



Artist in Residence x 2

June 2024 to Oct 2024 and Nov 2024 to March 2025

We're looking for two early-mid career community-focussed artists, creatives or collectives to take up a residency based in public studio space at National Civil War Centre in Newark.

You'll work with community groups at locations across the district of Newark Sherwood, as well as interact with visitors in the studio.

As an experienced educator or participatory arts practitioner, you'll work with people to co-create artworks that respond to and are inspired by our historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites.

If your practice is accessible, inclusive, environmentally responsive, you care about communities and want to be part of a thriving artistic and cultural movement in the East Midlands, we want to hear from you!

Who we are - Open Doors

Open Doors is an arts programme of free creative activities to inspire everyone across the district of Newark and Sherwood and beyond, between 2023 and 2026.

We receive National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England and are based at the National Civil War Centre and Palace Theatre. Open Doors sits within Newark and Sherwood District Council's Heritage and Culture offer.

Through Open Doors, we're learning about the needs and interests of our communities and increasing creative opportunities for young people and under-served groups. We're a focal point for culture across Newark and Sherwood, and we believe in the transformative power of culture to enhance lives.

We develop opportunities for increased social and cultural value in our area, and these residencies help us carry out Arts Council England's 10-year strategy - Let's Create. Find out more at: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/strategy-2020-2030>

Our sites and collections

The National Civil War Centre is an accredited museum which tells the story of the British Civil Wars and their relevance today.



Supported using public funding by
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Newark Museum looks after 95,000 objects including the internationally significant Newark Torc and an art collection that includes works by Edmund de Waal, Bridget Riley and Vanessa Bell.

The Palace Theatre has been centre stage in Newark for over 100 years, entertaining thousands of people every year with a lively and varied programme, including acts such as Benjamin Zephaniah, John Lydon, Opera North and the Kanneh-Masons.

Newark Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, has stood on the banks of the river Trent for nearly 900 years and is a key part of Newark's history. Its Gardens offer welcome green space and an accessible and unique historic setting for activities and events.

The brief

We're looking for artists or collectives in any creative discipline, who are excited to create work with local community groups, families and under-served groups. You'll be inspired by our buildings, stories and collections, and work with people to create new interpretations.

Throughout the residency you'll interact with the general public, spending a significant amount of your working time during the museum's opening hours. Visitors will be able to see your creative process, talk to you about your work and try out activities and processes.

You'll be based in our top-floor artist studio at the National Civil War Centre. The studio as a place for visitors to see your working process, as well as any finished products, and should have a working feel for visitors interact with. The studio is open to the public during museum opening times.

The studio is accessible by lift and stairs, has two windows, spotlights and wi-fi. It does not have a sink. The studio contains 3 x museum cases, a large table and chairs, desk, small lockable cupboard, and materials storage unit.

During the residency, you'll work with our Community Engagement and Partnership Development Officer who'll identify community groups to connect you with in order to plan and deliver participatory workshops at off-site, community locations such as libraries, parks, community centres and schools.

Off-site community workshops are specifically for people living in areas of low cultural engagement and areas of deprivation across the district, and include families, young people, diaspora communities and disabled people.

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You'll have experience of planning and facilitating engaging activities that are relevant to local communities or specific groups and be passionate about placing participant needs and co-creation at the heart of your work.

The first residency will take place for four to five months between June 2024 and the end of September 2024. The second residency will take place four to five months between October 2024 and the end of March 2025.

In summary, the aims are to:

- work collaboratively with the Open Doors team and museum staff;
- engage both our general visitors and target audiences;
- inspire people to explore creative skills and develop understanding and confidence;
- remove barriers to cultural engagement across the district;
- create new ways for people to engage with and interpret our historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites; and
- create new work through participatory activities.

Outputs per residency

- Minimum 3 days a week on site or in a community setting within the district, including some weekends and evenings to meet the needs of target audiences.
- Co-plan, deliver 10 x workshops / sessions for approximately 15 participants each time (participant numbers may be more if working in school settings).
- Co-plan and deliver 4 x Family Saturday activities for children and families at the National Civil War Centre (first Saturday of the month).
- Co-plan and deliver 4 x half-term / school holiday activity days for children and families at the National Civil War Centre (dependant on residency and school holidays aligning).
- Log visitor numbers in the studio, gather visitor surveys to contribute towards reporting to Arts Council England (using templates provided).
- Design and implement creative and accessible ways to gather qualitative feedback from studio visitors and offsite workshop participants.
- A body of work as record of the residency - both yours and that created with participants, which can be presented throughout and after the residency in the studio, in other areas of the building, online, or as performance or recordings.

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Budget

There is a budget of up to £16,500.00 (excluding VAT) per residency which covers delivery of all outputs and includes travel and accommodation. A further budget of up to £2,000.00 per residency is available for materials.

Eligibility and copyright

To be eligible for this residency you'll be required to provide details of insurance, DBS certificate or be prepared to provide information to undergo a fresh DBS check). We might also ask you to attend Safeguarding training.

Although a substantial part of this work will happen across our district, it is not essential that you drive as transport can be provided.

You must be a UK resident and be registered with HMRC as self-employed in order for Newark & Sherwood District Council to pay you.

Newark and Sherwood District Council will retain the copyright for all works produced whilst delivering the agreed outputs during the residency.

How to apply

Please tell us why you're interested in this residency, and describe:

- how you would deliver the aims and outputs of this brief;
- your previous experience of planning and delivering participatory arts activity with both targeted community groups, children and families, and general audiences;
- your strengths, experience and interests with regard to working with particular participant groups, such as Early Years children and families, Primary school children, young people, people with SEND, people with complex needs, older people, people with care and support needs, people from diaspora communities, newly arrived or settled people;
- your artistic practice and process - how you might work with visitors and community groups;
- what new work might be made as a result of community engagement;

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- how you envisage visitors of all ages, abilities and backgrounds might enjoy participating in your activities on and off-site; and
- how you might interpret historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites in new ways.

Whether you are a new, emerging or mid-career artist, please share examples of your work, and identify if you have a specific medium you would like to develop or extend during this residency.

Whatever your discipline, we'd like to see examples that illustrate your creative practice. This might include your CV, links to websites, publications, recordings, and feedback from previous participatory projects.

As a fixed fee proposal, please tell us:

- which residency dates you can offer;
- whether you are proposing a four or five month residency;
- if you are applying as an individual or a collective; and
- a costed breakdown including:
 - the number of days you will commit to working on-site;
 - the number of offsite workshops / sessions you will deliver;
 - 8 days of onsite workshops / sessions you will deliver; and
 - expected materials and production costs to deliver all outputs.

Please include the contact details of two referees. One should be someone you have worked with in the last two years.

Format

Written proposals should be no more than 2 sides of A4.

Your proposal format can be a video file (MP4) or audio file (MP3). Video or audio content should not exceed 3 minutes.

If submitting a video or audio file, please send this via a file-sharing service such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Please express yourself in a way that feels right for you, however, this must include a clear fee proposal.

Please send your application to katy.culbard@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk



Schedule

The closing date for proposals is **12 noon Thursday 6th June 2024**. Those shortlisted will be invited to an informal interview (in person or via Teams) with the Open Doors team before final selection. Informal interviews will take place the week commencing Monday 10th June 2024.

We aim to contract the first residency to start by the end of June 2024.