

**OPEN
EYE
GALLERY**



Opportunity for an Apprentice Photographer

For the Chester Historic Street, Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Pilot Cultural Programme

Open Eye Gallery is working in partnership with Chester West and Chester Council, Chester Pride and photographic artist Suzanne St.Clare to deliver a socially engaged photography residency with the LGBTQ+ community in and around Chester.

This project is part of the 'High Streets Heritage Action Zones Programme', which is a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to our historic high streets making them a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time. A Cultural Programme is being developed to take place on each of the high streets, alongside the core programme. The priority for this programme will be to work with communities and celebrate what is unique about each place.

It will run over a four year period between 2020 and 2024, starting with an initial pilot cultural programme specifically exploring the theme of 'Reclaiming the City'. This theme will be explored collaboratively with local LGBTQ+ communities, homeless communities, local residents and local artists in a series of 3 artist commissions.

We are now looking to recruit an apprentice photographer from the local LGBTQ+ community to work alongside lead artist Suzanne St.Clare on this project. As supporting photographic artist you will:

- Support and work closely with Suzanne St.Clare to develop relationships with key community ambassadors from the LGBTQ+ community to develop visual narratives that are meaningful to them.

- Receive training and development opportunities for your practice with Open Eye Gallery and will be mentored by Suzanne St.Clare to develop your socially engaged approach to practice.
- Support the practical delivery of online and socially distanced planning sessions and practical photography sessions with recruited community ambassadors
- Support the co-production and showcasing of a series of physical works for exhibition within the public realm (e.g pop up spaces and shopping unit windows) in Chester, and accompanying works for digital or online /social media display.
- Adhere to all safeguarding, social distancing and ethical policies associated with the programme, supported by Open Eye Gallery and Chester Pride.
- Contribute to evaluation process with all project partners
- Provide CW&C / Cultural Consortium with high quality image files for documentation and agree to photographs being held using Creative Commons

Budget

Apprentice photographer fee: £1000

*There is an additional materials budget which will be managed by the lead photographic artist and Open Eye Gallery.

Proposed Timescales and how to apply

Deadline for submission of interest 10am, 7th January 2021. Please submit a couple of paragraphs as to why you are interested in the opportunity and up to 10 images of your previous/ current work. Please send to artswest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

- Supporting photographic artist selected 20th January 2021.

- Delivery of practical photographic sessions – 21st January 2021 – Mid February 2021.
- Artworks produced for exhibition and ‘mass participation day event’ – End of February 2021
- Project and evaluation support to be completed by the end of March 2021

Budget and artist contract holder:

- This programme is a co-commission by Chester and Cheshire West Council and Open Eye Gallery
- All invoicing and expenses to be claimed through Open Eye Gallery
- Lead Contact for supporting photographic artist: Emma Case (Open Eye Gallery)
- Alternative contact for artist: Sarah Fisher

A note about COVID-19 Pandemic - Impact

We cannot ignore the impact that COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on our society. Our communities, families, individuals and local businesses will have been affected by the dramatic changes we have seen. Arts and cultural organisations and individuals have been as resilient as they can be during this time, adapting their work where possible to digital formats so they can continue to support communities, volunteers and audiences; the value of the arts has been highlighted during the recent period of lockdown.

The HS HAZ has released a pilot grant scheme to assist in addressing the impact of Covid-19. It will enable groups to initiate and test new ways of working and engaging with communities and audiences.

It's critical that the response to this brief acknowledges these changes and uses methods to reach communities appropriate to Covid-19 safety guidance; and is conscious of the difficulties that individuals might have encountered during life in lockdown.

Following the lockdown, some local residents felt the city had become theirs – that they had ‘reclaimed the city’. In building meaningful relationships with the identified key groups, we hope to further explore their sense of belonging to the city. Through a process of engagement, discussions and discovery of what is important to residents and local communities, we will co-create a future cultural programme which celebrates a contemporary vision for the future of our historic city.