

Quay Words at Exeter Custom House Summer Season – July 2024

‘Vessels’

Writer-in-Residence Recruitment Pack



Courtesy of Kim Squirrel, Writer-in-Residence at Quay Words 2023

www.quaywords.org.uk



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City of
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Summer 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). It is our pleasure to deliver the year-round Quay Words programme of live literature 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 central to Exeter's offer as a UNESCO City of Literature status.

We have an opportunity for a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other wordsmith to be in residence for the calendar month of July 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 'Vessels'

The theme for Quay Words Summer 2024 is 'Vessels'. We're interested in multiple interpretations of the word as it relates to the Quayside's past, present and your own work. There is the maritime connection of the vessels that visited the Quayside carrying goods in the past, and the current return of watercraft in the present day due to the Quayside's new Heritage Harbour designation. There are the vessels that held the goods traded through the Custom House, from barrels, to amphora, chests, and pots. Finally, there are the inhabitants of the city, connected to the theme as vessels for the ideas and emotions of their time.

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 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.

The writer-in-residence will have free access to the *Quay Words* Summer 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 of writing or performance which Literature Works may publish or produce. The nature of this commissioned piece is to be

negotiated during the interview process. ECQT may 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 24th March

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on Thursday 28th March

Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Thursday 4th April

www.literatureworks.org.uk