

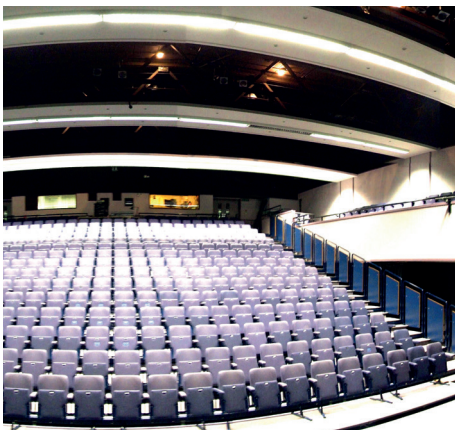


HAFREN: Participatory Arts Commissions working with community groups in and around Newtown.

HAFREN

Hafren is an Entertainment and Arts venue, with theatre and gallery spaces, located about 1.5 miles from the centre of Newtown on the Neath & Port Talbot College Newtown Campus.

Hafren is proud to be a multi-genre venue with a mixed programme which aims to include something for everyone. It has a sizeable audience from Mid Wales, the Marches, Shropshire, Herefordshire and beyond. The organisation's core ambition is to be open to, and provide opportunities for, all communities in the town and surrounding region to enjoy and participate in the arts.



BACKGROUND

NEWTOWN

Nestling on the banks of the River Severn in the heart of mid Wales, Newtown lies in the old county of Montgomeryshire, which now forms the northern part of Powys. With a population of about 13,000, it is a pretty market town with a rich industrial heritage, surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Founded as a market town at the end of the 13th century, with a market in operation since medieval times, Newtown grew strongly with the expansion of the woollen industry in the early 19th century and was an international hub for the flannel industry. Social reformer and industrial pioneer Robert Owen was born in Newtown in 1771. Owen's ideas have had worldwide influence and became the cornerstone of the international co-operative movement. There is a museum dedicated to Owen's memory in the town centre.

Newtown is also famous for the birth of the mail order retail business which local entrepreneur Pryce Jones started in the mid nineteenth century by despatching goods to Britain and Europe from Newtown. His Royal Welsh Warehouse still dominates the townscape.



THE PROJECT

Newtown is no stranger to change. It has been developed and has reinvented itself many times over in the past, keeping up with the trends and remaining relevant to the communities that it serves.

Currently the creation of the Newtown Bypass is generating physically quite dramatic changes and there is a mix of both excitement and anxiety about what these changes will mean for the town. This forms the context which we want to explore and reflect with this arts venture.

Our vision is to work with the diverse, multi-generational, urban and rural communities around us; to listen and give voice to people's stories and memories of past changes and how they have evolved and to listen to and reflect their fears and aspirations at this time of change.

We wish to creatively document these stories through a broad range of art forms from performance and music to animation and digital and for these stories and outcomes to form the basis of a future large-scale outdoor happening in Newtown.

COMMISSION BRIEF

We are looking at five commissions overall and want them to reflect the diversity of Newtown by each working with a different community or group.

The 'communities' or groups can be established groups such as the scouts / WI / YFC or an entire village or a school, or a café and its regulars. It may be a group you know already or one that is new to you or your arts organisation.

Artists and arts organisations may apply singly or may collaborate (we are happy to match artists if we feel that they would work well together). They can apply for more than one commission or may combine commissions to work with more than one community.

The commission applicants must be Welsh or based in Wales.

We envisage that artists will work with communities, encouraging and listening to their stories and experiences of change and their lives within the geographical and cultural make-up of Newtown. We would like the commissions as an outcome to create an art piece / or pieces that capture the above and reflect the communities feelings towards the bypass and the changes it will bring.

Each commission will need to collaborate with our project film-maker and feed them footage of their project filmed on their phones. This will then be made into a short film and shared on social media and shown outdoors in Newtown on Sunday 5th May as part of a celebration of the project.

Budget - up to £2,000 per commission, to include attending the project induction and the outdoor celebration event on the 5th May.

TIMELINE



HOW TO APPLY

Your full name

Contact Details

- Your full address
- Your phone numbers
- Your email address

Your statement. Please write a short statement which:

- Introduces yourself and your artistic practice / organisation
- Outlines your idea for the participatory commission and how you would approach it
- States which community / group/s you want to work with and why
- Gives a draft time-line for your delivery of the project
- Details the specialist expertise needed to deliver the commission

Please include your CV and a copy of your recent DBS check certificate.

Your application should be emailed to education@thehafren.co.uk or posted to Hafren, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HU.

Closing date: 7th September 2018

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FAQ's

What is the timetable for this project?

The project will run from October 2018 to February 2019. The timescale within these months will be flexible and determined through the groups you work with.

Do I need a current DBS check?

Yes, please send certificate with application.

When is the application deadline?

The closing date for the application is 7th September 2018, any applications after this date will not be considered.

Do I need to speak Welsh?

Generally, an ability to work bilingually will be an advantage. Whether it is necessary will depend on which community group you work with.

Can I choose the people I work with?

We will welcome solo, organisational and collaborative applications.

Can I choose which community / group I work with?

Yes, it is up to you to identify the group/s you work with and to make sure they agree to work with you on this project.

Do I need filming experience?

No, but you will need a phone that can film. You will be shown how to film at the induction meeting for the project.

When will the final celebration of the project take place?

The film will take place outdoors on the 5th May 2019 in Newtown, as a celebration of the project.

HAFREN

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