

Library touring commission



The Cheshire Lancashire Touring Partnership Consortium is part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio. We deliver two rural touring schemes, Spot On Lancashire, and Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. Our consortium partners are Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire East Council, Lancashire County Council, and Culturapedia (an independent arts project management company). In addition to our well established rural touring programme, we are delivering a strategic project with the libraries services in both counties to see if the rural touring model can translate to a library setting. We are in our third year of exploring, discovering and testing out touring activity in library settings. Altogether we engage 70 rural communities and 38 libraries.

This commission is funded by Arts Council England's strategic touring programme. It will be managed by Culturapedia who are the accountable body and deliver Spot On Lancashire.

We are seeking to commission a touring company or freelance ensemble/individual performer based in the North West of England to devise a touring performance which can take place in any library and rural community setting. You must demonstrate an understanding of the creative challenges involved in rural or library touring. You will work in partnership with our libraries and their audiences. You will develop an idea to scratch/public-sharing performance level which is suitable for presentation to every scale of library and rural touring venue we work with. It will be shown to an invited public audience. We plan to support you to develop and tour the completed work through our library/rural touring networks from Spring 2018 onwards by identifying further funding and supporting applications. *We do not expect a tour-ready production by then.*

There are two prison libraries in the Lancashire circuit who want to host the work and be involved in its development. These present specific technical/production challenges which we may wish you to address. It is our belief that if the final work can function in prisons, then it can work and be adaptable anywhere.

Artforms: This is a performing arts commission, but we welcome combined arts proposals, particularly those that may include digital technology.

Audience: We have two possible target audiences for this commission: 15-25 year olds and Baby Boomers (60-70 years) who like technology. Please consider these in your pitch.

Outreach: We are interested in community engagement being part of this commission, for example, engaging library writing groups, or opportunities for the audience to “join in”

Priorities: Priority will be given to small-scale artists/companies who are not in receipt of ACE NPO funding, and for whom this opportunity will enable them to realise a clearly articulated goal or ambition to tour to unusual/non-traditional venues and engage closely with audiences. The successful applicants will have a socially engaged performance practice: they will create work in response to contemporary issues of relevance to our communities and seek out ways to engage with actual and potential audiences.

We actively encourage applications which reflect the diversity of our target audiences.



Budget: £6000 (plus VAT if relevant) inclusive of all costs

Deadline for submissions: 5pm Monday 17 July by email.

Interview/pitching day: Wednesday 23 August, Lion Salt Works, Northwich

Activity timescale: Between September 2017 and mid March 2018. To be agreed with partners but all activity must be completed by 31 March 2018 (including final reports)
In Lancashire we want some public activity (R&D, workshops etc) to take place around National Libraries Week 9-14 October 2017.

Place of activity: Rural and library venues in Lancashire and Cheshire. Access to a car would be beneficial as we expect the successful artists to spend time in the area both in the

research and creation process. This commission would be challenging using public transport. Some of our communities are in areas of low arts engagement.

Please email your CV/company profile, a draft budget outlining how you would spend the budget and a maximum, two side, A4 letter outlining:

- Your idea including some thoughts on outreach activity
- How this commission would support your development
- Timeline
- What else you may need from us
- What else can you bring to the project (resources, expertise etc)
- Confirmation you can attend the pitching/interview day in person or via skype
- You may also include web-links and images/video

We can provide free use of workshop space (tbc), performance space, marketing for events/workshops, 1/2 day meeting with a rural touring scheme and a meeting with key librarians, a specific briefing from prison librarians, access to a small caravan. Access to and use of basic touring lights/sound/stage and black backdrops

Email proposal to: sue@spotonlancashire.co.uk **Deadline: 5pm Monday 17th July**

Notification: We will contact all applicants we would like to meet by 5pm on 31st July 2017. If you have not heard from us by this time please assume we will not be asking you to attend an interview. We cannot promise be able to contact unsuccessful applicants individually or provide feedback.

For informal chat, or more information please call:

Sue Robinson 07977 043378 email sue@spotonlancashire.co.uk

Or Anne Crabtree 01244 972835 email CRTA@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The commissioning panel will consist of representatives of Spot On and CRTA, two library services, and Lancashire County Council

www.spotonlancashire.co.uk

www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk