
Exeter Custom House

Quay Words Zine- making digital commission



Literature Works programming at Exeter Custom House

Quay Words is a partnership between Exeter Canal and Quay Trust (ECQT), the charity charged with developing Exeter Quayside, and Literature Works, the literature development charity for South West England. *Quay Words* showcases literature as an accessible and diverse art form and this hub for literature is a central pillar of Exeter's recent successful bid to gain UNESCO City of Literature status.

On behalf of ECQT, we are developing the Grade 1 listed Exeter Custom House on Exeter Quayside as a hub for literature - a place where all are welcomed to explore and enjoy. Following a highly successful pilot phase, ECQT and Arts Council England Lottery Project Grants are supporting a further two years of Quay Words, from May 2020. Literature Works is the main delivery partner for this exciting programme.

During this period of social-distancing and lockdown, we like many other events organisers, have adjusted our planned programme. We aim to respond to this challenge creatively, continuing to deliver access to literature for as wide an audience as possible and to build Quay Words as source of inspiration and opportunity for all.

Quay Words will be running a series of young writers' zine-making days at Exeter Custom House for groups of up to 12 young people, utilising on-site desktop publishing software and delivered as a day of workshops by a zine-making practitioner. These days will include a strong creative writing workshop element, with participants supported to produce and create a zine showcasing their work by the end of the day.

For the first of these zine days, we are now seek a digital literature practitioner who can respond creatively to the challenge of delivering this commission virtually, to produce one zine made up of the work of up to 12 young people, to be shared on a digital platform.

The opportunity

We seek a digital practitioner to respond to the challenge of developing a zine-making day which can be conducted using online platforms. We would like the practitioner to develop a model for this which would be shared with Literature Works and could be used again.

We are keen that the day has an interactive element that would replace an in-person workshop, taking the form of a Zoom workshop, for example.

A suggested structure could be:

- Initial workshop to introduce the writer to the 12 participants and to discuss potential themes – the writer could have some themes ready to suggest.
- A follow up session after the theme is discussed to decide what each participant will contribute – will it be poems, short pieces of writing, photos or drawings for example.
- The participants then go away and create their contributions to an agreed time scale
- The writer then receives these pieces of work and edits, designs and puts them together in a single zine to be shared online either in PDF Issuu or another online format.



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Exeter City of Literature
Designated UNESCO Creative City in 2019

- A possible in person follow up sessions to share the content in line with Government guidelines, following appropriate social distancing measures at Exeter Custom House.

We are very happy to discuss alternative formats and structures. We ask that the practitioner takes charge of curating the work – which could be a hand-made, physical product that can be reproduced and sent out, or could be an online document: PDF, Issuu or similar. We ask that thought is given to which platforms will be most suitable for sharing this content. We are interested in the potential for merging digital with ‘analogue’ content that may be hand-drawn or written. As such, it may be necessary for the practitioner to scan in, or convert this content for inclusion in the final zine. Literature Works can support collation of work from the participants – forwarding work by either post or email as appropriate.

The zine would be finalised and published subsequent to the interactive day, to a timescale agreed on acceptance of the commission.

Further details

Literature Works will recruit the 12 young people to take part via our network of schools, colleges, local contacts and social media platforms. We would also run a box office to track attendance, although this day would be free of charge to participants.

As this commission directly results in working with young people, any interactive element (video calling or use of communication platforms) would be moderated by Literature Works, with a member of our team ‘present’ as an observer. We would not share participants’ contact details, but would act as online convenor and data-handler.

The content of the zine will be pieces of flash fiction, riddles or kennings (all of which are suggested genres for our forthcoming Quay Words Young Writers’ Competition). The maximum word count for individual pieces will be between 150 – 250 words. We understand that some thought will need to be given to size and dimensions of the zine and how this correlates to the chosen online platform.

Literature Works has access to an Issuu account and can host content in other formats (by discussion) on our various websites including www.literatureworks.org.uk and www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk

Literature Works will offer technical support to make interactive elements and the final product possible.

Dates are to be agreed subject to acceptance of the commission.

Fee

We offer an inclusive fee of £800 for this commission to include development of a virtual interactive zine making day or workshop to be shared with Literature Works plus editing, design and production of the single zine to combine all pieces of work.

Person specification

We seek a practitioner who meets the following requirements:

- Can confidently produce a zine both editorially and by using online technology and relevant IT skills (supported by Literature Works)
- Has workshop experience and the ability to run interactive workshops online with up to 12 participants (technology will be supported by Literature Works)
- Can utilise workshop content to creatively respond to working collaboratively with the participants to produce and create the zine

Expressions of interest

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please send no more than two sheets of A4 outlining your relevant experience and ideas about how to approach this commission.
Please email your applications to: customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk

Closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 29th May 2020, 5 pm.

www.literatureworks.org.uk / www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk