

Buckinghamshire Culture

Festival of Stories – Festival Scoping Brief

Buckinghamshire Culture and Buckinghamshire Council are seeking a Festival Producer to work with us, our stakeholders and partners in Bucks, to scope and develop a framework for a Festival of Stories. Inspired by the literary heritage of the county, and nourished through the belief that everyone, and every landscape, has a story to tell, we want to explore and share stories of Buckinghamshire and its people through a multi-disciplinary creative and cultural festival. While working towards an exciting new festival for Bucks, we also want to create a programme of developmental and exploratory activity, leading to a high-quality future Festival that is unique to Bucks.

Stories are central to human existence and exist in every known culture. Storytelling involves a symbiotic exchange between teller and listener. We aim to celebrate the power of stories and storytelling as ways to escape and relax, fire imaginations, make sense of the world, see things in a new light, pass on information and traditions, share experiences, feel accepted and valued, and make new connections.

Our Festival of Stories project will enable Bucks to deliver a range of community engagement and capacity/skills development activity in advance of the actual Festival, ensuring that the county's creative and cultural sector is best placed to deliver, harness and build on this momentous event. We envisage that a range of story-themed projects and programmes will be delivered in the run up to the inaugural Festival, all building towards, and shaping the Festival itself. Upholding our important position as the Birthplace of the Paralympics, we want this work and the resulting festival to be truly inclusive, with an ethos of welcome and access. We see the work in the run up to, and the aftermath of, the Festival to be just as important as the event delivery – enabling us to build and nourish our sector and support delivery of the Buckinghamshire Cultural Strategy.

Draft festival vision:

Buckinghamshire will be known for its nationally recognised family-friendly Festival of Stories that is truly inclusive. This multi-disciplinary festival will have a county-wide presence and enable our towns and villages to celebrate locally as part of the greater whole; celebrating the stories of our places, spaces and people.

We are seeking a framework for Festival development and delivery over 3/4 years, that:

- A pre-festival programme that enables skills development and community engagement in advance of the full festival – delivering annual projects and activities that involve participants and public-facing delivery
- Results in a Festival and body of work that is grounded in Bucks and its people – celebrating our places, spaces and communities
- Outlines a delivery model for a one-off Festival of Stories, that could also evolve over 5-10 years
- Creates a multi-disciplinary creative and cultural Festival that shares stories
- Is family-friendly – incorporating the existing Children's Literary/Arts Festival Brand 'Whizzfizzfest', but which also caters to other age groups
- Delivers a tiered Festival programme with high level spectacle activity, as well as community-focused/participatory delivery and opportunities for county-wide engagement
- Enables groups that might not ordinarily engage with creative and cultural activity to help steer, build and take part in the Festival, addressing social issues and agendas as appropriate
- Creates opportunities for sector partners and groups in places across Bucks to be part of the whole by delivering activity that links to the Festival, but takes place across the county

- Offers a diverse range of people the opportunity to share their stories through creative and cultural means
- Engages with the county's specialisms and key stories – such as, film and TV, Paralympic Heritage, food and drink and stories of landscapes, towns and villages
- Creates jobs and trains workforce and volunteers, resulting in a stronger sector and supporting the economy
- Upholds the [Buckinghamshire Cultural Strategy](#) vision, values and priorities
- Through the programme of development activity leading up to the first full festival, builds momentum and audience expectation year on year
- Raises the ambition and aspiration of our cultural sector, showing what can be done
- Raises the profile of Buckinghamshire and its cultural offer

Created in consultation with our sector and stakeholders, the Festival framework should include:

- Festival scoping – to include a focused vision, aims, objectives and outcomes
- Business Plan and Delivery Plan presenting key programmes, milestones and deliverables and including recommendations for the Festival delivery model
- Budget for development and delivery of both pre-Festival development and the first full Festival
- Fundraising strategy, potentially including a multi-partner funding approach.

There is a fixed fee of £10,000 available for this piece of work. This fee is fully inclusive of taxes and expenses.

We envisage this work taking place in Spring 2023 and taking place over 3-6 months.

To express an interest in this commission, please provide a CV and covering letter outlining:

- Your experience
- Delivery outline, budget and timescales

Please send the above to Director, Helen (Helen@buckinghamshireculture.org) by: Monday 9th January 2023.

Interviews: w/c 23rd January 2023.

For an informal conversation with our Director, or one of our Co-Chairs, please contact Helen (Helen@buckinghamshireculture.org).