

# the stove network

Our Norwegian Story - Commission: 5 months in June – November 2016

**The Stove is seeking expressions of interest from creative practitioners for a Research-led, Residency Commission.**

**The Stove** is an artist-collective operating from a prominent three-storey town centre property in Dumfries and developing projects around the evolving identity of the town as a contemporary Scottish regional capital. [www.thestove.org](http://www.thestove.org)

**Cultural Wayfinding – Our Norwegian Story (May 2016 – March 2017)** is a community Heritage project to research and creatively showcase Dumfries' relationship to Norway, highlighting its importance within our cultural history. The overall project will consist of a series of events and relating activities that focus on engaging our community, across the demographic, to share, learn and creatively interpret this part of our story and associated cultural traditions. One outcome of the project will be the creation of a Norwegian Trail through Dumfries with an Interactive App and an online 'Living Archive', to provide a lasting legacy for future generations to access.

We are seeking a creative practitioner (or team) with experience in research interested in spending time in Dumfries to interact with our project, Cultural Wayfinding – Our Norwegian Story, over a period of five months (June – Nov). Alongside your own research into the topic you will be expected to attend and interact with each of the projects main events mentioned below.

The aim of this commission is to capture Our Norwegian Story relative to Dumfries, research and gather source material to inform the content of the 'Living Archive' and work with us to plan the route of a Norwegian Trail through the town. There is also an opportunity within this commission to explore creative work around bringing this part of our history into a current context.

Responsibilities will include work with local archivists to research places of significance and historical events, sourcing and recording oral stories and gathering archival quality images and photographs of other relevant artifacts for inclusion in the Archive. This position will require working with an IT specialist to ensure inclusion of material gathered to form the content of the 'Living Archive' and relating Web App. Liaison with Dumfries Museum may be required to arrange additions of possible donations to their current collections.

Position also includes a research trip with The Stove's project coordinator to capture the Norwegian side of Dumfries' story (expenses paid out of a separate budget).

Cultural Wayfinding – Our Norwegian Story Events include –

- **Norwegian Market** – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, to coincide with Dumfries' Guid Nychburris Day: Showcasing and learning about Norwegian culinary specialties.
- **Nordic Skill Share** – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July, learning traditional Nordic skills and boat-building techniques.
- **Rematch** - 2 days in Aug 2016: Celebration of the match of 1941 with Dumfries' WWII Norwegian exiles and local residents.
- **Norwegian Cultural Mapping** - 2 days in Sept 2016: Pinpointing places of significance within Dumfries and outlying areas.
- **Our Norwegian Story** - 3 days in Nov 2016: Storytelling, writing and composition event to share our local stories.
- **Norwegian Trail Launch** - 2 days in March 2017: Launch of our new Heritage Trail through Dumfries.

### **Areas of Expertise**

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who have a experience of creative research, a proven ability to creatively interpret research material in a way that is both accessible, innovative and challenging and can work with relevant technicians to gather source material to an archival quality. Applicants need to also have experience in interactive project work and creative expression. Experience in digital media, mapping and design are beneficial but we will consider applicants from all backgrounds.

**Budget - £5625** to cover commission fee, or fees if applying in a group. (the project has a small budget to cover additional professional fees for technical support of this commission eg translation etc)

### **Application Process**

#### **Stage 1**

Please send the following:

- Letter of interest in the commission (1 side of A4) please include how you might approach the project/collaborate with others to capture this part of our story and its relevance to our wider Heritage. 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 images or files).
- CV (Please save all word documents as pdf before sending)

#### **Stage 2**

A short listed group will be invited to Dumfries for a conversation with The Stove curatorial team and project co-ordinators. Travel expenses will be paid.

#### **Stage 3**

Appointment of research practitioner

## **Timescale**

Deadline for applications Monday 23rd May 2016

Short-listed practitioners, conversation/interview on Wednesday 1st of June 2016

***(NB in applying for the commission you are declaring yourself available to come to an interview in Dumfries on June***

***1st please let us know in your application if you cannot make this date)***

Research Commission start 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016

All material for Archive and Heritage Trail Map completed by the end of November. It will be hoped you can attend the Launch Event for this mid March 2017. **Send initial applications to: [katharine@thestove.org](mailto:katharine@thestove.org)**



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
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