

OPEN EYE GALLERY

FREELANCE HERITAGE LEARNING CONSULTANT TREE STORY: A HISTORY OF LIVERPOOL THROUGH ITS TREES

PROJECT BRIEF

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Open Eye Gallery are working in partnership with dot-art, Mersey Forest and nine schools and community groups across the Liverpool City Region. Each group will investigate a significant local tree: its history and the change which has happened around it, folklore and cultural significance, biodiversity and importance to the environment. They will work with a photographer to document the tree, and with their teachers to learn about the wider context. Pupils will spend a day out in the forest enjoying forest school activities, and will share their work at a symposium to be delivered as an in-person/hybrid event by Open Eye Gallery.

The project will result in displays of participants' work in school settings, on our dedicated project website and at LOOK Photo Biennial 2022.

We are looking for an education consultant with a heritage and/or environmental specialism to work with us on this project.

The project will be delivered in schools during Spring 2022. Online teaching resources will be launched with our project website in November 2022.

The project is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

MORE ABOUT THE PARTICIPANT GROUPS

We will be working with four schools to deliver this project. All of them work with pupils experiencing high levels of economic and social deprivation, which limits access to their

own green spaces such as gardens and allotments, and also to the countryside and natural environment. Family days out are limited, and focused on attractions which are local and accessible. Many of these children will never have spent time playing in woods or forests.

LIPA Primary is focused on learning through creative and performing arts. It is based in the Riverside ward in Liverpool, a highly deprived area of the city which benefits from a rich multicultural heritage. 25% of pupils qualify for Pupil Premium payments and 28% speak English as a second language.

Egremont Primary School is based in Seacombe, Wirral. This is a highly deprived ward within Wirral, which has pockets of severe deprivation alongside great affluence. 59% of pupils qualify for Pupil Premium payments. We know that some pupils at the school have never been across the river to Liverpool. Egremont Primary will deliver this as a whole-school arts project, with some classes integrating trees as a theme into history and geography teaching.

Wirral Hospitals' School is an alternative education provision which works with children at KS3 and 4 who have medical conditions or other psychological, social and emotional issues which make it impossible for them to attend mainstream school. Many pupils have Autism Spectrum Conditions and/or severe anxiety. 46% of pupils qualify for Pupil Premium payments. The project will support the school to develop pupils' confidence and independence as well as meeting educational outcomes.

Rainhill High School is based in St Helens, but takes pupils from as far afield as Widnes and Warrington. 18% of pupils qualify for Pupil Premium payments. A quarter of children in St Helens are living in the 10% most deprived areas in England for income deprivation affecting children.

In each school we will deliver the project with at least two separate classes of 30 pupils, apart from Wirral Hospitals' School, which has small class sizes. However the learning resources will be used more widely across the school to support a whole-school focus on trees and the environment.

MORE ABOUT THE COMMISSIONERS

Open Eye Gallery is one of the UK's leading photography spaces. We present an international programme of contemporary photography exhibitions at our Liverpool Waterfront gallery, elsewhere in the UK, and further afield. We also programme workshops, talks and evening events, and house a permanent archive of diverse

photographs. We deliver an on-going socially engaged programme of residencies and collaborative projects between practitioners and our local community. This particular commission opportunity is part of Tree Story: A History of Liverpool Through Its Trees, which is a new project running from January 2022 to April 2023 and funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project will also create a website where people across the region can upload their own images and stories about the trees which are special to them, creating a crowdsourced map of significant tree heritage across the city, and an interactive timeline which uses the material created through the school and community projects to create a history of Liverpool which maps trees against other urban developments. Educational resources created through the project will be available through the website to support teachers, families and groups who want to create their own projects and content for the website.

THE ROLE OF THE HERITAGE LEARNING CONSULTANT

There will be two main tasks to deliver:

1. We would like the consultant to support schools to identify an appropriate local tree with heritage significance to form the basis of their project work. The consultant will devise resources which support teachers to deliver classroom-based lessons to complement the project activities (photography sessions, forest school and symposium). The resources should support teachers to tie the project into the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2 and 3, focusing on:

- How to find out about how an area has changed over time using archives and local history resources
- Trees in stories, folklore and art, with a focus on diversity
- The environmental benefits of trees and green spaces
- What we can do to protect and care for our natural heritage.

(Note that this is our outline list of suggestions – we would be keen to hear from our consultant about how the content of these resources can best meet the needs of teachers or respond to child led learning).

2. After teachers have delivered and evaluated the project with their class, advise the project team on any changes and adaptations required to provide an online resource for teachers and community groups who wish to deliver their own Tree Story project. The consultant will provide content to the resource based on those devised at stage one, which sits alongside content from Open Eye Gallery and Mersey Forest. Graphic design

of the resource pack will be carried out by Open Eye. It will be available to download on the project and partner websites.

Our project partner **dot-art** will project manage the delivery of the project in schools. They will be your day-to-day contact for delivery of this piece of work.

We would also expect the consultant to attend 1-2 project delivery group meetings to provide feedback to the wider group of partners.

BUDGET

A budget of £3000 exclusive of VAT has been allocated for this work.

TO APPLY FOR THIS CONTRACT

Please provide a CV plus an outline of your approach to this tender (no more than 2 pages) setting out:

- why you are interested in this piece of work
- previous experience of delivering similar projects
- your suggested approach to this piece of work
- details of 2 people we can contact for a reference

Tender documents should be emailed to: lucy.byrne@dot-art.com no later than 5pm on Friday 11th March.