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 Literature Works



Quay Words at Exeter Custom House

Autumn Season October/November 2022

'Heritage'

Writer-in-Residence Recruitment Pack



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Exeter
City of
Literature

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
Designated
UNESCO Creative City
in 2019



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Autumn 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 during the months of October and November 2022. You will spend at least 6 days 'in-residence' over the period, which can be spread out over a number of weeks, or compressed into a shorter period. 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 'Heritage'

Throughout the Quay Words programme we have returned on more than one occasion to the theme of Heritage, as one that reflects Quay Words' historic home at Exeter Custom House. All of our past writers-in-residence have taken some inspiration from the setting of Exeter Quayside and Exeter Custom House. We seek a writer-in-residence to develop work and creative responses to this theme. However, which elements of the city's heritage you focus on is up to you. Previous residents have taken this in different directions, turning over hidden histories, unheard voices and finding new stories. You can read their work [here](#). Exeter has a rich past: it has been a Roman fort, a medieval religious centre, a wealthy merchant city fuelled by the wool trade, and in recent history a victim of the Blitz. We're interested in hearing about the part of Exeter's heritage that excites you most and how you'll creatively respond to it. Your writing could be historical fiction, or creative non-fiction that delves into the South West's past. It could be poetry or storytelling inspired by Exeter's hidden histories. Overall, we want to hear your creative ideas on how this theme could be approached.

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 a minimum of six days during the period from 1st October to 30th November. This could be one day a week over a six-week period, or in a more compressed time frame. During that time, as well as working on their own creative output, they will deliver up to three 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, 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* Autumn 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)

Residency package

We offer an inclusive fee for the Residency of £1,500 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 Autumn 2022 residency is taking place in the building. 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: quaywords@literatureworks.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on Sunday 31st July

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on Friday 5th August

Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Wednesday 17th August

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