure).

Multistory

16 November, 2020