

Artist Residencies x 2

May 2025 - Oct 2025 and Oct 2025 - Mar 2026

We're looking for two early-mid career community-focused artists, creatives or collectives to take up a residency based in a public studio space at National Civil War Centre and Newark Museum, in Newark.

You'll work with community groups at locations across the district of Newark Sherwood, as well as interact with visitors in the studio.

As an arts educator or participatory arts practitioner, you'll work with people to co-create artworks that respond to and are inspired by our historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites.

If your practice is accessible, inclusive, environmentally responsive, you care about communities and want to be part of a thriving artistic and cultural movement in the East Midlands, we want to hear from you!

Who we are - Open Doors

Open Doors is an arts programme of free creative activities to inspire everyone across the district of Newark and Sherwood and beyond, between 2023 and 2026.

We receive National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England and are based at the National Civil War Centre and Palace Theatre. Open Doors sits within Newark and Sherwood District Council's Heritage and Culture offer.

Through Open Doors, we're learning about the needs and interests of our communities and increasing creative opportunities for young people and under-served groups. We're a focal point for culture across Newark and Sherwood, and we believe in the transformative power of culture to enhance lives.

We develop opportunities for increased social and cultural value in our area, and these residencies help us carry out Arts Council England's 10-year strategy - Let's Create. Find out more at: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/strategy-2020-2030>

Our sites and collections

The National Civil War Centre is an accredited museum which tells the story of the British Civil Wars and their relevance today.

OPEN DOORS

Newark Museum looks after 95,000 objects including the internationally significant Newark Torc and an art collection that includes works by Edmund de Waal, Bridget Riley and Vanessa Bell.

The Palace Theatre has been centre stage in Newark for over 100 years, entertaining thousands of people every year with a lively and varied programme, including acts such as Benjamin Zephaniah, John Lydon, Opera North and the Kanneh-Masons.

Newark Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, has stood on the banks of the river Trent for nearly 900 years and is a key part of Newark's history. Its Gardens offer welcome green space and an accessible and unique historic setting for activities and events.

The brief

We're looking for artists or collectives in any creative discipline, who are excited to make new work with local community groups, families and under-served groups. You'll be inspired by our buildings, stories and collections, and work with people to create new interpretations.

Your practice might include writing, photography, dance, music, textiles, print, performance, illustration, design, drawing and more. You might work alone or as part of a collective.

Throughout the residency you'll interact with the general public, spending a significant amount of your working time during the museum's opening hours. Visitors will be able to see your creative process, talk to you about your work and try out activities and processes.

You'll be based in our top-floor artist studio at the National Civil War Centre. The studio is a place for visitors to see your working process, as well as any finished products, and should have a working feel for visitors interact with. The studio is open to the public during museum opening times.

The studio is accessible by lift and stairs, has two windows, spotlights and wi-fi. It does not have a sink. The studio contains 3 x museum cases, a large table and chairs, desk, small lockable cupboard, and an art materials storage unit.

During the residency, you'll work with our Collections and Exhibitions Manager to explore, select and display objects from our collections. You'll also work closely with our Community Engagement and Partnership Development Officer who'll identify community groups to connect you with in order to plan and deliver participatory

workshops at off-site, community locations such as libraries, parks, community centres and schools.

Off-site community workshops are specifically for people living in areas of low cultural engagement and areas of deprivation across the district, and could include families, young people, diaspora communities and disabled people.

You'll have experience of planning and facilitating engaging activities that are relevant to local communities or specific groups and be passionate about placing participant needs and co-creation at the heart of your work.

The first residency will take place for up to 5 ½ months between the beginning of May 2025 and mid-October 2025. The second residency will take place for up to 5 ½ months between mid-October 2025 and the end of March 2026.

In summary, the aims are to:

- work collaboratively with the Open Doors team and museum staff and volunteers;
- provide creative ways to engage our general visitors in the studio;
- engage target community groups at offsite locations;
- inspire people to explore creative skills and develop understanding and confidence;
- remove barriers to cultural engagement across the district;
- create new ways for people to engage with and interpret our historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites; and
- create new work through participatory activities.

Outputs per residency

- A minimum of 3 days per week onsite or in a community setting within the district, including some weekends and evenings to meet the needs of target audiences.
- Co-plan, deliver 8 x workshops / sessions with groups of people at other locations across the district.
- Co-plan and deliver activities that contribute to monthly Family Saturdays at the National Civil War Centre (dependant on residency and Family Saturdays aligning).
- Co-plan and deliver half-term / school holiday activity days for children and families at the National Civil War Centre (dependant on residency and school holidays aligning).
- Keep a log of visitor numbers in the studio and gather visitor surveys (using templates provided).
- Design and implement creative and accessible ways to gather qualitative feedback from studio visitors and offsite workshop participants.

- A body of work as record of the residency. This can be performance, material, digital, or a combination.

Budget

There is a budget of up to £19,500.00 (excluding VAT) per residency. This covers the delivery of all outputs and includes daily fees for a minimum of 3 x days per week throughout the duration of each 5 ½ month residency, travel, accommodation (if required) and materials.

Eligibility

- To be eligible for this residency you'll be required to provide details of insurance, DBS certificate or be prepared to provide information to undergo a fresh DBS check. We might also support you to attend Safeguarding training too.
- Although a substantial part of this work will happen across our district, it is not essential that you drive as transport can be provided.
- You must be a UK resident and be registered with HMRC as self-employed in order for Newark & Sherwood District Council to pay you.

How to apply

Please tell us why you're interested in this residency, and describe:

- how you would deliver the aims and outputs of this brief;
- your previous experience of planning and delivering participatory arts activity with both targeted community groups, children and families, and general audiences;
- your strengths, experience and interests with regard to working with particular participant groups, such as Early Years children and families, Primary school children, young people, people with SEND, people with complex needs, older people, people with care and support needs, people from diaspora communities, newly arrived or settled people;
- your artistic practice and process - how you might work with visitors and community groups in a socially engaged way;
- what new work might be made as a result of community engagement;
- how you envisage visitors of all ages, abilities and backgrounds might enjoy participating in your activities on and off-site; and
- how you might interpret historical artefacts, collections, buildings and / or heritage sites in new ways.

Whether you are a new, emerging or mid-career artist, please share examples of your work, and identify if you have a specific medium you would like to develop or extend during this residency.

OPEN DOORS

Whatever your discipline, please share examples that illustrate your creative practice. This might include your CV, links to websites, publications, recordings, and feedback from previous projects.

Please tell us which residency dates you are interested in and if you are applying as an individual or a collective.

Remember to produce a costed breakdown including your daily rate, materials, production and transport costs.

Please include the contact details of two referees you have worked with in the last two years.

Format

Written proposals should be no more than 2 sides of A4.

However, your proposal format can be a video file (MP4) or audio file (MP3). Video or audio content should not exceed 3 minutes.

If submitting a video or audio file, please send this via a file-sharing service such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Please express yourself in a way that feels right for you, however, this must include fee breakdown.

Please send your application to opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Schedule

The closing date for proposals is **4pm Wednesday 12th March 2025**. Those shortlisted will be invited to an informal interview (in person or via Teams) before final selection. Informal interviews will take place the week commencing Monday 24th March 2025. We aim to contract the first residency to start by the end of April 2025.

If you would like this document in a different format, please email us at opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk