

Newcastle University Grainger Market Poet in Residency Artist Brief

February 2024

“Nothing can exceed the bustle and animation displayed here on a market day. The supply of the necessaries of life is generally ample; and the crowds of persons, passing to and fro in this cathedral-like temple of trade, render the scene extremely interesting and lively.” W Collard and M Ross in their Architectural and Picturesque Views in Newcastle (1841)

Overview

Newcastle Poetry Festival at Newcastle University, working in partnership with Newcastle City Council’s Arts and Economic Development Teams would like to recruit a Poet in Residence for Grainger Market, to engage market traders, local shoppers, and visitors during a 5-day residency that will culminate in the creation of new written work based on the theme: ‘In/Out of Place’. This theme explores the connection between poetry and history, feelings of displacement and belonging, and the power of local places to inspire creativity and new writing.

The purpose of this residency will be to explore creative ideas with participants and the communities they are part of, to help celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Newcastle’s many diverse communities and to leave a legacy, that will enable local people to continue to develop creative skills and practices following on from their engagement on the project.

The poet will be in residency at Grainger Market in April 2024. We hope that the poet will be able to engage with the vendors, market shoppers and surroundings. The poet is expected to respond creatively to their experience and produce new work that will be showcased at the Newcastle Poetry Festival in May. They will also be encouraged to read other pieces of their own writing at the Festival event, which will be shared with another poet.

An empty shop unit may be made available on-site for the duration of the residency.

Newcastle Arts Team encourages participation in high quality arts activity in areas of the city which are culturally under-served.

Creative Central NCL is a five-year long project led by Newcastle City Council and funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority. Now in its second year, the project aims to support independent artists and creative businesses in central Newcastle with investment, grants, skills development, and opportunities for growth. You can find out more about Creative Central NCL [here](#).

The Newcastle Poetry Festival was established in 2015 by Professor Linda Anderson. The aim of the Festival is to bring national and international poets to Newcastle, as well

as exhibitions, musical collaborations, films and artworks. The Festival is also committed to using poetry to create inclusive spaces and build opportunities for those in our local communities.

Since 2015, the Newcastle Poetry Festival has been a fixture in the UK's literary landscape. The first Festival in 2015 was the culmination of The Poetics of the Archive, a project exploring the archive of Bloodaxe Books which was acquired by the University on an ongoing basis in 2009. In 2016, the Festival hosted commissions at the Hatton Gallery and panels on Poetry and Urban Regeneration. Subsequent festival themes include: 'In Time: 2017', which explored poetry in relation to current events, technology and language; 'Crossings: 2018', which focused on cross-genre collaborations; 'Transformations: 2018', an exploration of poetic practice; and 'Emergency 2022' which discussed poetry in relation to the global pandemic. The most recent festival 'Community: 2023' explored the power of collectives to inspire creativity.

This year's Festival runs from Thursday 9th-Saturday 11th May 2024 at Northern Stage. The theme is 'In/Out of Place' and has a special focus on local places in the region. Over three days, the Festival will host a series of readings, panels, school events, cross-genre events and commissions. These events will bring young people, students, and emerging writers together with local, national and international poets, poetry publishers and promoters.

The Festival is organized by Theresa Muñoz, James Annesley, Linda Anderson, Melanie Birch and Alice Mullen of the Poetry Book Society. More information can be found at www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk

Grainger Market is a traditional indoor market in the heart of Newcastle. It is centrally located and benefits from excellent public transport links, with a Metro station and bus terminals within the immediate vicinity. It attracts 125,000 customers from across the city and further afield each week.

The market opened in 1835 and is a Grade 1 listed building – one of the largest of its kind - and is owned and operated by Newcastle City Council. It comprises 115 fixed units and is open 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday. The units are arranged over 4 alleys and the Arcade, which has a large, curved glass roof. Approximately 320 traders work in the market.

