



Quay Words at Exeter Custom House Spring Season – March 2024

'Heritage'

Writer-in-Residence Recruitment Pack



www.quaywords.org.uk



Exeter
City of
Literature

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Spring 2024 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 as one of their cultural partners to deliver *Quay Words* programming at Exeter Custom House over the period 2023-26.

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 is a central pillar of Exeter's status as a UNESCO City of Literature status.

We are seeking to appoint a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other wordsmith to be in residence for the calendar month of March 2024 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 'Heritage'

The theme for Quay Words Spring 2024 is 'Heritage' – and for this season we're particularly interested in uncovering the hidden voices of the Quayside's heritage. The theme is open to interpretation, and we're keen to explore the different ways that words can be used to tell the stories of place. How can we use creative writing as a tool to welcome communities in and make people's voices heard – both the voices of the past and the present day?

We're also excited to announce that part of this residency will be about collaboration and exchange with an international resident who will be visiting Exeter Custom House during the week beginning 18th March. In partnership with Poetry Africa in Durban, South Africa (also a UNESCO City of Literature) poet Olive Olusegun will be in residence at Exeter Custom House, similarly exploring the season theme. Olive will be building on our existing partnership with Poetry Africa, thinking about the voices of women – and investigating the meaning of heritage to her. Olive will be participating in events and workshops, including a digital event with Durban's *Time of the Writer* Festival. Ideas for building on this collaboration during the week of Olive's visit are welcomed.

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 31st March. 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.

The writer-in-residence will have free access to the *Quay Words* Spring 2024 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 £1,000 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.

Please email your applications to: quaywords@literatureworks.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on Sunday 3rd December

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on Thursday 7th December

Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Wednesday 13th December

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