

# ROOTED ARTS\*

## Lead Artist Brief for *A Passing Tale* in North Kesteven

Rooted Arts CIC are seeking creative proposals for '*A Passing Tale*' in North Kesteven. Creatives can be from any artform but should have strong experience of participatory engagement.

### Background

Rooted Arts CIC, a Lincoln based community arts organisation, celebrates creativity and growth from the ground up. Activity focuses on cultivating mental wellness and championing environmental sustainability through art, promoting vibrant creativity deeply rooted in communities, leading to content Hearts and a thriving Earth. The organisation connects communities to each other and nature, imagining a greener future together.

*A Passing Tale* is a place-based participatory arts programme delivered by Rooted Arts CIC, journeying along The Viking Way walking trail, on its 50th year of existence. Communities will engage through creative reflection, walking, and environmental storytelling within a series of events and activities. This is a unique opportunity for rural communities to engage in a larger creative project.

With support from UK Shared Prosperity Fund through North Kesteven District Council, we are delighted to be able to offer two artists opportunities for *A Passing Tale* - Lead Artist and Supporting Artist.

### The Project

We are seeking an artist to lead the commission in North Kesteven. This will include 4 days of activity, alongside a support artist, tailored to the local area and the artist's chosen practice. These activities will be designed through conversation with residents and delivered in collaboration with local groups. Delivery could include (but is not limited to):

- One full day in a local school, using creative practice to explore nature, heritage and place
- A half-day family event offering intergenerational making and storytelling, exploring The Viking Way itself
- A public workshop event hosted in local village hall or a local library
- A session with a community group (e.g. WI, youth clubs, Scouts/Guides) tailored to their interests and capacity
- Research and studio time for the artists to create the final outputs
- Planning and mentoring time, supporting the development of the supporting artist skills in socially engaged and nature-based practice



Funded by  
UK Government



North Kesteven  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The project will be supported by Chelsey Everatt as Producer, who will arrange the workshop logistics, mentoring as required, lead marketing and overall project management.

The team model of a lead artist and support artist will allow for very local creatives to potentially work with someone outside of their immediate network. The team may have similar practice or differing artforms, depending on what they hope to gain from the residency.

The commission should culminate in the creation of trail-responsive artwork and reflections shaped by local people, exploring themes of nature connection, cultural heritage and environmental care. Outcomes will be shared across other sections of the wider project, connecting communities and building a cumulative archive of collective experience.

A digital blog will document the journey, showcasing imagery, sound, writing and interviews from each segment. Pop-up exhibitions and printed materials will further share the stories gathered along The Viking Way, offering ongoing legacy across the region.

Creatives involved will be supported to connect across commissions, building a peer-led network of socially engaged practitioners with a shared interest in nature-connected and place-based arts. This informal cohort will offer opportunities for exchange, reflection and future collaboration beyond the project's timeline.

The overall project is divided into 13 sections from Barton upon Humber, through the Wolds, Lincoln City, and down through rural Lincolnshire into Rutland. This commission will be from Lincoln to Marston via Wellingore, covering the areas of The Viking Way within North Kesteven.

The artist's proposal can focus on a small area between Lincoln and Marston, but should include at least two villages in North Kesteven.

Visit [Viking Way 09 Lincoln To Wellingore Walk - Visit Lincolnshire](#) and [Viking Way 10 Wellingore To Marston Walk - Visit Lincolnshire](#) to see full details of this 25.5 miles section of The Viking Way.

## Timeline and Key Dates

The timeline for this project is as follows:

Date	Activity
20th February	Deadline for creative proposals
25th February - 29th March	Workshops and activity
30th March	Sharing in North Kesteven
16th May	Sharing at Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival*
17th and 18th June	Sharing at Lincolnshire Show* (tbc)

*\*the artist does not need to commit to being present for these full events but would be encouraged to attend if they have capacity - there may be some additional fees available to cover that time but this is unconfirmed at this stage*

## Budget

There is a budget of up to £1200 for the artist fee which should include planning, preparation, workshops, mentoring the supporting artist, finalising and sharing the artwork, with an additional £200 available for materials. This is approximately 4 days of work at £300 per day.

*Additional funding is being sought to expand the project beyond this initial commission.*

## Submission

Please email proposals to [chelsey@rootedarts.org.uk](mailto:chelsey@rootedarts.org.uk) by 9am on Friday 20th February, clearly marked 'NK Passing Tale - Lead Artist'. The submission should include the following information:

- Outline of your approach to the project including: your vision for working with communities, how you'll connect this specifically to The Viking Way walking route, where on the route you're most interested in, what the outcome might be and why you are generally interested in the project
- Your experience of supporting/mentoring other artists
- Confirmation you can meet the timeline requirements
- Information about your practice - this could include links to a website, CV, socials, images, videos etc.

We are also happy to accept the above in audio or video format. Applicants are welcome to contact us on [chelsey@rootedarts.org.uk](mailto:chelsey@rootedarts.org.uk) to discuss the project.

## **Rules and Regulations**

The deadline is 9am on Friday 20th February. Any submissions that arrive late will not be considered. The assessment of the submissions will be made by the Rooted Arts team, supported by local communities. We reserve the right to invite creatives to an interview before a final decision is made. At our discretion, after receiving proposals, we are permitted to not commission any work. The decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into, in regards to decisions made. You must agree to this in order to be eligible. However, feedback will be given to all applicants. Once a decision is made, a detailed contract with agreed targets, outcomes and milestones will be agreed.