

Wrexham Shared Prosperity Fund Canal & River Trust Arts Programme

Project Brief



How to Apply

Please send an expression of interest and accompanying CV to Anna Finn. Please ensure that the EOI reflects the position advertised, whilst including a previous relevant example of work.

We are also happy to receive video or audio (no more than 3 minutes long) to underpin any examples of work reference in your EOI.

You are welcome to send further information, up to (strictly) 2 examples of your work. This could be images, reviews, links to video trailers, audience feedback, or anything that demonstrates you and your practice.

We strongly encourage applications from people who identify from backgrounds and experiences currently underrepresented in the arts (including, but not limited to: Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, people with a disability or life limiting condition, working class, LGBTQ+).

Please send your completed application by email to anna.finn@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Purpose

Canal and River Trust (The Trust) have secured funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund (North) to deliver a community-led arts placemaking project between December 2023 and December 2024. Artists will work extensively with World Heritage Site (WHS) communities to explore place-based themes around heritage, landscape, identity, social history and togetherness. Four artists will be commissioned in residence across four WHS communities to identify, engage and work with residents and groups to explore the past, present and future aspirations of individual 'place', and the multiple layers of Welsh cultural heritage through the world heritage landscape, language and social history that connect, and could unite them. The residency artistic and delivery framework will be process driven and co-creative with key milestone events that will be opportunities to engage wider participants and audiences within the project.

The first milestone event will be spring / summer 2024 taking place in each area this will be in an opportunity to engage wider participants and residents in the project. Building upon this first milestone we will work towards a more ambitious event or festival that will be a platform for the artist and community work to manifest across the four sites that will include the development of some permanent site specific works in the public spaces and realm.

The artist in residence extensive engagement and key spring 2024 milestone will support meaningful outreach work outside of the corridor to build knowledge and understanding of the WHS with local residents and groups. This grassroots project framework is a successful project model that aims to enable and empower community-led placemaking through identity and heritage underpinned by The Canal & River Trust's emerging Art, Culture and Placemaking Strategy for Wales which has a key focus on placemaking utilising process driven social practice to empower and enable meaningful community engagement toward place enhancement and making along the waterways.

Objectives:

- Deliver a 10-month engagement programme of activities, workshops and toolkits developed by artists that could support wider WHS community and place engagement opportunities.
- Deliver two milestone events in spring/summer 2024 and December 2024.
- Create community-led activities through Wrexham.
- Form a WHS Community sub-group.
- Community mapping to include hard to reach demographics.
- Manage documentation, PR and communications plan to market the final project event across the UK.
- Create temporary and the development of permanent enhancements to public spaces that reflect the community and artist research, themes and engagement including Trevor Basin to create a series of gateways between places and building a sense of arrival.
- Developing new volunteering opportunities.

Benefits of the project:

- Reflection and celebration of the WHS communities located within Wrexham through self and place discovery to showcase what makes these places special for WHS communities, by WHS communities.
- Enable businesses to thrive with greater visibility of the WHS and its communities, visitor dwell time and spend in local services.
- Support 'meanwhile use' opportunities across the four sites.
- Engage people with artists to learn new skills to build confidence and empower individuals to take steps forward to make changes.
- Inform placemaking and activation of public spaces.
- Broker cultural and cross sector partnerships, create alliances & build bridges.
- Create distinct, memorable, marketable identity for the WHS.
- Grow and diversify volunteer demographics.
- Improve wellbeing through participation in the arts and blue/green spaces.
- Diversify visitors to the canal.
- Increase local partnerships.

- Deliver opportunities for new forms of engagement with the arts and culture which aren't currently being offered along the canal corridor, providing opportunities for skills and learning development.

Through arts, culture and placemaking we will work with communities, businesses and key partners to re-imagine how we could use the Llangollen Canal and World Heritage Site within Wrexham differently to benefit the environment and society as a whole. This one year exploratory project, will provide the opportunity to develop further cultural programmes ahead of Wrexham's City of Culture bid, strengthened by a feasibility study conducted as part of the project, which will deliver enduring partnerships and cultural, community and economic development. We will support local authority development plans to deliver longer-term legacy programmes and opportunities.

The Project Director and Project Coordinator will be expected to:

Direct the artistic programme (working alongside and through relevant community interfaces) and as the 'public face' and first point of contact for the project. They will be responsible for managing and accurately reporting budgets and finances (supported by the Canal & River Trust's finance team).

They will invite artists to work with communities and volunteers to develop interventions reflecting what makes a place special. Informed by social practice the activities and work could evolve to be transient and fleeting whether performance based, moveable or permanent such as community green space, public realm including the co-design of street furniture. Resident artists and communities will explore and re-imagine ideas that reflect their community. Collectively we aim to connect people and place through a trail that enhances public spaces to encouraging people to explore and discover the whole WHS in Wrexham Urban Centre and Borough. The aspiration of the activities and project is to promote greater visibility reveal to visitors those communities that tend to be overshadowed by the main honeypot sites, while giving opportunity to others who can feel the negative impacts of visitors on their doorstep to express their individual distinctiveness.

