



## Cotswold Canals Connected

### Brief for Creative Practitioner/s

#### 1. Background

Cotswold Canals Connected is a multi-partner project, lead by Stroud District Council, to restore the historic waterway that runs through the Stroud District, while enhancing biodiversity along the canal corridor, and engaging people in the canal's history and natural heritage.

The project has a particular focus on reaching communities located in close proximity to the canal and young people.

Key priorities for the project's social and cultural outcomes are:

**Accessibility** – Understanding and addressing physical, mental and cultural barriers to accessing and enjoying use of the canal towpath and water.

**Resilience** – Building capacity in community-led organisations to ensure the canal is used and cared for in the future.

**Learning** – Creating opportunities on the canal for young people to learn about heritage, environment and physical sciences/ engineering.

#### 2. Project Aims

- Create a sense of place through renovating and enhancing our heritage assets
- Build prosperous and connected communities
- Broaden opportunities to a wider audience and build resilient and cohesive communities
- Create and strengthen pathways for heritage learning
- Conserve, protect and enhance wildlife

#### 3. Requirements

We are seeking a creative practitioner or practitioners to develop and facilitate a series of creative workshops for under 25s, this includes developing materials for an interactive exhibition space at Museum in the Park, Stroud in 2025.

The workshops will focus on developing creative responses to objects and archive materials relating to the history of Stroud's canal, cared for by Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity (SNAC). Responses can be created in any medium, it is the process of exploring the canal and its history that is of most importance to the project, rather than the end-product.

It is suggested that the project is focused around the theme: *'Our Canal: People, Places and Wildlife'*.

Artwork created at the workshops will be displayed at Museum in the Park. We would like to include a participatory element to the exhibition space, so that visitors can continue to respond to the central theme.

Deliverables required:

Please note the detail in this table is provided as an indicator of what we feel we need as a project and we would look to shape this approach with the successful bidder.

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Quantity</b>   | <b>Date to be delivered by</b>                            |
|--|---|---|
| Research and development of workshops and exhibition   | 5 days including visits to Gloucester Archives and Museum in the Park | Summer 2024   |
| Facilitation of 10 creative workshops at youth clubs, Gloucester Archives, Museum in the Park and on the canal | 10  | Autumn 2024 - Spring 2025                                 |
| Exhibition development session with young people at Museum in the Park   | 1 day   | Spring 2025   |
| Public workshops to compliment exhibition  | 2 days  | Spring 2025   |
| Set-up of 'interactive' exhibition space   | 3 days  | W/C Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025                         |
| Facilitation of exhibition space   | 6 days  | Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2025 |
| Input into project evaluation  | 0.5 days  | Autumn 2024 – Spring 2025                                 |
| Collation and formatting of digital resources produced   | 1 day   | Spring 2025   |

Resources available

The following resources are available to the successful bidder:

- Access (by arrangement) to historic materials housed at Museum in the Park and Gloucester Archives.
- Support from knowledgeable volunteers at Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity.
- Support from the Community Engagement Team including 0.1 FTE dedicated resource (Learning and Skills Coordinator)
- A ring-fenced budget of £3,000 for materials.

**4. Experience, skills and knowledge**

Quotes will be assessed on quality, against the below criteria:

- A proven track record of developing engaging, creative projects that enthuse and inspire young people.
- Ability to demonstrate good project management skills.
- An interest in history and making it 'come alive' for young people.
- A knowledge of the Stroud area.

- Have received recent training in safeguarding.
- Have an up-to-date DBS certificate or are willing to apply for one on acceptance of contract.

### **Budget, timescale and contract**

The successful bidder will be required to start by **1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**. All required deliverables will need to be completed by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**. Bidders are invited to quote for a maximum of £15,000 to complete this work, this is to be offered on a fixed-fee contract. **This is inclusive of a ring-fenced budget of £3,000 for workshop and exhibition materials.**

You will be contracted using Stroud District Council Standard terms of appointment. See Appendix 1.

### **5. Your proposal**

On no more than two sides of A4 please set out your approach to the brief and highlight your strengths, skills and relevant areas of experience. Please provide this alongside a quote for the work. Any queries should be addressed to Sarah Burgess, Community Engagement Manager [sarah.burgess@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.burgess@stroud.gov.uk).

Deadline **Friday 17 May 2024**. Interviews are currently scheduled for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, there will be an option to attend virtually or in-person at Ebley Mill, Stroud.