

Project: *Nostalgic Stranraer*



By revisiting the nostalgic past can we reinvent the future?

We seek a filmmaker/photographer/installation artist with a contemporary practice

Commissioner: CARS Dumfries and Galloway Council

What: Research, creation of a multiple film/photography installation

Submission Date: 10th June 2018

1. Introduction

Stranraer Conservation Area Scheme (CARS) is an exciting new regeneration project to improve the historic heritage and old buildings around Stranraer. CARS is part of a national programme to conserve Scotland's traditional buildings and support the regeneration of town centres. The scheme is enabled by funding from Dumfries and Galloway Council and Historic Environment Scotland.

As part of the scheme we would like to commission a film and photography art project which works with the local community to celebrate Stranraer's incredible social history and stories. Two of the key buildings which are part of the conservation scheme are the 1930's weighing building and the George Hotel. These buildings are significant and important in terms of the architectural heritage but also in terms of their social history and the remarkable human stories and memories which took place there.

2. Cultural Context

Stranraer has an incredible history and heritage and was a very important strategic place including a port with communications links to Ireland and further afield. The first harbour in Stranraer was built in the mid-18th century, with further port development in the 1820s. The arrival of the railway from Dumfries in 1861 (closed 1965), giving the shortest journey to/from London, finally established Stranraer as the area's main port. In 1862, the line was extended to serve the harbour directly, and a link to Portpatrick was also opened. In 1877, a rail connection north to Girvan and Glasgow was also established. Stranraer remained the main Scottish port for the Irish ferries for the next 150 years or so.

It is also very close to a large military base at RAF West Freugh on Loch Ryan, which closed in 2001. During the war Loch Ryan was used as a submarine base and home to sea planes. It was a busy place with a very important role to play during the war. Winston Churchill himself departed from Stranraer in a Boeing Flying Boat on the night of 25 June 1942, when making his second visit of the war to the USA.

Many people travelled through Stranraer on their way to Ireland including famous artists, writers and poets. It was a vibrant and dynamic time for the area with dances and social events happening in community halls and places like the George Hotel. During the war and afterwards the area was full of military personnel with key people meeting there.

3. Project Description

CARS is looking to commission a film/photography artwork to be installed within the environment of the town and culminating in an installation with a presentation event at Stranraer Museum.

Inspired by peoples stories, old photographs, newspaper articles, archival footage and associated objects of the time described above, there are great opportunities for artists to explore and imagine the colourful people and human stories linked to travellers to Stranraer, the military personnel and how they connected with the local community at that time. The war years are within living memory of the older generation and this is a unique opportunity to present those stories through images and film footage.

However it may be another period that captures the artist/filmmakers imagination for instance what was Stranraer like in the swinging sixties? Or stories and images may have been passed down through generations from the 19th century.

What

We would like to work with an artist or artists team with a contemporary film and/or photography practice and who will enjoy being a detective uncovering and imagining a sense of social environment linked to the historic buildings in the town.

The installations will evolve as the artist discovers material, stories and visual opportunities. We envisage the artworks will be high quality contemporary practice using elements from the past to ensure a deep connection with place and its stories.

The artworks should have an eye on the future in terms of the aesthetic and presentation. It would be exciting if ideas that emerge through this work inform future regeneration opportunities for the area, which has many social and economic challenges.

A multiple installation could be presented in the context of the stories and in the environment around the town, taking people on a journey of discovery and culminating in the museum installation. This installation will draw on film work/photography, stories, archival material and text.

Who

We seek an artist with a filmmaking and/or photography background but with an interest in socially engaged practice or environmental/public art. Due to the requirements for research it may be useful to bring a social researcher into the artists team if this is not within their own skill set. We are happy for artists teams to apply.

Being able to create high quality artwork and an ability to work with people are key skills needed for this commission.

Community

Active, grounded engagement with community and stakeholders will be an integral part of the development of the artwork. This will be a creative process in itself.

Key stakeholders for this project may include, but are not exclusive to:

- The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)
- Stranraer Museum
- Local community organisations and groups
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Library

Additional Linkages - Digital Marketing and Social Media Training

As part of the project we are discussing working with Dumfries and Galloway College to deliver Digital Marketing and Social Media Training to help the local community and new businesses to the area to create high quality social media material including great images, film clips and text based messages. We would envisage that the development of this artwork material is embedded or linked with this course. Helping to provide an archive of great images and film clips and stories which tell a fascinating Stranraer story.

4. Co-ordination

Dr Jan Hogarth will work with Pam Taylor (CARS) to support and advise on the development and presentation of the artwork.

5. Budget and Legal

The total project value is approximately £8000 All payments will be on the presentation of invoices. Payment will be on CARS.

5.1. Contract

The successful candidate will be contracted by CARS.

5.2. Insurance

Public Liability Insurance is required.

5.3. Copyright and Ownership

The copyright and all intellectual property rights in the works remain vested in the artist.

The Artist grants to Wide Open and CARS exclusive royalty free licence to copy, use and to reproduce designs, models and research and supporting information for any non-commercial purpose relating to the works.

6. Submission Requirements and Selection

Submission to be sent in electronic format (pdf file(s) totalling not more than 5mb) to Pam Taylor as below by **5pm 21st July 2018**

Submission should include:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Documentation of previous projects (not more than 6 images);
- Statement setting out your working practice, interest and proposed approach to this project (no more than 2 sides A4)
- Statement confirming that you would be able to complete the commission within the timescale stated.

Shortlisted proposals will be invited to interview.

To find out more about the commission please contact Jan Hogarth tel. 07801232229 or email jan@wide-open.net

Submit to:

pam.taylor@dumgal.gov.uk

CARS Project Officer

Stranraer Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)