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**LGBTQ+ Villiers Portrait Project**

**Brief for a creative practitioner**

**Commissioning Organisation:** Leicestershire County Council

**Team:** Culture Leicestershire, Cultural Participation Team

**Location:** Melton Carnegie Museum

We are seeking a Creative Practitioner who can design and deliver a flexible approach to engage audiences and facilitate a creative response to themes that our George Villiers' portrait evokes. This work will be displayed in Melton Museum and online, sharing community voices alongside the professionally curated exhibition.

We are keen to hear from people who have lived LGBTQ+ experiences and/or are committed to strengthening their allyship with the LGBTQ+ community.

**Culture Leicestershire** isthe County Council’s Library, Heritage, Collections, Learning and Participation Services. Our vision is to create space to spark imagination, celebrate communities and enhance wellbeing.

**#LetsCreate**: we are pleased to have received National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and funding from Arts Council England (ACE)

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

**Community Curators in Market Town Museums (CCIMTM) projects**

These projects in our three market town museums have the following aims:

* Enable people to explore and shape their local, national, and international connections both now and from the past.
* Offer participants exciting, meaningful engagement opportunities to get involved in co-creating cultural activities in ways that work for them.
* Support and empower people to decide how culture is interpreted, shared, and enjoyed.
* Enhance individual well-being and collective community resilience.
* Increase participation and widen the diversity of our museum audience.

**Background to the Villiers Project**

Culture Leicestershire has been working with an LGBTQ+ specialist consultant to look at potential approaches to our first dedicated consideration of queer narratives in Leicestershire’s Museum Collections. During this exploration process, a portrait of George Villiers (1592-1628), 1st Duke of Buckingham was highlighted as an example of holding space for queerness within our collections. Famous within his own lifetime and beyond, Villiers was subject to intense speculation as to the nature of his relationship with King James I/VI. Significant studies and historical evidence detail an intense closeness that we might describe as queer today.

Inspired by this portrait, the exhibition ‘Villiers Revealed’ was developed and opened at Melton Carnegie Museum in October 2024.

**The aim of this creative project**

We aim to enhance the meaning and impact of this exhibition through a co-created community portrait project exploring themes of power, wealth, race, class, identity and self-expression. The Villiers Project LGBTQ+ working group suggested the following narratives that could be explored:

* Giving the community respect – honouring people
* Exploring intersectionality
* Working with people who are ethnically and culturally diverse, and who experience racism in our society
* Different age perspective narratives (Young people and LGBTQ+ elders)
* Changes over time – What LGBTQ+ people have experienced over time
* Queer-erasure – lift this up
* Fashion in different eras
* Fashion that explores gender binary
* Exploring identity through costume

We recognise that visiting one of our physical spaces may not be perceived as safe or possible for some people, so the programme will have a digital focus. It is hoped that some of the digital artwork will be developed into physical artwork and displayed in the museum.

**The Role of the Creative Practitioner**

We are excited to be seeking a Creative Practitioner (CP) to work in partnership with Culture Leicestershire and Melton Carnegie Museum to co-design a creative portraits project and lead the co-curation and delivery with members of the community.

The role and remit of the successful CP will include:

* Create a safe, brave space where people feel comfortable about the environment and their own identity.
* Develop a model of delivery for working creatively, based on the project themes and portraiture.
* Develop and lead on a local/digital/postal offer of engagement.
* Deliver one-to-one or small group engagement that encourages dialogue, and personal connections and fosters a feeling of belonging to the wider community.
* Generate a creative collaborative response to the Villiers exhibition which can be displayed in the museum and accessed digitally through the Culture Leicestershire website.
* Collect associated material that communicates the stories of the participants linked to the portraits they create.
* Work closely with Melton Carnegie Museum staff and volunteers and LCC Participation Teams.
* Assist with evaluation and promotion.

**Skills and Experience needed**

* Experience of working with LGBTQ+ people and understanding the challenges faced by the community.
* Experience in working within the culture and/or heritage sector.
* Experience in leading and delivering community projects or workshops online.
* Understanding of co-creation including being led by ideas that are generated by participants and finding a way of turning their ideas into reality.
* Skills to deliver creative, informal engagement and learning.
* Skills to deliver the creative output.

We are keen to work with individuals or organisations that may traditionally face barriers, so if you cannot meet all the requirements due to your lived experience but can demonstrate the potential to deliver with support this will be considered.

**Timescales**

* Workshops should begin in January 2025 and run through February 2025.
* The physical creative output must be ready to be showcased by 24th March 2025.

**Budget**

The fee available is **£5000**. This should cover your time including all planning, delivery, and time spent on evaluation. You may submit a joint application if you wish to collaborate with someone who can bring other skills to help fulfil the vision. Additional funding of up to **£750** is available for printing portraits for the physical exhibition.

**To apply**

Please apply using this form: [Creative Practitioner Application Form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=S2vPH8khwkC3U6KdVwFzWb4ELXKXH1hEoLd4_Fv9dOtUQ1ZOVkNRWFg0M0U4V0tONklTT09UWjRUQy4u&origin=lprLink&route=shorturl)  Within the form you will be asked to submit a breakdown of costs and demonstrate how the budget will be spent. For example:

* **Time** – this could be a price per participatory session/digital portrait including preparation time, delivery of the session, and cost of making and installing the outcome.
* **Materials** – this should be broken down into costs for participation materials as well as any additional materials to create and install the outcome.
* **Additional costs** – these may include your transportation, administration, and technical services e.g., printing.

Alternatively, you can provide the relevant information via a video or audio submission.

**Deadlines**

Closing date is **17th December 2024**

**Terms and Conditions**

* To abide by Leicestershire County Council’s data protection and GDPR.
* Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies, and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community. All provision is expected to be following this principle.
* As a consultant you agree to grant a full copyright license to Leicestershire County Council to use any final artwork in any manner, they deem appropriate.
* Undertake any evaluation as required by Culture Leicestershire.
* All final decisions and approvals will be from Leicestershire County Council.
* A contract based on this brief will be agreed with the practitioner on appointment.
* Two payments will be made. The first is on appointment and the final payment on completion.

**Top Tips!**

We are looking for a clear and concise submission that answers the following questions:

* What is your activity proposal?
* How does it meet the aims of the project?
* How does your proposal fulfil the Creative Practitioner requirements?
* What skills and experience do you have that shows us you can deliver a successful project?

**Contact**

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you and discuss any aspect of the project, the approaches and the options.

**Esther Shaw**: email: esther.shaw@leics.gov.uk phone: 07881833496

To find out more information about the Villiers Project you can visit: <https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/george-villiers/>

<https://leicestershirecollections.org.uk/villiers-revealed-darling-of-the-stuart-court-home>

If you are not successful in securing this opportunity but would like to be considered for future projects, please indicate that you are happy for your submission and information to be held for future use on our contact list of Creative Practitioners.

Thank you for your time and interest. In the meantime, please look at our projects [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/our-projects/](http://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/our-projects/) and film pages for inspiration and context.

[www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/films/](http://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/films/)