

PAISLEY BOOK FESTIVAL

Paisley Book Festival 2021

Digital Writer-in-Residence Programme Radical New Futures

As part of the 2021 programme, we are inviting submissions from an experienced writer for our Digital Writer-in-Residence (WiR) scheme, to work with local communities and help us reach wider audiences. This post has been funded by Creative Scotland.

The 2021 Festival will take place from Thursday 18th – Saturday 27th February 2021 and is funded by Renfrewshire Council and delivered in partnership with Renfrewshire Leisure as part of Future Paisley.

The inaugural Paisley Book Festival took place in February 2020, with a diverse programme of events exploring contemporary ideas around radicalism. Headline names included Jackie Kay, John Byrne, Kirsty Wark, Janice Galloway, and the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers. Acclaimed writers from across the UK engaged local audiences in a love of reading and writing, and took part in a variety of events, from discussion panels, masterclasses, and workshops to storytelling performances.

Whilst we had hoped that some face-to-face workshops would take place as part of this scheme, given the uncertain times we are currently living through, it is looking more likely that this year's residency will take a digital form, with the interaction between the Writer-in-Residence and communities taking place through video-conferencing and emails.

The Writer-in-Residence will be contracted on a part-time basis for ten weeks, from Monday 2nd November until Saturday 13th March 2021, working 2-3 days per week for a total of 10 weeks, 5 weeks pre-Christmas and 5 weeks post-Christmas.

We envisage this in two phases:

Phase 1 - Pre-Christmas

This will be a connection and engagement phase, with some research and event curation included. Supported by the Renfrewshire Leisure Arts Team and the Festival Producers, you will be establishing contact with local groups, connecting with the theme in the Paisley context, and hosting workshops with communities and organisations in Paisley and around Renfrewshire.

We expect the WiR to work with local book groups and Renfrewshire Writers' Forum as well as several other non-book related groups. These could include ArtBOSS (an arts producers group for care experienced young people), BAME groups, groups with additional support needs, and groups of vulnerable young people.

The Renfrewshire Leisure Arts Team will work with the writer to access the groups and voices that interest and inspire them. Further to this, we would look for the WiR to work with

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the Festival Producers to curate 3-4 events, one of which would be showcasing the work accomplished over the workshops with groups.

Phase 2 – Post-Christmas

This will be about using these workshops and the work done with local groups to construct a creative response inspired by Paisley and the local people, as well as the Book Festival theme of *Radical New Futures*, which centres around the pandemic and our ability to be resilient, re-build and create new narratives.

We expect the WiR to be present at the Book Festival in a safe physical space and to host or chair the events curated by them. If the festival is manifested digitally, we would expect the WiR to have a role chairing and hosting Paisley Book Festival events.

Details:

- To engage with communities who are outside our customer base and those in outlying neighbourhoods, particularly those that are part of our existing Artists and Residents scheme. The WIR will be expected to engage local communities, working with a range of writing and book groups, as well as youth groups that are based in Renfrewshire. There are particular groups we have in mind for this post but this is something for further research and discussion whilst in post.
- To develop work/writing with groups that can be shared and celebrated as part of the Book Festival. The WIR will be expected to produce a work of their own based on or arising out of the residency. Special care must be paid to the fact that the work may be published online, or perhaps even wholly intended for online consumption.
- To curate a number of events during the Book Festival, following the Book Festival's theme, *Radical New Futures*, using the material written to creatively exhibit the work as part of the festival as well as the work that has been carried out with groups during the residency. The WIR will be expected to deliver a range of programmes and events, approximately 15 workshops in the lead up to and 3-4 events during Paisley Book Festival.
- To write their own response to the theme. This residency is open to all forms of writing including, but not limited to, prose, poetry, playwriting, and writing for children, and genre writing, as long as it is clearly inspired and influenced by Paisley and the Book Festival theme, *Radical New Futures*.
- To be a spokesperson for the Festival, to carry the Festival's positive message, and to be available to talk to stakeholders and partners about the Festival if required. The WIR will primarily liaise with the Festival Producers regarding the role but will also engage with other local organisations to ensure the residency fits in with their current projects.
- The WIR will undertake this role part-time (2-3 days a week/20 hours a week over 10 weeks, 5 weeks before Christmas and 5 weeks in 2021) until the week of the festival, but will have more of a presence during the 10 days of the Paisley Book Festival, as a spokesperson. The WIR will also act as an ambassador for the festival in a safe physical space, which may include (although not limited only to) hosting, promotion, and other duties.

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Benefits

- WIR will be paid a set fee of £8,000 for the residency, in instalments.
- A laptop will be provided to the WIR and admin, marketing and tech support will be available for various elements of the residency.

How to Apply:

Writers must have a proven track record of publications (at least one book/collection published) as well as a history of community engagement and of delivering writing workshops. Please submit the following:

A Cover Letter stating why you are suitable for this position, how you plan to engage with the residency and the local community, ideas of work that could be produced, and the various and innovative ways you could approach all of the above in terms of delivery (in person, online, etc). This should also include your contact details (name/address/email/phone number) and be within 1200 words.

A Writer's CV to include publication, awards, workshops/classes facilitated, etc. to info@paisleybookfest.com by Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 5pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this opportunity, please contact Keira Brown: info@paisleybookfest.com

This opportunity has been made possible through support from:



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