



Artist Residency and Commission Brief – Water Histories Culturally Chard 2022 – 2023 Chard, Somerset

The Brief

The aim is for the lead artist to create work that responds to the ‘spirit of water’ in Chard, researching and referencing the heritage of water in the town centre. *‘Local folklore claims that the town has a very unusual and unique feature, a stream running along either side of Fore Street. One stream eventually flows into the Bristol Channel and the other reaches the English Channel. This situation changed when the tributary of the Axe was diverted into the Isle; the gutter in Holyrood Street, though, still flows into the River Axe and therefore it is still true, it lies on the watershed and that two gutters within the town eventually drain into the Bristol Channel and the English Channel’* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chard,_Somerset

In particular the artist is invited to focus on the wider social and physical aspects of ‘water’ creating an opportunity for the visitor to experience it in a different way.

An Open Call invites artists/artist collectives to propose an initial idea to make new work in a diverse range of media. Proposals could include working in any medium, including visual arts, craft, sound, moving image, photography, live art.

The lead artist’s residency and commission brief is a balance between the making of new work for public presentation and engagement with the local community through participatory activity. We expect the artwork presented to be of the highest quality.

We need to be open as to how the participatory element is conceived. It could be that local individuals/groups/children/young people are involved in collaborative creative research, invited to co-create elements of the artwork, invited to contribute thoughts, ideas and/or content in some way. Somerset Art Works will assist with locating networks and contacts with individuals, groups and the local schools.

The lead artist will have a role in devising and co-producing the final outcome and public sharing of the residency and commission. It is our expectation that the artwork and other supporting material/information will be installed in the town and that the public will be invited to experience it over one/two days. If feasible some elements of the display could show for longer depending on availability of volunteers, access and health and safety issues.

Key dates

Chard Spring Festival Friday 29 and Saturday 30 April 2022

This event would provide a useful introduction point to the residency and an opportunity for community consultation, offer taster activities and to recruit participants. Ideally, we would like the appointed artist to attend the days, have a presence and begin to meet with local people.

The work would be developed throughout the year with a final sharing and celebration at the **Spring Festival April/May 2023**.

Artist Responsibilities

The artist will take responsibility for the following:

- Research and development of the project,
- Work with the project co-ordinator to liaise with the community groups
- Work with the identified groups closely to develop the final presentation and outcomes of the project
- Work with project co-ordinator to deliver and organise public and participatory events
- Keep diary notes and photos documenting the development of the work during the project and install the resultant artwork.
- Attend meetings with the project co-ordinator when required.
- Contribute to the PR, marketing and social media.
- End of project report

Person Specification

In recruiting the artist, a track record in creative interaction with culture and heritage, people and place, is important. The ability to work closely and sensitively with people of all ages and abilities, and where appropriate to engage them in the creative process, are key aspects of the residency brief and process.

Artists will need to:

- have track record in developing participatory projects and working with community groups or young people
- be a good communicator and have the ability to manage their work with minimal supervision.
- have a commitment to innovative arts practice and the sharing of high quality creativity.
- have the ability to inspire others about the arts.
- have an understanding of health and safety, equalities and safeguarding best practice

Timescale

A site visit will be planned

The residency will take place **between April 2022 and May 2023**

We are open to discussion about how the residency might be planned if separate blocks of time are more suitable.

Fee

The total value of the commission is £8000 inclusive of vat.
Artist's fee is budgeted at £200 per day for 32 days.

Budget

Site Visit	200	1 day including visit to archives held at Somerset Heritage Centre /Chard museum (travel expenses are separately costed).
General planning	600	3 days
Community participation	800	4 days
Residency/making/ production	4000	20 days over the project period
Launch event 29/30 April 2022	400	2 days Including setting up co-ordination/co-production of event
Installation & public event April/May 2023	400	2 days. Includes delivery of artwork and co-ordination/co-production of event
Materials and production costs	Up to 1000	Includes materials for artwork, other production/making costs and materials for participation/workshops. Some fixtures and fittings for installation/display equipment may come out of general display budget.
Travel and subsistence	Up to 600	Estimated for subsistence and for travel. Travel is to and from Chard. Nearest town and railway station is Crewkerne. Public transport is limited.
Total	8000	

Equal Opportunities

The appointment procedures for the commission will be carried out in accordance with Somerset Art Works, equalities policies.

Terms and Conditions

The project is administered by Somerset Art Works.

All appointed artists will be self- employed and will be responsible for their own tax and N.I. payments.

Enhanced DBS and Public Liability Insurance of £5m will be required.

Risk assessments will be carried out by the Artist working with SAW.

The ownership of the artist's own work shall remain with the Artist unless otherwise agreed in advance between the Partners and the Artists. Work created with community members is jointly owned by the project and the groups involved. Until the end of the Project Period as specified in the project schedule, the Partners will be responsible for holding and exhibiting the work, as appropriate.

To apply

Please submit a proposal considering the following:

1. Why are you interested in this project?
2. How would you approach this project?
3. Your practice and experience in working with groups and communities.
4. What is your understanding and experience of working with projects concerned with culture and heritage and the High Street?
5. Please indicate your availability on 29 and/or 30 April 2022.

Applications should be no more than 2 pages long, include three examples of your work and/or provide links to project websites and images.

Applications will only be accepted by email, send to

info@somersetartworks.org.uk for the attention of Carol Carey

Max total email size 10MB.

Deadline for applications: 01 March 2022

Shortlisted candidates notified by: 10 March 2022

Interviews: Friday 25 March 2022

This commission is part of Culturally Chard.

South Somerset District Council, Chard Town Council and Somerset Art Works, on behalf of a consortium of local partners, have been awarded a grant from Historic England as part of the Chard High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Cultural Programme.

Over three years, creative and community organisations in Chard will work together to deliver the **Culturally Chard** programme that won them the funding. There will be a diverse range of new activities and events taking place including two larger festivals, all with a connection to the historic town centre, adding to the existing cultural calendar. Residents, community groups, schools and businesses are all invited to get involved.

This is part of the four-year-long High Streets Heritage Action Zones' Cultural Programme, led by Historic England, in partnership with Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Cultural Programme aims to make our high streets more attractive, engaging and vibrant places for people to live, work and spend time.

Other partner organisations involved in the consortium are Chard Museum, Chard Carnival Committee, Holyrood Academy, Chard One Team and Chard Town Team. The programme was launched in July 2021 and runs through to March 2024.

'Culturally Chard' is the Chard High Street Heritage Action Zone cultural programme, funded by Historic England, Arts Council England and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

<https://culturallychard.org/>

www.chardregeneration.co.uk

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