

Facing the Past: Vocal Practitioners/Workshop facilitators

Contract:	Vocal Practitioners/Workshop facilitators
Fee:	£3600 for 1 group, £7200 for 2 groups, £10,800 for 3 groups @£200/ day for 18 days or project completion
Location:	Lancaster and Morecambe
Deadline for applicants:	12 noon, 31st October 2022
Interviews:	w/c 7th November 2022
Duration:	Until June 2023

Context

Facing the Past is an arts and research programme to reflect, reveal and redress omissions in the way the City of Lancaster has commemorated its role as the fourth largest slavery port in the UK.

Following Black Lives Matter, a group of activists, arts and heritage organisations, faith & community groups and academics came together to facilitate a meaningful response to create new agency and awareness of issues of Slavery and the historic black presence in the city.

In 2021, a programme of creative workshops, public consultation and feasibility and scoping resulted in funding from The National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Facing the Past was conceived following the vandalism of slave trader memorials in Lancaster Priory Churchyard and community response. Community consultation has led to an arts and heritage programme responding to the pervasive legacy of profit, power and persecution of enslaved Africans in the historic City of Lancaster in meaningful and multifaceted ways.

We are looking for an exceptional freelance artist/s to cocreate an event to take our work to those that may not have engaged with the Facing the Past programme. This event will bring three community groups together to create a performance piece built on heritage research for the public. As part of a network of cultural programming including digital trails and tours, participatory events, public realm consultation workshop, and training opportunities, the event will act as the celebration of new understanding and an important cultural response to the complexity of Slavery issues both historic and connected to the present day.

The Vision

The project will forge a greater connection to local history and community. Taking place in the heart of the city, communities will work with heritage professionals and artists to develop their own response to Lancaster's links to transatlantic slavery through song, voice, spoken word, rap and movement. Although specific to Lancaster, global links may be explored providing new insight into the reach of Lancastrian family wealth and the human costs and suffering as well as crucial information about black agency in the wake of such persecution.

Purpose

There has been an explosion of interest and activity in Lancaster’s Transatlantic Slave Trail with several groups working to raise awareness, educate, research and creatively respond to the injustices of the past and present. The city holds stories of individual slaves, Abolitionists and web of slavery profits. Facing the Past Steering Group are keen to explore the output as a catalyst to challenge the extent to which we change the local knowledge of the city and shift from a ‘didactic’ conversation of slavery into something experiential and community driven. The event challenges many of the constraints that shape how heritage can be experienced. The aim is to encourage new audiences to re- activate their imaginations for debate, positive action and see their historic surroundings in a new light.

Key Responsibilities

We are keen to hear from practitioners who are skilled in vocal work, including (but not limited to) singing, spoken word, poetry, hip hop/rap. The contractor will work closely with external stakeholders and colleagues to create the performance, supported by the Community Events Assistant and the Festival Director.

- Engage in the subject through active research and attendance at Facing the Past training and events
- Facilitate workshops to co-devise and develop content leading to a community performance based on the heritage and history of slavery in Lancaster
- Collaborate creative practitioners and heritage professionals to ensure work produced contributes to the bigger picture thinking and community outputs
- Contribute to monitoring and reporting working with the Evaluator
- Attend regular meetings with the Festival Director to maintain progress and update on any issues arising
- Work collaboratively with the Community Events Assistant to coordinate all resources required for the performance
- Ensure the health and safety of other staff, participants and the public

Contractor Specification

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experience in co creating community events or performances. ● Experience of delivering a wide range of vocal/performance workshops ● Experience of delivering workshops within a community context ● Managing participants and volunteers, adhering to safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working within community projects ● Working within the arts/ heritage sector ● Experience of mass community performance in the public realm ● Ability to work with a variety of stimulus materials to devise original performance ● Proven track record of delivering Project outputs and meeting milestones ● Managing rehearsal and public presentation of a project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribution to the funder evaluation and reporting ● Risk Assessment of mass performance events
Knowledge	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding of the principals and values which underpin community arts projects ● Understanding of workshop design and delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sensitivity to members of the public you may encounter through outdoor work ● Understanding of GDPR and safeguarding ● Active interest in multi-agency approach to social injustice issues
Skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ability to manage own workload, completing tasks to deadline ● Excellent communication skills with an ability to engage with a wide range of people ● Self-motivation, ability and willingness to work as part of a team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong ICT skills ● Highly organised with excellent administrative skills
Qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commitment to equal opportunities, cultural diversity and accessible of service ● Accountability and sensitivity to issues and challenges as they arise ● Ability to work flexibly and adapt to unforeseen problem 	
Qualifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualification by experience 	

How to apply and the selection process

For an informal chat about the role please email facingthepast@lancasterpriory.org. Please send a CV and covering letter no larger than 10 MB to facingthepast@lancasterpriory.org. Tell us how you meet the experience, skills and qualities outlined in the Contract Specification. This should be no longer than 2 pages in either Word or PDF. Please keep your CV 2 /3 pages of A4 and include two references from recent or current employers/ clients. Please state in your cover letter how many community groups you would like to be considered for. Please send examples/links of your previous

work/projects. All applications will be acknowledged with an email receipt. Should you be shortlisted, we will invite you to interview. We will assess how you meet the experience, skills and qualities outlined in the Person Specification through the application form and interview.

We are committed to inclusion and diversity within this project and welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds. You'll be working within a team and a Steering Group from a wide range of ages, economic backgrounds, genders, sexualities, ethnicities, heritages and cultures.

Fee

A total of £3600 per community group is available, with three groups in total. This includes all fees, materials, public liability insurance, expenses, site visit, evaluation meeting, user events, administration, meetings, VAT. The fee will be released in tranches upon invoice and completion of agreed milestones.



Useful Links:

Lancaster Priory Church

<https://lancasterpriory.org/>

Slavery Tree Project

<https://www.lancasterslaveryfamilytrees.com/>

Slavery Trail

https://visitlancaster.org.uk/wp-content/files_mf/1608030019TownTrailinA4pages2020.pdf

Lancaster Black History Group

<https://www.facebook.com/Blackhistorylancaster/>

Reading Material:

1. ONLINE (General)

1. Slavery in the North of England' Melinda Elder, OpenLearn
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history/heritage/slavery-and-the-north-england>
2. Online Teaching pack "the abominable trade: Cumbria's' Connections to the History and Legacy of Slavery "
<https://cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/542/795/41053132443.PDF>
3. Olusoga, D., 2015. The history of British slave ownership has been buried: now its scale can be revealed. The Guardian.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/12/british-history-slavery-buried-scale-revealed>
4. National Trust, Fowler, Corinne Et Al, Colonialism and Historic Slavery Report, 2020 -
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/addressing-the-histories-of-slavery-and-colonialism-at-the-national-trust#Download%20the%20report>

2. Databases:

1. Legacies of British Slave-ownership, UCL - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>
2. Runaway Slaves in Britain: bondage, freedom and race in the eighteenth century:
<https://www.runaways.gla.ac.uk>
3. Slave Voyages Database <https://www.slavevoyages.org>