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**Coventry City of Culture Trust & Entelechy Arts
Creative Brief
Issued: 22 February 2021**

Dramaturg/Writer for Theatre of Wandering, a new devised performance about a community's experiences care and dementia

Theatre of Wandering is a new theatre performance created from a community's experiences and reflections about dementia and care, co-created with residents of Ball Hall and Entelechy Arts (London), OiBokkeShi (Japan) and Coventry City of Culture 2021. We are seeking a Dramaturg with writing experience to support this co-created community process.

Context:

Coventry City of Culture Trust was set up in 2015 to bid to be UK City of Culture in 2021. Now that we have been successful in securing the prestigious title, we are working to build a cultural programme that reflects Coventry, its people and its ambitions for the future. We are a diverse, modern city which is re-imagining the role culture can play in bringing people together. Coventry is a city of welcome, a city of activists and pioneers, a city of peace and reconciliation, a city of innovation and invention, a City of Culture.

The Trust is committed to:

- Welcoming 2.5m additional visitors to Coventry in 2021
- 80% of the city's residents experiencing at least three events in 2021
- Increasing audience attendance from under-represented communities by 20%
- Activating more than 16,000 volunteers and participants
- Making long-lasting, tangible social change in Coventry
- Transforming who holds the power to create and curate in the city
- Starting a wave of cultural investment across the region

**COVENTRY CITY OF CULTURE TRUST
C/O THE HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM, JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP
WWW.COVENTRY2021.CO.UK**

REGISTERED ADDRESS: THE HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM,
JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP, COMPANY NUMBER: 09808960
CHARITY NUMBER 1165639, LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The programme for the year will feature large scale mass participation spectacle and intimate moments of wonder. music, dance, theatre and poetry as well as many more celebratory cultural and heritage experiences in every ward of the city. The programme will touch on the city's rich history, heritage and diverse communities whilst taking a bold, future-facing approach, exploring narratives about the most pressing issues for our citizens, country and planet in the years to come.

About the Programme/Project

'Theatre of Wandering' is a new theatre performance created from a community's experiences and reflections about what it is to care for one another. It will be created with residents of the Ball Hill neighbourhood in Coventry and presented in the city centre as part of Coventry City of Culture.

It will be the story of an older man searching for his wife through a neighbourhood and the interconnected lives of the people he meets. The work will be propelled by a narrative that explores memory, change, the different ways that we experience space and place when living with dementia and other age-related conditions. The story will explore ideas of care, reciprocity and possibility.

Shopkeepers, school children, residents of all ages, health and care workers will come together to creatively share a neighbourhood's hidden stories and its relationship to some of its most vulnerable citizens. Working with a multi-disciplinary team of freelance artists, a writer/dramaturg and theatre directors, a diverse company of local people will be supported to co-create an immersive theatre experience that will be performed within the streets, shops, homes and public spaces of where they live.

Ball Hill is a diverse neighbourhood in inner Coventry, about 2 miles east of the City Centre. Originally we had planned to perform along the high street and in shops of Ball Hill, however social distancing will now prohibit this. Instead, we are delighted to take the stories of people in Ball Hill into Coventry City Centre; the final performance will be reflect a community's journeys and memories from local streets to across the city and beyond.

Our aim is that audiences will experience alternative (and often invisible) realities of Coventry through the compound experiences of many of the city's older citizens. We want all audiences, but especially children and younger people, to be taken by surprise, to find excitement and become more curious: to see and understand the experiences of living with dementia from different perspectives.

In the times when we move slowly back into public space after our private Covid lockdowns, we ask how can city spaces be transformed into environments where all can flourish and belong? We want to invite audiences to reimagine concepts of care both in public and domestic

spaces - older generations, and people of all ages and backgrounds - ultimately leading to questions of how all public spaces can become a little more friendly for everyone, even how our cities can care for individuals.

The work will be forged through a collaboration between Entelechy Arts, Japanese performance company OiBokkeShi and producing teams from Coventry City of Culture 2021. The production will be inspired by OiBokkeShi's acclaimed neighbourhood based performance 'Night Never Gets Darker'. Theatre of Wandering will be co-directed by Naoki Sugawara (OiBokkeShi) and David Slater (Entelechy Arts).

The project will be developed in four stages in April – September 2021.

In stage 1 we will work with a range of arts and health and social care partners from Coventry and Warwickshire carefully weaving creative processes into existing mechanisms of care and support. The process and final performance to be informed by the life experiences and imaginations of people who would not ordinarily be involved in the creation of a work of art.

In stage 2 we will establish cross-generational devising clusters bringing different groups of people together to share experiences, explore ideas and help shape narrative. This includes three artistic commissions:

- A Sound Commission will gather stories, music and other sound fragments from older people, including adults living with dementia and their caregivers, from Ball Hill. This will create a sound geography of the city, mapping out people's memories and connections to local public space.
- An Animation Commission will tell a story of everyday, domestic spaces for people living with dementia. It will be co-created with the imaginations of school students (age 9-11) and older people in Ball Hill, with workshop sessions also incorporating learning resources from the Alzheimer's Society.
- A Dramaturg/Writer will be a crucial listening point for stories of citizens and professionals across the city including health and social care teams, shopkeepers and police. Through informal conversations and structured workshops, these stories will be documented and used, along with the Sound Commission and Animation Commission, to form the content for Theatre of Wandering.

