New Briggate High Street Heritage Action Zone

Oral Histories – Project Brief

11 January 2023

Introduction and Background

Leeds City Council is working in partnership with Historic England to deliver the New Briggate High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project. The HAZ will deliver regeneration though the restoration, repair and refurbishment of key historic buildings and spaces within New Briggate and the Grand Quarter Conservation Area via a grant funded scheme of building works. The building works include improvements to the highways and public realm, direct grant funded improvements to buildings in the street and to St Johns Churchyard. More information about the grant funded project and Leeds City Council's work can be found here.

In addition, an associated Cultural Programme is being delivered by East Street Arts, in conjunction with a number of local cultural and community organisations including Leeds Grand Theatre, Opera North, Leeds Civic Trust, Age UK and North Bar. The project is titled 'Hidden Histories' and two artists have been commissioned to explore the past, present and future of New Briggate and uncover and share stories and hidden histories. For more information on East Street Arts and the Hidden Histories project please click here.

The Brief

Leeds City Council, working with East Street Arts wish to appoint an Oral Histories Practitioner to support the HAZ and associated Hidden Histories projects. The successful practitioner will deliver an Oral Histories project to collect and record stories and histories uncovered from members of the public and HAZ project stakeholders. The Oral Histories project will make a significant and tangible contribution to the legacy of the HAZ, Cultural Consortium and Hidden Histories projects.

The Practitioner will be overseen by staff from LCC and ESA working on the HAZ and Hidden Histories projects but will work independently to deliver the project outcomes.

The main tasks and responsibilities of the practitioner will be:

- Work closely with staff from Leeds City Council and East Street Arts to plan and deliver the oral histories project and maintain regular communication and updates throughout
- Contact interviewees to build relationships and coordinate and organise interviews
- Recommend additional interviewees as needed
- Attend interviews, undertake structured conversations and undertake recording of oral history interviews
- Undertake all processing and collection management including appropriate records and copyright forms
- Edit full interview recordings ready for use on websites and in other settings and share final versions with LCC and ESA.
- Organise and undertake deposit of interviews with local archives (Leeds Libraries and West Yorkshire Archive Service at minimum)
- Produce final evaluation report

The Oral Histories final outputs will be deposited in local archives to provide a legacy of the HAZ and Hidden Histories and to record New Briggate's unique and diverse histories for the future. In addition,

the raw material recording will be made available to the commissioned artists and others taking part in the Hidden Histories and HAZ projects to be used to create future art including sound pieces and podcasts etc.

Topics and Themes

At its heart, the OH project will be about New Briggate, and about the ways in which people have lived, worked and played in the street in the past. Stories, memories and reflections from a diverse range of contributors will be collected.

New Briggate has a rich and varied depth of history associated with many layered and interconnected communities, and this is illustrated in the breadth and variety of stories we have identified during the project so far. Topics we expect to cover during the OH project include:

Jewish History and Tailoring	West Indian Carnival	Tattoo Shop Owner and Artists	Jazz Stories and Jazz Clubs	Leeds Grand Theatre, Opera North and performance	Protest and Counterculture
Food and Takeaways	St Johns Church	Local life and stories	Motorway City	Nightlife	Businesses and shopping

We have identified and begun to build relationships with a number of contributors/ interviewees who will take part in the project. These contributors are likely to have interests in and stories relating to the above topics, but we would hope that the OH project will further broaden our knowledge and understanding of New Briggate. More detailed information about potential contributors can be provided on request.

Whilst this brief identifies topic areas and contributors, the successful practitioner will contribute intellectually to the project, steering structured conversations, investigating areas of interest, and identifying new themes and outputs. We would welcome innovative and creative responses to the brief.

Of particular importance to the HAZ and Hidden Histories Project is maximisation of participation in cultural and heritage activities for communities local to New Briggate and we would welcome submissions from members of the local Leeds community and those which identify or recommend topic areas or contributors relevant to New Briggate and the surrounding areas. Key geographical focus communities for the project are New Briggate including the student population, Little London and Lincoln Green, and in addition, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, Chapeltown, Sheepscar and Woodhouse.

Outputs

Subject to budget, the project will deliver:

- A minimum of 8 long-form recordings of individual oral histories
- 3-5 short themed compilations (2-3 mins)

Recordings will be delivered to LCC and ESA in an accessible and safe format for use on websites and for use as part of the ongoing Hidden Histories project.

Recordings will also be deposited in local archives including Leeds City Council Libraries and West Yorkshire Archives Service, as well as any other recommended archive services.

Timescales:

There is no set deadline for delivery; however, we would expect staged submission of outputs with the first delivered in spring 2023 and project completion during summer 2023. Please provide a programme or confirmation of your availability and capacity to deliver the project within these timescales within your submission.

How to submit your tender:

Please see the instructions for submission of your tender and detail of Evaluation Criteria in the attached covering letter.