

Creative Brief – ‘Speak Out, Women of Devizes!’

Project background

‘Speak Out, Women of Devizes!’ is a community project that has been funded by the Women’s Vote Centenary Grant Scheme, run by the Government Equalities Department. Inspired by Devizes women who helped secure the vote in 1918, Wiltshire Museum wants to celebrate and amplify the centenary in Devizes; benefit the lives of women whose voices are still not easily heard and build a legacy of historic information and ephemera as an archive for future generations.

We will research the history of the female suffrage campaign in Devizes and appeal for more artefacts, images and ephemera to help build an information archive and hold an open day. This is a silent area of history in our locality. We have recently learned that Women’s Social and Political Union leading light, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, attended boarding school in the town and was labelled a rebellious and troublesome pupil!

We will work with three or four groups of women of different ages and backgrounds and an artist facilitator who will create vibrant banners to parade in the Devizes Carnival on 1 September 2018. These will celebrate 1918 and women who made an impact in the UK from 1918 -2018 and encourage participants to voice concerns about individual concerns and the issues still affecting women today (eg #MeToo).

The banners will be proudly and loudly shown off by a “Votes for Women” group in the popular Devizes Town Carnival, in modern and period costume. Individual banners will then ‘pop up’ in community venues in Devizes along with information from the stories we have discovered or about the women who campaigned.

We want to prompt discussion: make people think about what we owe these brave women who spoke out against a barrage of hostility and mockery, especially in our quiet rural market town.

Artist Brief and outcomes

We want to hire a textile- artist facilitator to work with women from selected local community groups, which might include vulnerable adults, to create twelve banners to be carried in this year’s Devizes Carnival.

The artist-facilitator will be expected to:

- Gain an understanding of the female suffrage campaign in Devizes from conversations with museum staff and volunteers.
- Create an exciting, and flexible, design plan that is inspired by the banners carried by suffragists and suffragettes from the early 20th century but which also reflects a fun and funky 21st century carnival mood.

- Facilitate two days of workshops at Wiltshire Museum with local community groups. Dates to be confirmed. Workshops could be half days – to be confirmed.
- Inspire workshop participants to want to fully engage with the creation of the banners. Banners should reflect participants own ideas and designs.
- Be able to work with museum staff to encourage conversation about women's rights and experiences in the past and the present. To be able to listen sympathetically.
- Be aware of the need for safeguarding and adhere to the museum's safeguarding policy.
- Work with museum learning volunteers, if needed, to assist with the workshops.
- Adhere to the project budget and present itemised receipts for all purchases.
- Allow the Museum to use images of the work in progress and on completion on social media.

Outcomes

Twelve banners or flags which can be carried easily in a parade. The flags must be weather resistant.

Timescale

Grant Awarded – February 2018

Artist appointed – by 9 April 2018

Planning – April and first half of May 2018

Workshops – Late May and June 2018, dates TBC

Devizes Carnival – 1st September 2018

Budget for Artist facilitator

3 delivery days - £750

2 planning days - £300

Materials - £250

Total : £1300

Applications

Up to 1 A4 page outlining planned approach and initial ideas for this opportunity

Up to one 1 A4 page summarising relevant community work experience

CV

Artists should include up to 10 images with the submission, either in hard copy or as low resolution digital files in jpeg format. Artists should be prepared to have a DBS check (or have an official portable certificate)

Artists should have public liability insurance

Selection Process

An open call will be distributed through relevant networks and arts organisations.

A shortlist of artists will be compiled based on the appropriateness and quality of previous work

Shortlisted artists will be required to attend an interview at Wiltshire Museum on Tuesday 10 April.

Deadline for submission – 9am on Monday 26th March.

Submissions should be sent to Rachael Holtom, Development Officer (rachael.holtom@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk) or hardcopy to Wiltshire Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NS

Background to the Wiltshire Museum

The Wiltshire Museum has been located in the historic market town of Devizes since 1874 and contains the largest collection of Early Bronze Age gold ever put on public display in England. Award-winning displays transform public understanding of the era and feature 500 Stonehenge period objects, including 30 pieces of gold treasure, together with archaeology, art, natural history, local history, and an Archive and Library which is open to the public.

The Museum is housed in Georgian and Victorian buildings – all Grade II listed - in a residential area of similar buildings. The Museum is open throughout the year for visitors and researchers and in addition to the permanent galleries offers a variety of events, lectures and special exhibitions for all ages.