

ARTSPEAK STREET POEM FOR BEECHDALE

ARTIST BRIEF TO CREATE A COMMUNITY STREET POEM IN BEECHDALE

ArtSpeak is an outreach programme and arts strand of Radford Care Group made possible by Big Lottery Funding. Our aim is to reduce social isolation and loneliness by providing opportunities for older people to engage in a varied arts programme. Our audience is people aged 60 and above living in the Nottingham/Nottinghamshire area. We have worked in a variety of venues across the City as well as delivering some activities online.

As part of our programme, we will be working alongside the One Step at a Time project (facilitated by Age UK Notts in Beechdale) and supporting Evolve's 'Thinking of You' project in which they have been having weekly doorstep visits with residents, chatting to check all is well and leaving them with things to do during the following week. This has happened throughout lockdown and helped those involved feel more socially connected at a time when some were fearful of leaving their homes.

The group recruited local people as volunteers who then regularly visited the neighbourhood and this has resulted in many isolated people being supported and friendships being established, a real win, win outcome. Many of the people had developed mobility issues either prior or during lockdown and coming out of the house has been problematic in many ways. However, the volunteers have been on hand to help and there is hope for a gathering where most of the people involved in the project will meet other participants for the first time, some leaving their homes for the first time.

The project's culmination will take place outdoors, weather dependant as well as in the local community Centre. Full details of the outcome have not yet been finalised and will be in line with current Government guidelines.

As part of this celebration, ArtSpeak will be working to generate a Street Poem that will reflect the lives and experiences of as many people as possible who have been part of this project. The poem will form part of the celebration gathering so it needs to be in a format that can be shared, physically and digitally.

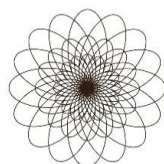
The Poem:

We are looking for a poet/wordsmith/creative writer to join us to weave together a poem from the words of this community. You will be required to meet and discuss people's experiences in Beechdale, including participants, volunteers and Project Co-Ordinators.

The finished work should stand alone as a creative piece and have elements included that reflect the words of individuals, for them to recognise themselves but not be named.

The timescales will be defined for the period to gather information throughout June.

The time to deliver the Street Poem will be confirmed and will be after 21 June when all current COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.



ARTSPEAK
Art, Activities & Friendship
FOR NOTTINGHAM'S 60+



Artist Fee:

The fee for this work is £700

This fee will include all research and the creative process to deliver the finished piece as part of the gathering.

ArtSpeak will also share the poem digitally and have it printed.

About the Artist:

You will be an experienced poet/wordsmith or creative writer

Our ideal candidate will be friendly, approachable, and able to deal with lonely and isolated people in a sympathetic way by encouraging them to talk to you about their experiences, which you will then use to create your work.

You will therefore need to join the team on some of their door knocking visits to meet some of the residents to engage them in a conversation and gather material for the poem. It may be worthwhile producing a handout for the residents to complete or use as stimulus which can be followed up on at the next visit to increase their level of engagement. This could be in the form of a prompt card, activity sheet etc.

Please note you will need to abide by COVID-19 restrictions which will include wearing a mask, social distancing and using hand sanitiser.

Application Process:

If you would like to apply for the position to create our Street Poem, please submit a 1 – 2-page document outlining how you would approach this work. Please also include:

- How you envisage the Poem being formulated
- How you will record and deliver it.
- How you will ensure you will engage sensitively with participants

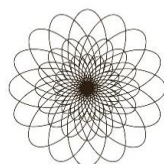
Please also submit a CV and relevant examples of work you have carried out that you feel demonstrates your ability to do this work.

The deadline for submission for this brief is **Friday 28 May by 12 noon**

Please mail it to us putting 'Street Poem' in the subject box. Send to artspeak@radfordcaregroup.org.uk

If you would like to discuss your idea prior to sending a proposal, please contact:

Sharon or Hannah at artspeak@radfordcaregroup.org.uk



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