

 YOU ARE INVITED 

REPRESENT

Exploring the impact of gaining the vote
on the lives of Birmingham's people

Brief for Artist(s) for 'Represent' at Edgbaston Community Centre

The People's Heritage Co-operative and the Monday Coffee Morning Group at Edgbaston Community Centre seek an Artist(s) to support their community heritage project, 'Represent'.

Could you support our group to creatively 're-present' stories from 100 years ago for new audiences? We have been exploring the impact of gaining the vote and the push for political change following World War One. We want an Artist(s) to help us to create a piece which will form part of a touring, pop-up exhibition around community venues in early 2020.

Fee: A fixed fee of £1,500 (an estimated 6 days of work at £250 per day)

Materials, equipment and expenses: Up to £1,000 available

Responsible to: Rachel Gillies – 'Represent' Project Manager

Who are we?

The Monday Coffee Morning Group meets weekly at Edgbaston Community Centre for activities, conversation and refreshments. We live either side of Islington Row Middleway – some of us have always lived here, others come from as far away as the Caribbean. We are confident, articulate elders who enjoy sharing our views and speaking our minds! We value being treated with respect and enjoy opportunities to meet new people.



We have previously worked with a number of Artists including a Sound Artist, Storytellers and Textile Artists.

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Why do we want to make Art?

We feel that we have important things to say. We want to let others, particularly younger people, know about the history of our area. Issues around democracy and housing impact on our own lives, so it is important that we share our ideas and experiences with others.

We are excited to work alongside an Artist because we want to present our ideas creatively. We enjoy learning from others, getting involved in new things and being exposed to new experiences.

What we would like to do

We will create a piece which supports the interpretation of the heritage and develops our audience's understanding of the heritage. We have been considering different art forms and approaches and we are interested in:

- Mixed media work using a range of skills and techniques
- Using textiles – possibly creating a banner
- Incorporating images or text from Archives into our work
- Using Screenprinting – inspired in part by campaign literature from 100 years ago
- Tactile work – we would particularly like to play with clay

Some of us are unable to do activities which require a lot of dexterity and movement. We learn best when we are shown what to do by example. You will help us to realise our ideas through a participatory approach – listening to us, supporting us in a hands-on way and ensuring that no-one feels 'left behind'.

Sessions will take place on Monday mornings in November and December at Edgbaston Community Centre. We meet in a large hall with an adjoining kitchen.

About you

You will be an experienced community artist or arts organisation with a commitment to a participatory practice. You will be able to share and communicate your ideas to project participants and staff, manage your allocated budget and report on your work. You will liaise closely with project staff, including the Project Manager and Designer to integrate the finished work into the final exhibition. We particularly welcome applications from women and people of colour.



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Schedule and expectations

- **28th October** – Appointment of Artist(s). All applicants will be notified of the outcome.
- **Early November:** Visit to Archives with Project staff, meeting with Community Groups and refining project plan.
- **November – December 2019:** Workshops will take place with the group on Monday mornings, 10am - 12noon.
- **January – February 2020:** Incorporating the finished piece into the touring pop-up exhibition. Final reporting for Project Evaluation and Case Study.

About 'Represent'

'Represent' is a community heritage project exploring the impact of WW1 and gaining the vote on the lives of Birmingham's people. Our project focuses both on women's historic role as active citizens and historic housing campaigns.

The People's Heritage Co-operative was awarded a £36,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund grant in December 2018. We are currently working with two community organisations, Saheli Hub and Edgbaston Community Centre, to explore and interpret archival research. The project will culminate in a touring pop-up exhibition in early 2020.

The project is managed by a Project Manager, supported by a project Advisory Group and regular meetings of the People's Heritage Co-operative. It is funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by The Active Wellbeing Society and Birmingham Archives and Collections.

www.representpeople.co.uk

About The People's Heritage Co-operative

The People's Heritage Co-operative are a group of heritage professionals with a strong track record of delivering and supporting engaging and educational community heritage projects, including 'Untold Stories: Birmingham's Wounded Soldiers from WW1' and 'Field of Remembrance' with pupils at Paganel Primary School. We aim:

- To promote and raise awareness of people's heritage
- To contribute to community cohesion and increase understanding of our diverse heritage



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- To support our members to more effectively work with people to share our culture and heritage
- To develop a network of supportive members, developing their practice by promoting collaborative work, increasing participation in exploring and interpreting Birmingham's heritage through an open membership policy

<http://www.peoplesheritagecoop.uk/>

About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

To apply

To apply for this role please send three examples of your work (text, images, audio or film all welcome via e-mail, file transfer or weblinks) and a short statement outlining your suitability for the role and your initial ideas from the brief to Rachel@peoplesheritagecoop.uk by **5pm on Friday 18th October**.

For any questions or enquiries can be directed to Project Manager, Rachel Gillies at Rachel@peoplesheritagecoop.uk / 07967 093 256.