In stage 3 a community cast will be formed and the co-created play will be rehearsed. We are interested in blurring lines between fiction and reality within this process. Shopkeepers, district nurses, care workers will be performing in the work in addition to people living with dementia and their caregivers, children and families and professional performers.

Stage 4 is live and streamed public performances of Theatre of Wandering in Coventry, 18-19 September 2021. Additional content from the Commissions will also be available online and other via other platforms (e.g. radio).

Theatre of Wandering is commissioned by Coventry City of Culture 2021, with additional support from the Daiwa Foundation and Community Fund and other funders to be confirmed.

The Brief

The Dramaturg/Writer will work alongside the co-Directors to listen to diverse voices of Coventry citizens regarding care and dementia, absorb their stories and experiences and support the co-Directors with the structure of the final performance.

This is a co-created process with the creative team working with, and listening to, a wide range of experiences from Ball Hill and across Coventry. We anticipate the final performance will be a devised, semi-scripted story, performed by professional performers and community cast.

'Night Never Gets Darker' was a scripted performance in Japan; Theatre of Wandering is inspired by this piece, but it will be a new creation starting from collaboration with local communities. It will be a more devised process exploring improvisation; Entelechy Arts' work often contains highly structured improvised work, performed by non-professional community performers, allowing for repeatable sharing of experience.

The community connections and relationships will be initiated by the Entelechy team and Engagement Artist, but the Dramaturg/Writer will need to work appropriately and responsively with a range of people, from diverse ages and backgrounds.

The Dramaturg/Writer will:

- Be a 'listening point', gathering stories and experiences through formal and informal conversations with citizens and professionals across the city including, but not limited to, health and social care teams, shopkeepers, police and young carers.
- Co-host 4-8 structured workshops exploring themes of care in the city to gather other stories and perspectives
- Be a 'listening point' for other encounters and themes arising from the Sound Commission and Animation Commission or other parts of the wider project.
- Work with the co-Directors to establish the structure of the final story; the Dramaturg/Writer's role will be to support this process, but it will be led by the co-Directors.

- To support the writing of the script in collaboration with the co-Directors. (Please note that the exact process is to be confirmed and will require stages that require the script to be translated into Japanese).

The Writer/Dramaturg will have the following skills, experiences and qualities:

- Be an inspiring, thoughtful creative, keen to use culture for positive social change.
- Be eager and skilled to amplify diverse voices and nuanced stories from people under-represented in our communities.
- Be an attentive listener, able to justly and authentically relay personal stories
- Be based in Coventry
- Have 5+ years' experience as a theatre-maker/dramaturg/writer including evidence of scriptwriting
- Have experience of working in community settings
- Adhere to all Entelechy Arts' policies and procedures, including safeguarding and Covid-safe working.

Other preferable qualities of the Dramaturg/Writer include:

- Knowledge of spoken and written Japanese language
- Experience working with older adults and people living with dementia
- Previous training on: access and inclusion, dementia awareness, safeguarding. (Please note that appropriate training and induction will be provided).

All individuals, companies, organisations and other bodies contributing and collaborating with the Trust to create and deliver the 2021 programme will be expected to actively engage with our **sustainability, access and fair pay policies**. We are looking for ambitious, creative people to work with us, who are willing to grow and learn with the Trust and care about Coventry, its citizens and its future and we will look for a proactive approach to these issues in your work.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Have a CV postcode or should have worked previously in Coventry (within the last 2 years) and be able to demonstrate a significant knowledge of Coventry and its communities.
- Be able to deliver workshops in Coventry (CV1 and CV2) in May-July, if Government guidance permits.

We work with people from a wide range of backgrounds, and we are keen to hear from a diverse range of candidates with different perspectives, experience and knowledge. We particularly welcome interest from Black, Asian, minority ethnic and disabled candidates.

Fee

The fee for this work will be up to £8,000 (including VAT where applicable) based on 40 days at £200 per day.

Your Application

In your application, we are looking for:

- Evidence that you meet the skills, experience and qualities detailed above
- Exciting, vibrant artistic skill

Your Response

Please present your Application as follows:

1. Send us up to 3 examples of your previous writing
2. Covering letter (max 2 A4 pages) including:
 - Why do you want to work on this project as a Dramaturg/Writer?
 - How would you approach the writing/devising phase based on our engagement plan?
3. (Optional) CV (max 2 A4 pages) in PDF format.

Please include your email, address and phone number.

Please send all Applications to Christine.lee@entelecharts.org by **9am on 25 March 2021**.

Timeline

- Deadline for Applications: 9am on 25 March 2021
- Interviews: w/c 29 March 2021
- Start date for work: early/mid-April

Access and Support Statement

We are committed to ensuring everyone can take part in this opportunity. If you have specific disability support requirements, please get in touch using the details below to discuss how we can meet your support or adjustment needs.

Equal Opportunities

We would appreciate it if you would complete our **Equal Opportunities Form** when you submit your application. This data is anonymous but helps the Trust to understand who is applying for our

creative opportunities, ensuring that we are constantly working to share them as widely as possible.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, have disability access support requirements or would like any assistance with the language and terminology in this document please contact Christine Lee, Producer (Entelechy Arts) christine.lee@entelechartyarts.org who will be able to discuss further and/or arrange support for you.