



**Imagine**

## **Imagine Celebrates Freelance Writing/Poetry Commission Starting May/June 2019**

City Arts is looking for an experienced writer and/or poet to lead a series of workshops with people 55+ in Nottingham, exploring the literature of Alan Sillitoe. He is best known for his debut novel *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and his early short story *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*, both of which were adapted into films.

You will run a series of workshops with older people in a range of community settings (up to 4-5 different groups) engaging around 8- 12 people. The workshops will lead to the creation of a body of work that results in one or more creative outcome, co-produced with the participants. This could be a series of short films, recorded poetry, a showcase or a performance that collectively celebrate participants' achievements. The final body of work should exist as a legacy beyond the life of the project.

City Arts has produced a series of films based on Nottingham writer Alan Sillitoe. These films feature interviews with Henry Normal, Alan Sillitoe's son David Sillitoe, James Walker and people in Nottingham that worked at the Raleigh Factory (which is no longer in existence). You will be use these films as inspiration in the workshops. The films provide an introduction to, and overview of, Alan Sillitoe and some of the themes that feature in his writing about Nottingham and working class life. They feature strong characters and storylines.

We are working in partnership with UNESCO Nottingham City of Literature and Nottingham City Council's Library Service. The archive at the library may be able to support us with historical and archive packs that feature old photographs from the 50's, 60's and 70's, showing what it was like to grow up in Nottingham at these times, and containing information about the Raleigh Factory.

There is also scope to have conversations with Nottingham City of Literature about where the legacy of this project can be housed online. Nottingham City Homes are also marking the Centenary of Social Housing 2019. We will be working in partnership to host an exhibition in October 2019 that will bring together and showcase outcomes of the Words of Wisdom project based on the body of work

produced during this commission.

## **Background to project**

Building on the success of our *Imagine – Arts and Older People* programme, City Arts and its partners are developing two projects in Nottingham with people aged 55+.

**Words of Wisdom** will explore literature and poetry and **Classical Fusion** will focus on artforms such as music, dance and digital arts to produce a performance piece.

These will be commissioned, inclusive projects engaging older people and those living with dementia. They will offer opportunities to devise and create art that is relevant to individual's lifestyles, and their current and past experiences.

The lead organisation is City Arts and partners include *Nottingham City Council, Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, UNESCO Nottingham City of Literature* and *Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall*. Partners who work with and support older people in the community will also be involved.

This programme of work is funded by *Arts Council England* and the *Baring Foundation*, with additional funding for **Words of Wisdom** from *Nottingham City Homes*.

## **Person Specification**

The successful candidate will have:

- Experience of facilitating creative workshops in the community using a model of co-production
- A track record of producing high quality creative outcomes with participants
- A positive and sensitive approach to working with participants
- Confidence in engaging with, and conveying themes relating to, Alan Sillitoe's literary works
- Flexibility in their creative approach and willingness to align the style, delivery and themes in response to the participant's needs
- Experience of working creativity with people aged 55+
- An inclusive approach and willingness to use different styles and methods of engagement with both people that are already involved in the arts and newcomers

## Payment & Expenses

A fee of up to £2,000 is available for this commission. This is expected to cover 20 x 2 hr sessions at a rate of £100 per session, inclusive of materials, travel costs and VAT (all travel will be within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, to up to 5 different venues).

## How to apply

To apply, please provide

- Your CV.
- A creative proposal of no more than 2 A4 pages responding to the requirements and outcomes described in this brief. This should include your approach, ideas and the outcomes of the workshops.
- A cover letter outlining your interest and reasons for applying and any links to online information demonstrating your track record.
- An Equal Opportunities and Diversity Form.
- Contact details for two referees.

For more information on City Arts visit [www.city-arts.org.uk](http://www.city-arts.org.uk) and information about the Imagine – Arts and Older People programme visit [www.imaginearts.org.uk](http://www.imaginearts.org.uk)

Please email your application to [kate@city-arts.org.uk](mailto:kate@city-arts.org.uk)

**DEADLINE:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

