

Preseil Poetry Slam – Artist’s Brief

Span Arts, a community arts organisation based in Narberth in West Wales wishes to recruit an accomplished and contemporary, bilingual **Poet** to facilitate this exciting project.

Project Outline

The project is set in the majestic Preseli Mountains of Pembrokeshire; a unique landscape comprising of wild moorland and livestock farms, small villages and hamlets. The area is rich with history, stories and myth and although it is sparsely populated there is a strong sense of local pride and identity.

The landscape of the region has provided inspiration for artists and writers including the great Welsh poet Waldo Williams. Span Arts would like to nurture a whole new generation of people to pick up their pens, polish their performances and write poems inspired by this special area.

Preseli Poetry Slam is based on the strong bardic traditions and poetry of the Preseli Mountains; the project aims to take a fresh, contemporary approach whilst acknowledging and referencing Welsh poetic form and culture. The project will consist of accessible workshops in Welsh and English aimed at different segments of the community. It will culminate in a competition for local bards and bardic-wannabes to unleash their creative writing and performance skills.

The project is part of a wider heritage project in the region called Ein Cymdogaeth Werin - Preseli Heartlands Communities, managed by PLANED and funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Great Places scheme.

The Brief

- We are looking for a highly creative poet who brings with them a depth of experience and aptitude for working in communities. They will need to be flexible, responsive and an excellent communicator. The ability to work in both English and Welsh is *essential*.
- The project will be delivered between the start of April and end of July 2019, dates to be negotiated once the artist is recruited.
- The project requires the artist to be in residence in the region for a total of 13 days. This is likely to be spread out across the project timeframe and consist of 3 separate sets of 4 days, plus 1 day for the final event.
- As part of the residency the artist will be expected to deliver 12 x 2-hour poetry writing and performance workshops for a diverse range of participants including:
 - 4 x Primary-school workshops
 - 4 x Secondary-school workshops
 - 4 x Open-community sessions
- The artist will also work with 3 isolated, elderly participants who struggle to leave their own homes delivering 3 x 1-hour sessions for each person, helping them generate their own poems.
- As part of the project the artist will be expected to create a new poem which represents the people of the Preseli Mountains which will be performed by the artist at the final event.

Charity No./Rhif Elusen: 1088723 - Company No./ Rhif Cwmni: 04150772

- The artist will be expected to work alongside a film-maker, the project team and local community to create a short film/digital recording of the new poem which can be used by Span Arts and PLANED for publicity and reporting purposes.
- Alongside the project team the artist will help craft and lead the final event/competition which will be held at the end of the project in June/July 2019.

Management

The project will be managed by the Span Arts who will:

- Identify 1:2:1 participants
- Organise schools and community groups to participate in the project
- Provide volunteer support where needed
- Provide public liability insurance for the final event
- Publicise the project
- Support the artist to deliver the project
- Provide local community accommodation for the artist if needed

Availability

The project needs to be delivered between the start of April and end of July 2019, exact dates to be confirmed with artist on recruitment

Fees

There is a total of **£2,600** for the artist inclusive of travel expenses and material costs
Plus a daily stipend of £20/day for 13 days = **£260**

Application

Please apply to rowan@span-arts.org.uk by sending your CV and a covering letter which outlines why you would like the job and any experience you have that is relevant. Please include links to previous examples of your work online. All applications should be received by **12pm on Thursday 14th March 2019**. A shortlist will be created and successful applicants will ideally need to be available for interview on Friday 22nd March.

Other Information

- Artists will need to possess (or allow Span Arts to perform) a full enhanced DBS check
- Artists will be expected to regularly report to the project manager on progress
- The artist will be expected to have their own public liability insurance up to £5,000,000.
- Fees are inclusive of travel expenses and material costs
- Access to a vehicle and full UK driving licence is desirable as the area is very remote
- Span Arts will provide local community accommodation for the artist (if needed) as part of the project

If you would like to discuss anything before applying with a member of staff the office is open Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. Email rowan@span-arts.org.uk or call 01834 869323 to discuss in more detail.