Grainger Market is named after Richard Grainger (1797–1861), the builder, developer and entrepreneur who, with John Clayton, the Town Clerk, and many architects including John Dobson (1787–1865), was instrumental in the redevelopment of 19th century Newcastle. They quickly transformed it from a town of disorganised streets and rundown buildings to a beautiful, well built, orderly street scene that brought commerce and business to the city, leaving a remarkable architectural legacy.

Grainger Market is a unique city-centre retail and community space that offers a specialist shopping experience provided by small, local, independent businesses. Intriguing design features, a rich history and growing connectedness to the surrounding traders and shoppers make the Grainger Market a memorable destination. It offers space for safe social interaction, particularly for more vulnerable citizens, and is disability and age friendly. The market has an events space which is used to host events such as arts and craft fairs, performances, and children's activities.

Poet in Residence Person Specification

The aim of the residency is to build cultural and creative links between artists and sites of heritage in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The opportunity is open to poets of any level of experience. We especially welcome poets who identify as being from a demographic that is currently under-represented in the literature sector. This includes but is not limited to: people from global majority backgrounds; those who identify as LGBTQIA+; who are disabled (we follow the social model of disability); those from migrant and refugee backgrounds and those who are care-experienced.

Specifications:

- Poet at any level of experience (emerging and/or established artists)
- Willingness to engage with the public, vendors, stalls at Grainger Market
- Create an original work to be performed at Newcastle Poetry Festival
- Professional experience of creative workshop delivery with inexperienced and hard-to-reach individuals and groups of a variety of profiles and backgrounds
- Excellent communication and listening skills
- Ability to work on own initiative and as a member of a team
- Excellent administrative and project management skills

Budget

The all-inclusive budget for the Grainger Market Poet in Residency is £2,100 (+ VAT, if applicable).

- Based on £250 per day artist fee x 5 days residency in Grainger Market.
- £250 x 1 day to complete work.
- £300 performance fee for 20-minute slot at the Newcastle Poetry Festival, Northern Stage.
- Travel, accommodation (if needed) during residency week and to attend Newcastle Poetry Festival
- Newcastle Poetry Festival pass for all events
- Plus, performance slot / workshop opportunity at Grainger Market as part of the Late Shows on 18th May (1 day's fee available to cover prep and event separate to this contract)

Payment will be managed by Newcastle University and a payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant on appointment.

Project Management

The successful applicant will be contracted and managed by Newcastle University. The post can begin soon after the interview on Tuesday April 16th.

The successful applicant will be appointed on a self-employed basis and will be responsible for all their own tax, National Insurance, and pension arrangements. A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant on appointment.

Timetable

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| • Deadline for the submission of application | Monday 18 th March 2024 |
| • Interviews/appointment | Tuesday 16 th April 2024 |
| • Poet residency | 1 week (5 days) in April 2024 |
| • Newcastle Poetry Festival Performance | 9 th -11 th May 2024 (TBA) |
| • Grainger Market Late Show Performance | 18 th May 2024 |

How to apply

Applications are invited from poets permanently resident in the North of England and should include:

- A covering letter explaining:
 - why you are interested in this residency
 - what you hope to achieve during the residency, and
 - how you would approach the challenge
- Evidence of previous relevant experience which demonstrates your suitability for the post.
- An up-to-date Writer CV (list publications, mentorships, programmes, past performances) with contact details for two referees.
- Details of your availability between April – May 2024 and how you might intend to structure your allocated days.
- 2 examples of work previously made in partnership with collaborators.
- 2 examples of work created as part of your individual practice.
- Proof of current DBS.
- Copy of Public Liability Insurance Certificate.

For further information regarding this opportunity contact:

- Theresa Muñoz, Director of Newcastle Poetry Festival

Theresa.Munoz@ncl.ac.uk

- Alison Flanagan Wood, Arts Development Officer at Newcastle City Council

alison.flanaganwood@newcastle.gov.uk

- Vix Leaney, Economic Development Officer, Creative Central NCL Project Manager

vikki.leaney@newcastle.gov.uk

Please forward all completed applications to Theresa.Munoz@ncl.ac.uk

