

Artist Brief: Appetite & CRT in Kidsgrove



Figure 1: Image taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harecastle_Tunnel

Appetite & Canal & River Trust are looking to collaborate with an artist(s) on a project for Kidsgrove. In the first year of our partnership and the development of Appetite's work in Kidsgrove as part of the Arts Council England Creative People and Places programme, we are working with artists around three areas of work that connect the people, town centre, and its connectivity to the canal of Kidsgrove. The two other themes for our work are *Light* and *Young People and Families*. This brief is for artist(s) to work on theme of *Environment*.

Appetite works with other partners in the Kidsgrove area: a key partner and consortium member is GoKidsgrove (a town centre partnership for the town) amongst others including Newcastle Borough Council and We Are Aspire Group.

For this project, we would like to focus on the **environment** as the theme and areas we're interested in are:

- The climate emergency and single use plastics in and around the canalside;
- The welcome the environment provides to those that connect to the train station, canal, town side and streets of the residential areas of Kidsgrove;
- The future regeneration of Kidsgrove and the improvements to the canal and town centre areas;

- Use and re-use of the spaces and places adjoining and connecting the canalside;
- Biodiversity and the connection of green (land) and blue (water) spaces for wildlife and communities.

The project could be a research residency or a pilot project.

Through all of our projects we want to build connections with the people and place of Kidsgrove through building relationships with a wide variety of residents, business owners, volunteers and partners in the area to involve them in future decision-making for arts and cultural projects for the area supported by Appetite.

Fee: £7,500 (inclusive of expenses and VAT)

Deadline for Expressions of Interest: 28 July

Shortlisting panel: 6 August (Appetite, CRT, Community via GoKidsgrove & Aspire)

Project development: 9 August – 20 August

Review by partners, project sign off and contracting: 23 August – 10 September

Project running dates: September onwards – timelines to be created by the artist (no later than 31 March 2022)

Expressions of Interest:

We would like to invite artist(s), collectives and arts organisations to make expressions of interest. This should be no more than two pages of A4 to introduce you, your work and experience and an outline approach to the residency or pilot project. Please email this to askus@appetitestoke.co.uk.

Decision-making:

Shortlisting of the expressions of interest will be done by Appetite and Canal & River Trust with support from the community through GoKidsgrove or other partners.

If proposals are required to be worked up following the expression of interest; Appetite will pay a day-rate of £250 to applicants to work up the proposal or project outline further before appointment.

Background information:

About Appetite:

Appetite is a New Vic Theatre led Creative People and Places programme for Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-Under-Lyme. Our Stoke-on-Trent programme started in 2013 and our programme in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in 2019.

Our aim is to get people in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme to experience and be inspired by the arts. We do this by working in public spaces, streets, parks, canals, town or city centres or within communities.

We work with people from the area to decide what our projects are so they can shape, share, evaluate and embed learning from the process to strengthen what we do next.

We will be developing community interest in each of the projects to support those interested into the decision-making process.

Our consortium is led by the New Vic Theatre, in partnership with Partners in Creative Learning, Staffordshire University, 6Towns Radio, Go Kidsgrove, Keele University and Newcastle BID. We are supported by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Newcastle Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council and We Are Aspire.

Creative People and Places in a strategic fund from Arts Council England, which is targeted on places who are in the bottom 33% of engagement with arts and culture.

www.appetite.org.uk

About Canal & River Trust

We're the charity who look after and bring to life 2,000 miles of waterways, because we believe that life is better by water.

Our research shows that spending time by water, whether it be your lunchbreak, daily commute or just a weekend stroll, really can make us feel happier and healthier.

With ever increasing rates of obesity, stress and declining mental health in the UK, we are uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to improving the wellbeing of millions of people. Our canals and rivers run through some of the most heavily populated communities in England and Wales, providing accessible green and blue space where it's needed the most.

That's why, here at the Trust, we're working with volunteers and communities across England and Wales to transform canals and rivers into spaces where local people want to spend time and feel better. We know this will bring wellbeing opportunities to millions.

Our work involves not only looking after our waterways, but promoting them widely to the eight million plus people who have waterways on their doorstep so that many more people benefit from our free, accessible and local source of wellbeing.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Our partnership:

2021 is our first year of partnership, we're focusing our work on the area in North Staffordshire, Kidsgrove. We hope that this will be the first year of an initial three year partnership.

Partnership Outcomes:

- Artists are supported to develop projects for the historic waterway in Kidsgrove and to connect the town centre, station for and with residents and visitors.
- Residents and visitors are inspired to visit the canal network, Kidsgrove and the arts again.

- Residents and partners are inspired to be a part of the community decision-making for future projects seeing increased pride, well-being and engagement in activities on the door step and further afield.
- Participants have a voice in place-making projects through community decision-making models and partnerships.
- Participants, residents and visitors feel positively connected to a sense of belonging and community through an artistic process and product
- A vision is developed for future projects through the development of partnership, community decision-making, and wider evaluation of the projects.
- All connected to the project are connected in the short and long-term to the work of Appetite and CRT.
- Local, regional and national advocacy for projects is strengthened through partnership and data.

About Kidsgrove:

Kidsgrove is based in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and has secured government funded Town Deal projects, aimed to address infrastructure and regeneration of town centres across the country. Kidsgrove is in the very north of the midlands and borders the North West/Cheshire.

Home to the Harecastle Tunnel Kidsgrove is a key gateway to the north via the Trent & Mersey canal. The canal is in the centre of the town alongside a train station. The towns' proximity to rail, water and road makes it an affordable location for commuters but also has a distinct population with generations of families who are from the area. A key community are those connected to the collieries that were main employers in the area.

From the 2016 dataset, we can see that the population of the wider Kidsgrove community is: 20,491 across 8,700 households. To get a feel you can watch this video by our consortium partners at Go Kidsgrove:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLRI5mO-XIA>