**Historic England, Picturing England’s High Streets**

**Open Call for Socially Engaged Photographer-in-Residence in Leicester (two years) QUAD/FORMAT**

**About the national photographer-in-residence programme**

Picturing England’s High Streetsfrom Historic England is a three year  project which includes six photographer-in-residence programmes at six high street locations across England, as well as artist mentoring and a digital nationwide mass-participation project. This Open Call is for the photographer-in-residence programme in Leicester High Streets Heritage Action Zones.

The photographer-in-residence programmes are a key part of Picturing England’s High Streets. The photographer-in-residence will work with local communities, individuals and partners to reimagine the high street, producing images which will become part of the Historic England archive.

High street users and communities are at the heart of this project and we are looking for photographers whose practice is socially engaged and/or photographers with a strong desire to work in a socially engaged way. We are proposing a way of working rather than a thematic or visual approach.

The project starts with a simple provocation; ‘Your high street: Investigate before, picture now and imagine the future……’

We are looking for a photographer, duo or collective, who has an interest in Leicester High Streets Heritage Action Zones and whose practice embraces the opportunity to collaborate with individuals and the local community. We would welcome applications from socially engaged photographers or individuals with a strong desire to work in a socially engaged way, with a connection to Leicester or Leicestershire - although this is not essential.

The selected artist will be supported throughout the project by QUAD/FORMAT and the mentoring organisations to develop their project and determine their interests and focus in the local HAZ context and communities.

The Socially Engaged Photographer’s role will include:

* Working closely with local partners to develop relationships with individuals, groups, communities, or to create new communities, to creatively explore and research in a participatory way what the residency should be focussed on, from looking at the future of the high street to mapping the activity, opportunities, histories, archives, occupants and visitors in the area.
* Sessions could include the development of meaningful visual narratives, in which the photographer supports participants to engage in the creation of works, through a process of dialogue and collaboration.
* Taking part in stakeholder planning meetings with QUAD/FORMAT and the local HS HAZ team, around accessibility guidance and scope for showcasing work in the public realm and opportunities for safeguarding or CPD training with QUAD/FORMAT where appropriate.
* Develop, with the support of QUAD/FORMAT, and deliver a series of photography workshop sessions that support the development of skills and ideas of individuals/community members in the Leicester HAZ.
* Supporting students/early career photographers from the local community annually, to develop the work alongside you.
* Collaborating with partners to co-produce a sharing of works for display within the public realm, screening event, talk, performance as relevant (e.g pop up spaces, with cultural partners, or shopping unit windows) and accompanying works for digital or online /social media display.
* Produce a selection of final images (minimum of 20) final edit to be agreed by the project partners, to go into Historic England’s national Archive.
* Supporting engagement with the Picturing England’s High Streets mass-participation online project.
* Adhering to all safeguarding and ethical policies associated with the programme, supported by QUAD/FORMAT and local partners.
* Contributing to evaluation process with all project partners

**What will the selected artist receive?**

Artist fee - £6,000 for activity on the project within a 2-year period, including VAT if applicable.

There is an additional budget for artist’s travel, materials, DBS, and other costs associated with delivery. This budget is managed by QUAD/FORMAT.

Mentoring and training – the artist will receive a training day on socially engaged practice and up to six mentoring sessions from the Picturing England’s High Streets partners alongside ongoing support from QUAD/FORMAT throughout the two years of the project.

Practical logistics and organisational support will be provided by QUAD/FORMAT, with input from partners.

**Key dates and timeline**

Open call deadline: Midnight, 29th August 2021

Short list contacted: w/b 6th September 2021

Interviews: w/b 13th September 2021

Start date: Autumn 2021

End date: Autumn 2023

**How to apply**

1. Applications should be submitted to FORMAT/QUAD at **submissions@formatfestival.com**Please put **Picturing England’s High Streets - Leicester**in the subject line.

The application should be submitted as **one PDF document** including the information requested below.

2. Please describe what interests you about this project and how you feel your experience as a photographer and interest in/experience of socially engaged practice would meet the brief.  (No more than 4 sides of A4)

3. Your C.V.

4. Up to 15 images. These can be examples of your work or the work of participants from past projects or documentation of an engagement process that you have led.

5. Please complete the Equal Opportunities Form and attach with your application.

**Selection process**

The Open Call will have a jury involving partners representing QUAD/FORMAT, Leicester Heritage Action Zones team, Photoworks and Historic England.

**Get in touch**

If you have any questions please read the frequently asked questions below or contact submissions@formatfestival.com

**Equality, Diversity, Inclusion**

We are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion across all our work and we welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds. The sector is experiencing one of the highest levels of loss of work in the face of Covid-19: the personal impact of this is often devastating; the loss of skilled and talented people permanently a very real worry for the future. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted the health and livelihoods of people from African, Caribbean, LatinX or South and East Asian heritage, those with disabilities or long-term health conditions, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and those facing intersecting barriers. These groups were already under-represented in the visual arts and photography sector and most likely to experience racism and marginalisation. We therefore particularly welcome applications from anyone from the groups above.

**Find out more about socially engaged practice**

We’ve gathered some useful links here

<https://openeye.org.uk/socially-engaged-photography-network/>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/socially-engaged-practice>

<http://www.asocialpractice.com/about/>

**The photographer-in-residence programmes**

Historic England has appointed Photoworks to run Picturing England’s High Streets in partnership with photography organisations nationally. Each photographer-in-residence programme is run by a different organisation who has links in the local area, working in partnership with Historic England and Photoworks.

Coventry, GRAIN Projects

Stoke, GRAIN Projects

Prescot, Open Eye Gallery

Chester, Open Eye Gallery

Leicester, QUAD/FORMAT

London, Photofusion

**Mentoring for the photographers-in-residence**

The photographer-in-residence programmes will include mentoring support delivered by partners from: Impressions Gallery, PARC (Photography and the Archive Research Centre), Redeye, ReFramed and The Photographers’ Gallery.