



SPEAK VOLUMES

SPEAK VOLUMES IS A NEW CREATIVE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME FOR THEATRE ARTISTS, DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LEEDS LIBRARIES AND LEEDS PLAYHOUSE.

It offers two artists or companies the opportunity to embed themselves within Leeds Libraries and embark on an artistic exploration of its extensive and illustrious collection with a view to creating a brand-new piece of theatre in response to an element of library life.

WHAT IS IT?

We're looking for two theatre artists or companies who love libraries as much as we do to spend four weeks in situ at Leeds Central Library and branch libraries around Leeds. These four weeks will be spent exploring, talking to library members and working with library staff to uncover materials or areas of interest that could be the inspiration for a new piece of theatre.

Each of the two artists or companies will be paid a fee of £2,000 to undertake the residency. No additional expenses or travel will be paid.

Artists will receive a unique Artist-in-Residence building pass allowing them exclusive access to all areas of the Grade II* listed Leeds Central Library building.

As part of their residency, artists will have the opportunity to:

- Go behind the scenes of the Library and take a specially guided a Heritage Tour of the building.
- Access the *Treasures of the Library*, a collection of the oldest and rarest items held in the archives of the Central Library and *The Gott Bequest*, early English gardening books with hand coloured botanical illustrations
- Access facilities in Studio 12, the Library's creative digital media facility.
- Write a guest blog post for <https://secretlibraryleeds.net/>
- Have regular meetings with the Arts Development Librarian and Collections Manager, as well as other Library specialists.
- Hold public-facing creative sessions with the support of Library staff.
- Write, reflect and pull together research in this architecturally beautiful and culturally diverse civic hub.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE RESIDENCIES TAKE PLACE?

Artists will be expected to be in residence at Leeds Central Library for a period of four weeks. Weeks do not need to be consecutive, but residencies must be completed between 1 April 2019 and 28 June 2019.

Artists will be based primarily at Leeds Central Library, but will also have access to Branch Libraries across Leeds. The Arts Development Librarian will be responsible for brokering relationships between the artist or company and Branch Libraries.

Artists will also have access to a limited travel fund to allow them to visit the British Library in London if required. This budget and any visits will be co-ordinated by the Arts Development Librarian.

ABOUT LEEDS CENTRAL LIBRARY

Leeds Central Library is a public library in Leeds City Centre. It houses the city library service's single largest general lending and reference collection and hosts the Leeds Art Gallery.

- Leeds Central Library is the only specialist public art library in the north of England with over 25,000 books covering architecture, sculpture, painting, ceramics, costumes, craft, fashion and photography.
- There are over 12,000 playsets and an impressive collection of vocal and orchestral scores including Victorian songs.
- The Local and Family History Library has over 180,000 items – books, journals, maps, photographs, prints and playbills. You can access census returns, births, marriages and deaths.

ABOUT LEEDS PLAYHOUSE

Leeds Playhouse is one of the UK's leading producing theatres; a cultural hub, a place where people gather to tell and share stories and to engage in world class theatre.

As dedicated collaborators, we work regularly with other organisations from across the UK, independent producers, and some of the most distinctive, original voices in theatre today. Through our Furnace programme, we develop work with established practitioners and find, nurture and support new voices that ought to be heard. We cultivate artists by providing creative space for writers, directors, companies and individual theatre makers to refine their practice at any stage of their career.

Alongside our work for the stage, we are dedicated to providing creative engagement opportunities that excite and stimulate. We build, run and sustain projects which reach out to everyone from refugee communities, to young people and students, to older communities and people with learning disabilities.

At the Playhouse there is always a way to get involved.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE RESIDENCY IS FINISHED?

At the end of their residency, each of the artists or companies will be expected to present their findings and their idea for a new theatre project to team members from Leeds Playhouse and Leeds Libraries. Presentations can be informal and could be anything from a script-in-hand reading to a written document or a conversation. The Playhouse's New Work Producer will support each of the artists or companies to devise and structure their presentation.

Leeds Playhouse will have first option to further develop both ideas via its Furnace programme. More information about the way we develop new projects for the stage can be found here: <https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/furnace/projects/>

HOW DO I APPLY?

Speak Volumes is open to artists and companies from across the UK but priority will be given to artists and companies who are based in Yorkshire. Artists or companies must have had at least one professionally produced theatre production.

If you'd like to embark on a residency with Speak Volumes, please email a proposal to New Work Producer, Gilly Roche, at gilly.roche@leedsplayhouse.org.uk by 5pm on Friday, 22 February 2019.

Your proposal must consist of four parts:

1. Your name or company name, address, contact telephone number, email address and website URL (if applicable).
2. Either 500 words or a video of up to 3 minutes in length answering the following questions:
 - What area of library life are you most interested to explore?
 - What excites you about this residency?
3. Information about your previous professionally produced production(s). If this information is online, you just need to send us the link.
4. A completed equal opportunities form, which can be downloaded here: <https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/furnace/partnerships/>

Proposals will be read and considered by members of the team from Leeds Playhouse and Leeds Libraries.