

PUBLIC COMMUNICATOR AND HERALD

for The Stove's 2014/2015 art programme in Dumfries

The Stove Network is looking for an interpreter, a recorder, a herald, a bridger. Above all... a communicator.

The aim of this residency commission is to research and understand the dozen or so projects in public spaces that constitute The Stove's creative programme from June 2014 to June 2015, then to interpret them for the people of Dumfries in ways that are engaging, informative and creative. We are looking for tangible physical outcomes instead of or as well as digital ones.

You should have significant experience in at least one of the following: event production, socially engaged art in public, the written word... or something we have not thought of... surprise and inspire us (and Dumfries). You will also need to convince us of your experience and ability to interpret and communicate.

The nature of the commission requires considerable time on location in Dumfries, and the successful artist will be required to attend specific project dates. Please be aware of this if intending to travel from a significant distance.

Background

The Stove Network is an emerging artist-led organisation based in Dumfries. The organisation is led by a Curatorial Team who in turn lead a diverse membership in excess of 100 people in projects that work creatively with local people in Dumfries and surrounding area to collectively build a new vision for the town.

We do this through developing participative artwork projects in public spaces, delivering workshops and training opportunities, providing a hub for creative practice in our region and working in partnership with other local organisations.

For 2014/15 we have been successful in attracting support and significant funding for an ambitious programme of work titled '**The Stove @ The Stove**'. This work combines:

1. A programme of new participative temporary public artworks in public space in Dumfries
2. Delivery of building works to our HQ in the town center of Dumfries which include integrated art commissions
3. A 'cultural economy' project to develop our organisation into a sustainable social enterprise.

This Stove @ The Stove is an opportunity to make a genuine difference to the town of Dumfries.

Public Communicator and Herald

The Stove Network projects typically evolve over a long period of time and include the participation of people from all walks of life. The people directly working on the project evolve the meaning and form of the work collectively and deeply. However, in any project there is always the moment when it is encountered by those who have not been party to its development, who ask 'what is all this about'. We are seeking someone who can become a long-term collaborator in TheStove@TheStove – someone who can take special responsibility for the way we collectively address the 'Why?' question for a new public.

The Stove Network believes strongly in socially engaged public art practice and using culture to aid the regeneration of places (particularly Dumfries). Equally we believe that culture and creativity should be accessible for all and we want to build stronger relationships with the public of Dumfries and view this Herald commission as a means to engage, inform and encourage local residents of Dumfries to participate in our work by providing clear, unpretentious and accessible reasoning behind the projects we develop and deliver.

We are seeking someone who will want to get under the skin of both the artistic process and the place in which it is created – someone who has a gift for making the complex become simple – someone with humour and empathy – someone who has a healthy disregard for art speak, but a passion for the issues that art speak tangles with.

The Public Communicator and Herald commission will support a creative communicator to work alongside The Stove Curatorial Team and other commissioned artists to develop proposals for communication projects that interpret the multiple layers of The Stove @ The Stove artistic programme.

The Stove's HQ building is currently unavailable due to renovations, so will not be available until later in the year. When open, the artist is welcome to use its facilities (not residential), but initially will be expected to work largely from home when not on location.

Potential Outcomes

Some examples of what the commission might deliver could include: newspapers, songs, performance, cartoon strips, critical writing, phone apps... or plenty we haven't thought of.

The Stove will have its own active online presence, so one requirement of the commission is to provide regular input for online updates and a permanent online legacy. Hence, although we will consider the inclusion of innovative digital approaches, the commission is not for a purely digital outcome.

Budget Detail

The communicator/artist fee includes a production budget. There is scope for the Herald commission to coordinate work with other strands of TheStove@TheStove to amplify the reach and ambition of the work – but this will be by negotiation with other project partners.

Fee

Public Communicator and Herald fee is **£6500**. This is inclusive of production and travel costs. It is also inclusive of VAT.

Timescale

July 2014 – June 2015. The artist will be required to spend a considerable time on location in Dumfries, and will be required to attend specific project dates.

Application

Stage 1 -please send the following to ailsa@thestove.org

Digital applications only. Please save ALL documents as PDF before sending.

- Letter of interest in the commission (1 side of A4)– please include how you think this opportunity is relevant to your practice and details of how you might approach the project/collaborate with The Stove artists.
- CV
- Examples of relevant past work – Format all to PDF. Weblinks may be used for video or audio files that are more than 5mb (Suggested total 6 - 10 images or files).
- Shortlisted applicants will be required to provide contacts for two referees.

Stage 2

A short listed group will be invited to Dumfries for an extended site visit and conversation with The Stove curatorial Team. Travel expenses will be paid.

Stage 3

Appointment of Public Communicator and Herald.

Timescale

Initial applications to be sent in by 6.00pm Saturday 14 June

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by 6pm Monday 23 June

Short-listed artists, site visit and interviews Wednesday 2 July

(NB in applying for the commission you are declaring yourself available to come to an interview in Dumfries on 2 July. Please let us know in your application if you cannot make this date)