



Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Artist Brief, Willersley Castle

Commission Overview

Willersley Castle is a late 18th-century Grade II* listed country mansion above the River Derwent at Cromford, Derbyshire. The Georgian-style castellated house is three storeys high with a seven-bay frontage, the central bay flanked by full-height round towers and stands in 60 acres of grounds. Originally named "Willersley Hall", the building was built on the slopes of Wild Cat Tor, 400 feet (120 m) above sea level, for the occupation of the industrialist Sir Richard Arkwright by the architect William Thomas. Today it operates as a Christian Guild Hotel.

Through this commission, and with input from a heritage expert we want to engage an Artist to creatively explore and draw out interesting and little known aspects of Willersley's heritage, particularly its relation to the wider Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its contemporary relevance, to be shared through a creative performance.

Context

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) is a place that changed the world. It is a place where the dramatic power of the landscape was harnessed through human ingenuity, leading to industrial developments that revolutionised the way people worked and lived. Derwent Valley Mills was inscribed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

Arts organisation Beam has been appointed as Creative Producer to lead on an ambitious contemporary arts programme as part of the DVMWHS Great Place programme. The activities are funded as a Great Place Scheme, a partnership between the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and supported by Historic England. The Great Place Scheme is designed to pilot new approaches that enable cultural and community groups to work more closely together and to place heritage at the heart of communities. Running between 2017 and 2020, the activities are the next step in engaging people with the uniqueness of the Derwent Valley. The industrial heritage of innovation and making will inspire arts activities for people to connect and communicate with the culture and heritage at the heart of the World Heritage Site.

Aims

- The aim of this commission is to creatively explore the heritage of Willersley Castle and share this through a contemporary, creative performance to engage new audiences.

Objectives

- Engage a wide audience in learning about the historic significance of Willersley Castle and its heritage

- Increase awareness about the connections of Willersley Castle to the wider DVMWHS.
- Engage the hotel/ heritage partners in collaborating with artists to interpret heritage
- Commission a more diverse range of artists – which may support more diverse audience engagement.

Deliverables

- Liaison with heritage expert/ site visit to draw out key stories to be shared
- Proposal detailing approach (*to be agreed before delivery commences*)
- Delivery of creative performance (potentially - drama/ dance or spoken word) inspired by Willersley Castle and the research period
- Documentation of the performance/ consideration about how the performance/ commission can be disseminated more widely by digital or other means – e.g. filming/ photography of performance/ printed/ written materials/ use of social media.
- Contribution to any marketing materials as required.
- Supported by Beam - collation of participant numbers and feedback to support the DVMWHS Great Place Scheme evaluation (standard questions will be provided) and collation and submission of any photo permission forms.

Links to online presence

Web - <https://christianguild.co.uk/willersley/>

Twitter - @willersleyhotel

Instagram - @willersleycastle

Facebook - @willersleycastle

Outline Schedule

- Artist brief issued w/c 2 March 2020
- Deadline for Artist responses Fri 20 March 2020, 5pm
- Artist interviews and selection Monday 30 March 2020, afternoon
- Artist appointment and contracting w/c 6 April 2020
- Heritage briefing/ site visit - Friday 24 April 2020, 10am-12pm
- Creative proposal presented to partners and agreed w/c 18 May 2020
- Artist development work – May & June 2020
- Marketing of performance – From July 2020
- Artist performance – one evening performance at Willersley Castle - likely late August/ early September - to be agreed
- Documentation and dissemination of commission products September 2020
- Evaluation meeting September 2020

Artist Fees

£1200 + VAT if applicable

This includes artist fee and any materials, equipment, venue hire and other expenses incurred.

NB An additional marketing budget of £400 will be managed by Beam in liaison with the artist.

Payments

£800 + VAT if applicable payable after Proposal is agreed

£400 + VAT if applicable payable upon completion

Invoices to be issued to Beam.

Permissions

All relevant Beam and Derbyshire County Council policies and procedures will apply to this commission and any related work. All work will be subject to relevant permissions prior to implementation.

Health & Safety / Child Protection

Beam and Derbyshire County Council's Health & Safety and Child Protection Policies will be applied to this project as appropriate.

Insurance

The artist will be required to provide detail of Public Liability and other relevant insurances as requested.

Copyright

Copyright in the designs and work will be retained by the Artist in accordance with The Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Equal Opportunities

Beam and Derbyshire County Council's Equal Opportunities Policies will be applied to this commission.

Contact

Frances Smith Principal Consultant, Beam
frances@beam.uk.net / 07718 564 376

How to apply:

Please send expressions of interest to frances@beam.uk.net enclosed in one pdf, covering the following:

- Name, email and telephone number
- 300 words describing how you would respond to the brief
- Details of your connection to the Derwent Valley Mills area
- A brief breakdown of costs for the project within the budget (fee, materials, equipment etc)
- Overview of your interests/practice or a CV and a small selection of relevant images of previous work/ links to relevant websites/ social media
- Any visuals that could provide us with an insight into your proposed work - please limit size of pdf to no more than 5MB.

Deadline for expressions of interest is - Friday 20 March 2020, 5pm.