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

**Sound Artist for Sound Commission working with people living with dementia and their caregivers**

**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 sound artist, with experience of community engagement, to create an audio commission with up to 12 older adults living with dementia in Ball Hill, that will be used in the creation process and performance of 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 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 Theatre of Wandering 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.

It will map fragments of experience, incidents, surprises, encounters, delights, dreams, apprehensions experienced by participants when wandering through the streets of the city centre; creating a harmony of the ordinary and everyday encounters with people, spaces and places in the centre of the city.

Working remotely with the Entelechy Arts and wider creative team, and with direct supported from an Engagement Artist, the Sound Artist will gather, record and edit stories and sound from up to 12 older people living with dementia and their caregivers/families. Through this audio, which will identify spaces and places that are important to each individual; it will help to plot the journey of 'Theatre of Wandering' through the city centre by introducing us to places and sounds that have resonance with the older people.

It is likely that the commission will be used in the final performance, however, owing to the collaborative making process and changes from Covid this decision will be made in the summer.

This Commission is the first creative moment for the project team to build relationships with individuals and the communities of Ball Hill. These connections and relationships will be initiated by the Entelechy team and Engagement Artist, but the Sound Artist will need to work sensitively and responsively with a range of people.

The Sound Commission will:

- Engage remotely with 8-12 older people living with dementia and their caregivers.
- Gather and audio record stories and experiences of Coventry city centre (past and more recent), journeys they have made and encounters they've had in the city.
- Record or gather other audio and music fragments.
- Edit a tapestry of sound from all of the group's experiences – this may be used as an element in the final performance or introduced to audiences (e.g. online and via radio) before the performance. Length and format to be agreed with the artist.
- Work with an Engagement Artist who will support access and managing relationships.

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

- Be an inspiring, thoughtful creative keen to use art for positive social change.
- Be eager and skilled to amplify diverse voices and nuanced stories from people under-represented in our communities.
- Be based in Coventry (have a CV postcode) or have worked previously in Coventry (within the last 2 years) and be able to demonstrate a significant knowledge of Coventry and its communities.
- Have experience creating, recording and editing sound art/installations broadcast on a range of platforms (e.g. for live performance, podcast, radio)
- 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 Sound Artist include:

- 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)
- Experience of sound design for outdoor site-specific theatre/performance
- Experience of creating accessible public art sound installations

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.

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 £2,400 (including VAT where applicable) based on 12 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:

- Format: audio recording mp3 (Maximum length 6 minutes) featuring:
  - o Introduction to you and what motivates you as an artist
  - o Selected samples of your work
  - o Why you want to be a part of Theatre of Wandering
- (Optional) covering letter and CV (max 2 pages)
- (Optional) Website or links to 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@entelechartyarts.org](mailto:christine.lee@entelechartyarts.org) who will be able to discuss further and/or arrange support for you.