

Community writing program for the Elizabeth Landmark

Community writing

The Elizabeth Landmark project will aim to work with a professional writing organization to deliver the community writing program for the Elizabeth Landmark in Northumberland. We have had initial discussions with New Writing North who are the writing development agency for the North of England, they are partly funded by Arts Council England and based on Tyneside. They work with professional writers, organize young writers groups and engage communities across the North of England to nurture the next generation of writers and poets.

Aim of the project

A lead writer will work with local Northumberland communities living around the site at Cold Law, to write a series of stories or poems in response to the history and heritage of the local area. The best of the work created will form part of a brand new text-based public artwork, which will feature in the new landscaping around 'Ascend' The Elizabeth Landmark. In addition a series of poems from across the commonwealth will be commissioned in order to develop the international ambitions of the Elizabeth Landmark project and to demonstrate the cultural significance of the Commonwealth.

The work

- The writing will be based around anecdotes and memories of local residents
- The writing will include younger people writing about the Elizabeth Landmark and the Commonwealth
- There could be opportunities for Commonwealth writers to conduct community writing workshops.
- Poems from the featured Commonwealth cities will be commissioned.

The Groups

There will be a period of research to identify local groups who can develop the creative writing. Typically New Writing North would work with the following:

- Local history societies
- Schools
- Older peoples homes
- Local Library
- Open access groups created through advertising and online

Context

The selected texts will be incorporated into the Elizabeth Landmark pathways to create a major piece of public art which combines community voices with writers from Commonwealth Countries.

Other outcomes

- We could create a publication featuring all the writing that is part of the public artwork (including the work by the professional writers)
- There could be an event as part of Hexham Book Festival to launch the book / discuss the project / launch the project, which may involve the commonwealth writers, community writers or both depending on timescale.

Management

New Writing North will manage and produce the project including recruiting, contracting and line managing the writer, research and recruiting the groups, supporting the editing and selection of the work, scheduling the workshops, marketing and promotion of the project and organize a launch event.

We can also edit and coordinate the production of a publication

Timeline

From agreement:

Recruit the writer through a call out **5 weeks**

Research and recruitment of groups **10 weeks** (including the 5 weeks to recruit the writer)

Engagement with Commonwealth Writers **4 Weeks**

Work with groups **8 weeks**

Select, edit the work and agree it with the writers **6 weeks**

Total: 28 weeks



More information at: <http://newwritingnorth.com/>