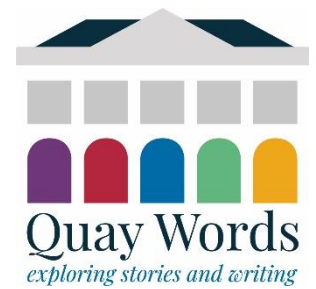


[www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk](http://www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk)

[www.literatureworks.org.uk](http://www.literatureworks.org.uk)

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 Literature Works



# Quay Words at Exeter Custom House

## Summer Season – July 2022

# 'Maritime'

## Writer-in-Residence Recruitment Pack



[www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk](http://www.exetercustomhouse.org.uk)



Exeter  
City of  
Literature

United Nations  
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Designated  
UNESCO Creative City  
in 2019



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## Summer 2022 Writer-in-Residence at Quay Words

Literature Works is delighted to announce a writer-in-residence opportunity at Exeter Custom House as part of the Quay Words ongoing live literature programme.

Exeter Custom House is a historic building on Exeter Quayside owned by the charity Exeter Canal and Quay Trust (ECQT). Quay Words is developing the building as a 'literature hub' in the context of Exeter's UNESCO City of Literature programme. ECQT has commissioned Literature Works to deliver *Quay Words* programming at Exeter Custom House over the period 2022-23.

*Quay Words* is a partnership between ECQT and Literature Works, the literature development charity for South West England. It showcases literature as an accessible and diverse art form and the literature hub concept was a central pillar of Exeter's successful bid to gain UNESCO City of Literature status in 2019.

We are seeking to appoint a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other wordsmith to be in residence for the calendar month of July 2022 for the equivalent of at least one day per week during that time. The selected writer will be engaged by Literature Works on a contractor/freelance basis as writer-in-residence for the term.

### The season theme of 'Maritime'

The theme for Quay Words Spring 2022 is 'Maritime' – taking inspiration from the setting of Exeter Quayside and the historic uses of Exeter Custom House as an important landmark in what was a trading harbour. We seek a writer-in-residence to develop work and creative responses to this theme. This could be historical fiction, or creative non-fiction that delves into the South West's maritime past and Exeter Quay's status as a historic harbour. It could be poetry or storytelling inspired by Exeter's links to the sea. Once regularly served by commercial vessels, Exeter in the present day is considered to have lost its route to the sea. We're interested in what it means to be maritime city, including a look at Exeter's links to colonialism fuelled by sea trade. Overall, we want to hear your creative ideas on how this theme could be approached.

**We will also welcome your thoughts about how you might work with us on the programming of other elements of the Quay Words Summer 2022 'Maritime' season. This opportunity for the writer-in-residence to contribute to curating the season is not an essential requirement – we are well networked and able to connect to a wide and diverse range of writers – but if it would interest you, please let us know in your submission how you would approach this aspect of the residency.**

We hope that you will draw creative enrichment from Exeter Custom House and the Quayside, as well as Exeter itself - a cathedral city with acclaimed libraries and archives and a world-ranking university. Exeter and Devon are home to authors of global renown.

### Residency terms

The writer-in-residence will be contracted to be based at Exeter Custom House for one day each week – or equivalent – for four weeks during the period from 1st to 31<sup>st</sup> July. During that time, as well as working on their own creative output, they will deliver two public-facing events or workshops of their own design, based on their time in this unique setting. These may be workshops, talks, discussions or

other creative activities: we are open to ideas. We are able to support a blended approach that works with social distancing guidelines by combining activity in situ with broadcast to digital audiences. (See note below about use of digital in adhering to latest guidance).

The writer-in-residence will have free access to the *Quay Words* Summer 2022 programme of events at the Custom House, presenting opportunities to connect with other writers and our wide range of partners.

We are looking for creative responses to the theme and seeking a writer-in-residence who can uncover and transform stories from their own perspective. Following this - and within one month from the end of their residency – we will invite the writer to create a short piece or performance which Literature Works may publish or produce. The nature of this commissioned piece is to be negotiated during the interview process. ECQT will wish to promote the completed work on its own website ([www.exeterquay.org.uk](http://www.exeterquay.org.uk))

### Residency package

We offer an inclusive fee for the Residency of £1,000 to include the delivery of the public-facing events. We will encourage our writer to find time to develop their own work at the Custom House and we invite them to spend as much time on site as they wish. We will provide a private writing space in the building for the duration of the residency.

### How to apply

Please apply in writing on no more than two sheets of A4, outlining your relevant experience, why you would like to undertake this residency and the impact it would have on your own work and development. Please summarise your availability within the given time period and your ability to meet the requirements of the commission, including travel to Exeter. Please also include a writing CV, with full details of your writing and publishing record.

**TO NOTE: The Summer 2022 residency is taking place in the building, conforming at all times to latest government guidance about social distancing and group sizes. We are able to work in a blended way, combining in person activity/events with live streaming. We continue to monitor and adhere to government and local authority guidance. Should circumstances at any point prevent activity from taking place in situ, we will work with our writer-in-residence to move activity online where possible.**

Please email your applications to: [customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk](mailto:customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk)

**Closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Candidates selected for interview will be notified on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**[www.literatureworks.org.uk](http://www.literatureworks.org.uk)**