



Revoluton Arts – Undercurrent Brief for local creative/heritage practitioners

We are commissioning two local creative/heritage practitioners (one in Luton and one in London) to bring to life oral histories connected with the River Lea in new and innovative ways.

About Us

Revoluton Arts is a Luton-based arts organisation. We work with artists and communities across a range of art forms and disciplines to produce creative work that promotes positive futures for people and place. We provide support, resource and mentoring to artists and emerging creative practitioners and facilitate pathways for people to engage with creativity, as professional practitioners, participants, and as audience members.

Our creative programme is co-created with communities, deeply rooted in Luton and encapsulates the town's activism, warmth and generosity. Since 2015 our programme has attracted over 180,000 audiences/participants in a range of activities, including large-scale outdoor events, Revoluton Associates commissions for local creatives, residency programme in three areas of Luton, a young peoples' programme and support for local creatives to realise their own events and projects.

Find out more at www.revolutonarts.com

About Undercurrent

The Lea Marsh Heritage Zone is one of several significant locations leading heritage-inspired place activation across Luton. Glenn Jenkins (Marsh Farm Outreach) and Lindsey Pugh (Revoluton Arts) have been appointed co-leads for Lea Marsh Heritage Zone, a hugely significant heritage site for Luton. From neolithic beginnings to 'Blockers' Seaside', punk gigs to rave collectives - the cultural significance of this location cannot be denied.

Marsh Farm Outreach and Revoluton Arts are based at Leagrave's Marsh House, positioned at the source of the River Lea and the neighbouring suspected neolithic henge, Waulud's Bank. United by their respective histories as party people, Jenkins and Pugh became motivated to document and interpret the related past of this significant location and its historic gatherings of people - from the myths and legends of prehistory to punk parties in the location's Nissen hut.

This sparked the ambition for a project to honour Luton's heritage of activism and music sub-cultures and to connect working-class stories along the River Lea - from its source in Leagrave, journeying through Hertfordshire and Enfield, past the Olympic Park in Newham to where it meets the River Thames at the Royal Docks.



During the research phase, we will be undertaking a range of activities to discover and document histories associated to both the river and the themes of activism, working class narratives and histories of sub-cultures and alternative communities. This will be achieved through a combination of desk research, individual conversations and public events to both collect and share oral histories. A steering group will be convened to help steer the project and assist with identification of histories, making new connections and explore future developments of the work.

The brief

The aim of this brief is to pilot new ways of bringing oral histories to life for a live audience, working with the research conducted by a research historian and the wider Undercurrent team to present stories in an engaging, relevant and accessible way.

The creative/heritage practitioners will be contracted to provide the following services:

- Create an engaging and innovative experience that accurately conveys the collected oral histories
- Work with the CEO/Creative Director and Research Historian to identify specific themes, stories and location for the work, inspired by the collected oral histories
- Work with the Community Producer to ensure that events are organised to a high standard and in line with relevant legislation and guidance
- Provide copy and images for use in promotion of the work, within Revoluton Arts marketing guidelines
- Attend relevant events, including a Creative Assembly, to discover more about the project and engage with potential participants/audiences
- Work with the Digital Producer to document the work through film and/or photography
- Contribute to the project evaluation through attendance at a feedback meeting

We expect delivery of the following:

- Initial ideas and plan for creation of the work submitted for approval by 20 April 2024
- Rehearsal of the work in w/c 20 May 2024
- Public sharing of the work in w/c 27 May 2024
- The experience of the work should be at least 20 minutes in length and be available for an audience of at least 10 people

The audiences for this work will be both individuals with connections to the river, including their own oral histories, and wider residents of the area who might be motivated to attend the sharing event. The activities should be accessible, attractive and enjoyable for all, especially those who may not normally engage with heritage activities.



The creative/heritage practitioner will be expected to use the methodology, systems, processes and policies adopted by Revoluton Arts, including:

- Relevant best practice in the collection and documentation of oral histories
- Revoluton Arts' Safeguarding Code of Conduct
- Project planning procedures, as necessary
- Marketing & communications processes, as necessary
- Evaluation framework and processes for data capture
- Equal Opportunities Policy and associated Equality Action Plan
- Other policies including Health & Safety, Data Protection, Safeguarding, Volunteering and Social Media

Contract Terms

We expect the creative/heritage practitioners commissioned to begin on 08 April 2024 and be completed by 30 June 2024. The contract will be managed by Maria Shury-Smith, maria@revolutonarts.com

The anticipated budget is £1,000 to include all expenses, materials and VAT (if applicable). The contract will be led by Revoluton Arts. Payment will be made 50% upon signing of contract and 50% upon completion of the work.

The Service Provider must provide an invoice addressed to **Revoluton Arts CIC**. Payments may take up to 30 days to process upon receipt of a satisfactory invoice submitted following completion of payment terms above. Invoices must include your bank details and be submitted to Maria Shury-Smith, maria@revolutonarts.com

Under the terms of this contract, the Service Provider is responsible for managing their own tax and financial liabilities (including national insurance contributions), being classed as either self-employed, as a limited company or as a registered charity.

The Service Provider will be engaged on a non-exclusive basis.

To Apply

Please submit:

- A CV and/or online portfolio
- A statement explaining your ideas for the commission
- A budget outlining how you would deliver the commission within £1,000

Within your statement, you should include:

- Which one of the commissions you wish to apply for (Luton or London)



- The approaches you'd take to create the work, including how you would work with the material in the digital archive and any further primary research you would undertake
- Details of any specific interests you have regarding the histories being explored through Undercurrent
- Your relevant experience, working collaboratively with heritage experts, artists, the community, and local partners
- Your links with the community and how you will build on this

Revoluton Arts will accept the following formats for the statement: Written statement that is no more than 2 sides of A4; Video submission that is no longer than 5 minutes; Audio submission as an MP3 or WAV file, that is no longer than 5 minutes. Please clearly label your files with your name.

Please send your submission to: info@revolutonarts.com

Deadline: 25 March 2024

Please note that successful candidates must have a valid DBS and Public Liability Insurance or be willing to obtain them in advance of commission delivery.

For more information contact Maria Shury-Smith, maria@revolutonarts.com