The Director and Coordinator will support the development of new volunteering groups, as well as harness the existing knowledge and skills of local volunteer groups and youth organisations. Intergenerational shared learning will enable us to begin to find increased opportunities for learning to take place through participation in the arts.

The project will focus engagement with communities which are located either within the WHS or are closely associated with the canal and its corridor namely Chirk, Froncysyllte, Trevor and Cefn Mawr.

The project will primarily look to engage with:

- Children and young people through local primary schools and youth organisations.
- Marginalised groups within Wrexham
- Community Councils and community organisations
- Hard to reach communities such as Plas Madoc
- Local businesses.

The project involves commissioning and managing research and evaluation programmes, in addition to producing a short recommendation report as addendum to the external evaluator to integrate within the project evaluation outlining future legacy opportunities, next stage legacy project funding and strategic destination development opportunities and partners against Future Generations Act seven goals where possible.

Wrexham World Heritage Site Art Project Coordinator

Job Summary

Canal & River Trust are recruiting a Project Coordinator to help deliver an exciting arts project in Wrexham, reporting to the Project Director.

Job Description

The Project Coordinator will help to deliver all aspects of the production, delivery and direction of the programme set out by the Project Director.

Audience and participant mapping and engagement will be integral to this role. Working closely with communities, key partners and artists to implement and coordinate activities, events across programmes as well as providing regular data collection, monitoring and creating a positive and viable operational environment, which will enable the programme to flourish.

Key Accountabilities:

- Work with key partners and communities to enable high quality arts provision to be delivered in through collaboration, co creation and co-commissioning.
- Work with Trust teams to ensure audience development targets are being met & monitored.
- Contribute to the monitoring of the programme, including database maintenance, gathering attendance records, postcodes capture and the creation of project summaries and accurate financial reports.
- Support with general administration, the creation of project templates and contracts.
- Engage stakeholders and develop audiences for well attended activities and events.
- Coordinate the event and activity production and delivery as the programme evolves.
- Deputise for the Project Director in their absence.
- Contribute to governance, including organising meetings, preparing and circulating reports and papers, taking minutes and following up actions.
- Develop and maintain excellent relationships with partners, funders and other key stakeholders, and ensure programme reports and updates are shared accordingly.
- Identify new prospects and opportunities for income generation and fundraising.
- Display the Trust values and behaviours at all times.
- Ensure that diversity and inclusion are integrated into all aspects of Trust life and promote inclusion by challenging behaviour, practices, actions, or decisions that are counter to the objectives of the Trust's policies and values.

Ambition and Best Practice: Facilitating Welsh, UK and internationally based artists to create meaningful, bold and or ambitious work with a sense of place in the heart of Wrexham / Wrexham Borough WHS corridor, with a holistic approach between artistic development, Canal & River Trust resources and partnerships.

Contract Type: Freelance.

Contract Length: 200 days until 31/12/24.

Fee: £130 per day.

The fee covers local travel expenses within a 20-mile radius. Outside of this mileage, if required, travel costs will be provided in agreement.

Job Requirements

- Ability to work with a diverse group of people, including minority or marginalised communities.
- Ability to communicate effectively both internally and externally to a wide variety of audiences and using a variety of methods suitable to different audiences.
- Desirable: outlined accountabilities working within an arts setting.
- Enthusiasm for the cultural and development vision for Wrexham Centre and Wrexham Borough, with an understanding of the role of the arts in a wider cultural, economic and political context.
- A keen interest and/or experience working within nature, environment, culture, heritage and wellbeing.
- Experience of budget management and control.
- Proven ability to be able to influence and collaborate with other departments/stakeholders.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- A proven ability to build robust relationships with key stakeholders.
- Ability to work well under pressure, be motivated and self-managed.
- Able to represent the Trust externally and to professionally represent the values and aspirations of the Trust.
- Demonstrate personal resilience and the ability to use initiative to overcome difficulties.
- Utilise and share information appropriately to continuously develop self, team and the delivery of community engagement.

The ability to speak the Welsh language is desirable.

Safety Responsibilities

- Lead by example, ensure your team take responsibility for the safety of colleagues, volunteers, themselves and customers. Comply with Canal & River Trust's Health & Safety policy and defined standards. Investigate and report incidents, accidents and near misses. Ensure safe use of appropriate equipment, prepare Risk Assessments and Method Statements ensuring contents are understood and acted upon.
- To be aware of your own responsibilities regarding safeguarding and to support our commitment to providing safe environments and working practises that promote and protect the safety and welfare of children, young people and adults at risk at all times.