

Quay Words 2020-22 at Exeter Custom House

Call out for Summer 2021 Writer-in-Residence



*Exeter Custom Custom photos: Juliette Mills
Tjawangwa Dema photo top, second from right: Petra Rollinec
Patrick Gale photo bottom left: Markus Bidaux
Louisa Adjoa Parker photo, centre right: Robert Golden
Johann Thorsson photo, centre left: Heida Helgadottir

Quay Words Summer 2021 Writer-in-Residence at Exeter Custom House Information Pack

Literature Works is delighted to announce the Summer 2021 Writer-in-Residence opportunity at Exeter Custom House, a historic building owned by the Exeter Canal and Quay Trust (ECQT) on Exeter Quay. ECQT is developing the concept of Exeter Custom House as a 'literature hub' in the context of Exeter's UNESCO City of Literature programme. Following its successful bid to Arts Council England National Lottery Projects, ECQT has commissioned Literature Works to deliver two years of *Quay Words* programming at Exeter Custom House over the period 2020-22.

Quay Words 2020-22 is a partnership between ECQT and Literature Works, the literature development charity for South West England. *Quay Words 2020-22* showcases literature as an accessible and diverse art form and this literature hub concept was a central pillar of Exeter's successful bid to gain UNESCO City of Literature status in 2019.

We are seeking to appoint a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other wordsmith to be in residence at the Custom House for the equivalent of at least one day per week during a the one-month season of the *Quay Words* Summer programme from 1st- 31st July 2021. The selected writer will be engaged by Literature Works on a contractor/freelance basis as *Quay Words* Writer-in-Residence for the term.

The Theme of Nature

The theme of the Summer 2021 season of *Quay Words* is Nature. This theme, amongst others, emerged from extensive consultation with partners, participants and audiences during the pilot phases of *Quay Words*. Nature can cover all forms of writing from socially engaged environmental writing to nature poetry and the flourishing area of creative non-fiction writing. We are interested in hearing your ideas about how to make the most of the Exeter Custom House's location beside the Quay and River Exe, with the potential of leading events and workshops both inside and outside.

We are keen to encourage the Writer-in-Residence to reflect on and draw inspiration from the heritage significance of Exeter Custom House and the Quay area. Exeter has a history dating back 2,000 years; it is a cathedral city with acclaimed libraries and archives and a world-ranking university. Exeter and Devon are home to authors of global renown. Exeter Quay was once a centre of international trade, exporting and importing goods worldwide from the quayside. We seek to appoint a Writer-in-Residence who will be inspired to explore, connect and create within this setting.

Residency terms

The Writer-in-Residence will be contracted to be based at the Custom House for one day each week – or equivalent - during the period of the *Quay Words* Summer 2021 season, which runs throughout the month of July. They will also deliver two public-facing events or workshops of their own design, based on their time in this unique setting. These may be workshops, talks, discussions or other creative activities: we are open to ideas. We will support the writer with plans for using the space,

and operations, including bearing in mind any of the latest guidance about managing the risks of Covid-19.

The Writer-in-Residence will have free access to the *Quay Words* Summer 2021 programme of events at the Custom House, presenting opportunities to connect with other writers and our wide range of partners.

We are looking for creative responses to Nature at the Custom House setting and seeking a Writer-in-Residence who can uncover and transform stories from their own perspective. Following this - and within one month from the end of their Residency – we will invite the writer to create a short piece or performance inspired by their residency which Literature Works may publish or produce. The nature of this commissioned piece is to be negotiated during the interview process. ECQT will wish to promote the completed work on its own website (www.exeterquay.org.uk)

Residency package

We offer an inclusive fee for the Residency of £1,000 to include the delivery of two public-facing events.

We will encourage our writer to find time to develop their own work at the Custom House and we invite them to spend as much time on site as they wish. We will provide a private writing space in the building for the duration of the residency.

How to apply

Please apply in writing on no more than two sheets of A4, outlining your relevant experience, why you would like to undertake this residency and the impact it would have on your own work and development. Please summarise your availability within the given time period and your ability to meet the requirements of the commission, including your willingness to travel to Exeter. Please also include a writing CV, with full details of your writing and publishing record.

Please email your applications to: customhouse@literatureworks.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is: midnight on Sunday 18th April

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on or before Thursday 22nd April

Interviews will take place at Exeter Custom House on Thursday 29th April

www.literatureworks.org.uk