**REQUEST FOR TENDER: STORY BOOK DUMFRIES VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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| **Organisation** | Wigtown Festival Company |
| **Contacts** | Adrian Turpin: [adrian@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:adrian@wigtownbookfestival.com)  Isla Rosser-Owen: [isla@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:isla@wigtownbookfestival.com) |
| **Date of Issue** | 25 June 2021 |
| **Introduction to Story Book Dumfries** | Story Book Dumfries is an exciting new initiative that aims to establish Dumfries as Scotland’s home of children’s stories – a destination for families and a national cultural resource.    Our long-term mission is to bring tangible cultural, social and economic benefits to Dumfries through engagement with children’s literature and the status accorded to the town as the home of Scotland’s National Centre for Children’s Literature and Storytelling at Moat Brae House.  In doing this we will:  i) work with partners including cultural organisations and SMEs to shape a year-round programme of events, activities and attractions that will be marketed under an umbrella moniker, ‘Story Book Dumfries’;    ii) encourage the development of skills, knowledge and resources relating to children’s literature within Dumfries – these are the roots of the project;  iii) amplify the impact of and raise the profile of Scotland’s National Centre for Children’s Literature and Storytelling.  Story Book Dumfries offers a platform for a wide range of partners who believe in the power of children’s literature to inspire and bring tangible benefits to the community and beyond.  Story Book Dumfries will be coordinated by Wigtown Festival Company, in partnership with Moat Brae and other associate partners, as part of Spot-lit, a multinational literary tourism project funded by the EU’s Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The launch of the initiative will coincide with Scotland’s Year of Stories 2022. |
| **Objectives for Story Book Dumfries** | **Our overall project objectives are:**   * To support the National Centre for Children’s Literature and Storytelling and the visitor attraction at Moat Brae House in fulfilling its huge potential. * To connect Dumfries’s (and Dumfries & Galloway’s) rich but disparate existing literary assets and family-friendly activities, so that a promotable whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts. * To engage and enthuse local people and businesses about the power of literature (especially children’s literature) to change lives and bring tangible benefits to the area. * To create a sustainable network of supporters and cheerleaders for literary tourism in Dumfries, who can take ownership of aspects of the project after Spot-lit funding ends. * To root Dumfries’s identity as an authentic home for children’s literature by ensuring that (i) local people experience tangible benefits (educational, social, economic) and (ii) genuine expertise relating to children’s literature is encouraged and developed in Dumfries. * To place Story Book Dumfries within a wider project to position the south of Scotland as a distinct literary tourism destination. * To take full advantage of the unique opportunities offered by Scotland’s Year of Stories 2022. |
| **Visual Arts**  **Commission** | We would like to commission an artist, or group of artists, to create a town-centre work of art that gives visual expression to Dumfries as a centre for children’s literature. This will provide the visual place-making for Story Book Dumfries, with site-specific illustration that will lead people from Dumfries Station through the town.  We hope that part of this will include a temporary art installation at Dumfries Station for Scotland’s Year of Stories in 2022 (subject to permission).  The installation should be:   * Visually impactful * Children and family friendly * Literary in nature * Weather resistant if outside * Durable but non-permanent * Appropriate to the local context and the region’s literary assets, the most notable of which include Robert Burns and JM Barrie’s Peter Pan * Delivered in consultation with the local community and relevant stakeholders   Project proposals should be mindful that there is a strong visual arts tradition across the Dumfries & Galloway region, and also a strong local focus on town centre and community regeneration in Dumfries. |
| **Your Role** | **What we’re looking for:**   * You will be a self-motivated and adaptable visual artist who is able to form new connections easily and to collaborate with the different partners and stakeholders involved in this project. * You should liaise closely with Wigtown Festival Company to develop the creative concept and direction of your visual arts project. * Ideally, you should already be set up with your own studio space, or have access to one, and be able to work remotely as required. You should also be able to travel to Dumfries as required (restrictions allowing). * You should have a track record of community arts projects, visual place-making, and/or public art installations. * Knowledge of the relevant rules and regulations governing public art installations, as well as any necessary licences or insurance requirements. * Ideally, knowledge of the local area and experience of working with local creative practitioners, or a willingness to acquire it. * You will need to demonstrate sensitivity to the local community and environment in which you will be working, and to develop an installation that is appropriate within that context. * Your work should also be mindful of issues of equality, diversity and inclusion, including geographic, physical and socioeconomic barriers to access. * You should be able to work efficiently and deliver the project on time. * You should be willing to contribute to final project reporting as required, from the point of view of sharing learning and transferable knowledge. * Your work should be carried out in accordance with whatever Covid-19 guidelines are in place at the time. |
| **Budget** | The budget is a maximum of £5,000 (not including VAT).  We would expect this to cover all reasonable expenses and materials. |
| **Timescales** | We expect work on the project to commence no later than July 2021. A soft launch of the Story Book Dumfries project will take place in the late autumn of 2021. While we wouldn’t expect you to have completed by then, we would expect enough progress to allow us to include a preview as part of the soft launch. The expectation is that your project will be fully developed with installations in place ready for the start of Scotland’s Year of Stories in January 2022.  **Project timescales:**   * Issue website tender: 25 June 2021 * Closing date for tender: 9 July 2021 * Appoint artist/s: 16 July 2021 * Inception meeting: w/c 19 July 2021 * Visual arts project commencement from 26 July 2021 * Website launch / Story Book Dumfries soft launch: 30 November 2021 * Story Book Dumfries campaign launch: 15 January 2022 |
| **Tender Submissions** | Tenders are invited and should be submitted electronically by **9 July 2021** to:  Isla Rosser-Owen  Cultural Producer, Wigtown Festival Company  isla@wigtownbookfestival.com  An outline of your proposal, explaining your creative vision for the project as well as how you would go about delivering it, should be accompanied by any relevant supporting documents, e.g. your CV and examples of previous work. |
| **Award criteria and tender evaluation** | This contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders in terms of the following criteria:   * Qualifications and experience of personnel proposed; * Understanding of needs and methodology proposed; * Cost and value for money for the work proposed to the contracting authority.   The contract will be awarded after evaluation of tenders received based on the above criteria. Shortlisted applicants may also be invited to attend an interview. |