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

**Engagement Artist to support relationship management and community engagement for a new co-created theatre production**

**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 an experienced Community Engagement Artist to support relationship management and participant engagement for up to 16 older people & their caregivers and up to 2 school classes (9-11 year olds). The Engagement artist will be building relationships and supporting development of two commissions (sound and animation) that are crucial parts of the creation process for Theatre of Wandering.**

**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 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. Shop keepers, 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 Engagement Artist will support the development of the Animation Commission and Sound Commission, focussing on participation and accessibility.

The Sound Commission will gather stories, music and other sound fragments from up to 12 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.

The Animation Commission be a 3 minute film focusing on a simple everyday adventure in an older person's life. It will be made from the imaginations of 1-2 classes (Year 5) and up to 4 older people living with dementia and their caregivers, from Ball Hill. It will be a surprising story of the everyday and our domestic spaces.

Through both commissions, we will build relationships, gather stories from people living in Ball Hill and initiate intergenerational learning processes about dementia and care in our communities. They will be essential parts of the co-creative development of the script/story for the performance.

With support from the teams at Entelechy Arts and Coventry City of Culture, the Engagement Artist will initiate and build community connections and manage participant relationships – including with school pupils, families, teachers, older people living with dementia and their families and caregivers. The Engagement Artist will need to work appropriately and responsively with a range of people, from diverse ages and backgrounds. They will provide essential local knowledge, connection and context for the wider creative team, who are based between Coventry, London and Japan.

The Engagement Artist will support the design and delivery of the workshops and remote sessions, leading segments of the sessions.

We anticipate the role to be approx. 2 days per week from mid-April – July.

The Engagement Artist will:

- Manage relationships with individuals and groups of participants. They will build new connections and nurture participant relationships, with support and introductions from the wider team.
- Support access and inclusive engagement. Help participants to comfortably take part – e.g. providing simple, clear instructions and supportive phone calls for remote programmes, and consider inclusive, Covid-safe practices for classroom sessions.
- Creatively support, as an assistant artist, 5 classroom workshops for 9–11-year-olds from Ball Hall in May – June 2021 (subject to change and possible remote delivery depending on Covid restrictions). These will:
  - o Be co-delivered/led by commission Animator
  - o Incorporate KS2 learning materials and resources from Alzheimer’s Society
- Work remotely with up to 4 older people living with dementia and their caregivers to gather stories and reflections for the animation, with the Animator
- Engage remotely with 8-12 older people living with dementia and their caregivers for the Sound Commission

The Engagement Artist will have the following skills, experiences and qualities:

- Be an inspiring, thoughtful creative, keen to use culture for positive social change.
- Be eager to amplify diverse voices and nuanced stories from people under-represented in our communities.
- Be based in Coventry.
- Have 2+ years’ experience delivering/co-delivering workshops in community settings including with schools/young people.
- Have experience working with older adults and people living with dementia.
- Have excellent communication skills including a clear, friendly telephone manner.
- Be highly organised with good attention to detail.
- Adhere to all Entelechy Arts’ policies and procedures, including safeguarding and Covid-safe working.

Other preferable qualities of the Engagement Artist include:

- Previous training on: access and inclusion, dementia awareness, safeguarding. (Please note that appropriate training and induction will be provided).
- Experience as a theatre maker and/or performer.
- Experience of co-creating with communities.
- Experience working on inter-generational projects.

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 Ball Hill (CV2) and Coventry (CV1) 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 £4,800 (including VAT where applicable) based on 30 days at £160 per day.

### **Your Application**

In your application, we are looking for:

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

### **Your Response**

Please present your Application as follows:

- Format:
  - o Covering letter (max 2 A4 pages) and CV (max 2 A4 pages), or
  - o Short video (max 6 minute) and CV (max 2 A4 pages).

Letters or videos should include:

- o Introduction to you and your work
- o Evidence that you meet the skills, experience and qualities details above
- o Why you want to be a part of Theatre of Wandering
- (Optional) Portfolio, links to your website or examples of your work.
- Please include your email, address and phone number.

Please send all Applications to [Christine.lee@entelecharts.org](mailto: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@entelecharts.org](mailto:christine.lee@entelecharts.org) who will be able to discuss further and/or arrange support for you.