



# SeaScapes

Tyne to Tees, shores and seas

## SeaScapes Co/Lab: Queer Shores and Seas Commission Opportunity for North East based LGBTQIA+ Artists/Creatives

**Spoken audio and captioned version** available for the brief [HERE](#)

Deadline Friday 18 February 2022

### Brief

“How can we amplify, celebrate and safeguard queer voices, perspectives and experiences within our marine heritage?”

SeaScapes Co/Lab: Queer Shores and Seas will support a socially engaged artist based in the North East, who self identifies as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual +. We would particularly like to connect with artists who have a strong relationship with the marine and maritime heritage of the coastline that runs between the River Tyne to the River Tees.

For this funded residency opportunity, we are interested in how we might collectively explore the relationship between our region’s marine heritage and queer culture. We hope to amplify underserved voices through an exploration of the richness and diversity of our natural, cultural and industrial marine heritage. We hope to safeguard the oral ‘living histories’ of LGBTQIA+ communities living within the SeaScapes area for future generations.

The SeaScapes Co/Lab: Queer Shores to Seas residency is based within Living History North East (Sunderland) and will be supported by Curious Arts.



## Budget and Timeframes:

SeaScapes Co/Lab: Queer Shores and Seas is open to artists at early - mid stage in their career, and we will consider all creative practises that are driven by marine and marine heritage stories, past, present and future and are participatory/community engaged in nature.

There is one artist in residence opportunity available for a total fee of £5000 including all costs (Travel, equipment, materials etc). We expect the number of days spent on the commission would not exceed 20 - 25 days. This work can take place between March 2022 and October 2022. A final sharing/celebration event will happen in November 2022.

## Project Proposals:

Your project proposal will clearly outline how you will explore the relationship between queer culture and marine heritage from your disciplinary perspective. Your project proposal will respond to the question

“How can we amplify, celebrate and safeguard queer voices, perspectives and experiences within our marine heritage?”

For this brief, we are interested in engaging communities with creative practises that span (but are not limited to) the fields of visual arts, lens-based and digital media, audio (including podcasting, video, film, creative writing (fiction and nonfiction), animation, performance (including screen based dance and performance), dance, sound art, live art, spoken word and theatre and socially engaged art.

Throughout your delivery you will be offered a working space at Living History North East. Your project proposal should outline how you plan to actively engage with the Living History North East oral history archive and resources, particularly those stories that relate to the North East coastline between the River Tyne and the River Tees.

Community focused workshops can be delivered with the same group, with one workshop building upon the outcomes of the first. They can also be multiple one-off workshops, delivered with different groups, depending upon the needs of the proposal. The workshops can be delivered virtually, physically or through a hybrid programme of both digital and physical engagements. The outcomes of this engagement activity will be co-created and will inform the development, design and delivery of a final outcome that will be shared with a public audience in November 2022. Please outline your



approach to delivery and how these participatory workshops will inform your final outcome within your proposal outline.

### Criteria for success:

For this opportunity, we ask that work submitted for consideration fulfils the following criteria:

1. Is created/presented by LGBTQIA+ artists/creatives
2. Explores the relationship between our Tyne to Tees marine/coastal heritage and queer community, culture, lived experience.
3. Is presented in a digital format (audio/video/image/text files)
4. Engages with communities within the SeaScapes footprint (from the south of the river Tyne to the north of the river Tees) through the delivery of artist-led workshops.
5. Engages meaningfully with the oral history archive of Living History North East, ideally adding new stories and sounds.

### How to apply:

We welcome proposals (max. of 2 sides of A4 or a 4-minute video/audio file) from artists/creatives that detail:

1. Your work/experience to date with links to previous work.
2. Your response to the question “how can we amplify, celebrate and safeguard queer voices, perspectives and experiences within our marine heritage?” (maximum 200 words). A summary of the idea you want to develop and share through your commission (max 200 words)
4. The format your final output will take (e.g. visual artwork podcast recording, digital animation, theatre piece etc.)
5. Your approach to building partnerships and developing meaningful engagement with local SeaScapes communities - this can be geographical communities or communities of identity
6. A basic budget and an outline timetable for your project assuming commencement in March 2022



## Residency Support:

The successful artist will be selected by representatives from SeaScapes Co/Lab, Living History North East and Curious Arts curatorial and producing teams. The winning proposal will have:

- Access to the Living History North East (LHNE) archive of community voices and oral histories, oral history skills support from Janette Hilton, Director of LHNE.
- Curatorial support from SeaScapes Co/Lab curator, Suzy O'Hara.
- Academic support by arts and creative academics within the Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries at University of Sunderland and marine sector support from the wider SeaScapes partnership.

Curious Arts Producers and SeaScapes Co/Lab curator will meet with commissioned artist at the start of the project and at regular intervals throughout to support the creation process.

The successful applicant is invited to meet the SeaScapes Co/Lab curator and project partners on a regular basis throughout the commission period to update them on progress. The amount of sessions will be negotiated at the interview stage depending on the amount of support required.

## Project Assessment:

Applications will be short-listed against the following criteria:

- Creativity of the response: How creative and interesting is the artistic concept? How does it approach the topic of queer culture within marine heritage?
- Resources: How well does the proposal utilise and further develop the Living History North East oral history archive and resources?
- Depth of LGBTQIA+ communities engagement: Will the project facilitate meaningful community engagement with the marine heritage of Seascape? How integrated is community participation within the project plan? What will the legacy of this project be for the people the group works with?
- Logistics: Will the project plan ensure the final outcome is produced on time and within budget?

## IMPORTANT DATES - may be subject to change

w/c 24 January 2022:

Applications open

7 February 2022:

Information and Q&A session



18 February 2022:	Applications Close
25 February 2022:	Interviews
1 March 2022 – 30 November 2022:	Residency period
14 March 2022:	Oral History Skills workshop - Janette Hilton
November 2022:	Final Sharing/Celebration event

## CONTACT

For further information please contact: Suzy O'Hara: [suzy.o'hara@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:suzy.o'hara@sunderland.ac.uk)

## Background Information

### SeaScapes Co/Lab:

SeaScapes Co/Lab is a two year creative engagement project for SeaScapes: Tyne to Tees shores and seas. The aim of Sea Change is to connect communities with artists, researchers and the wider SeaScapes partnership to explore novel ways to deepen understanding of their relationship to their natural, cultural and industrial marine heritage through diverse artistic and creative practises.

### SeaScapes: Tyne to Tees shores and seas

SeaScapes is a partnership of organisations across the natural, cultural and heritage sectors that have come together to better protect and celebrate the unique coastline and marine environment to six nautical miles out, between the rivers Tyne and Tees. It's also the UK's first marine Landscape Partnership scheme and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

SeaScapes focuses on the often-overlooked Magnesian Limestone coast between the Rivers Tyne and Tees in North East England. Whilst perceptions of this coastline are blighted by its industrial past, this seascape is bound in character by unique geology, the natural environment and a shared cultural heritage. Once smothered in colliery spoil, this coastline has seen major regeneration over the last few decades. This has reinvigorated its seascape into life.

There is much to be celebrated across this seascape, although much of this heritage is out of sight, held only in memory or beneath the waves, just waiting to be discovered. The project will reveal this hidden history of the SeaScapes area and help to write the next exciting chapter of this unique coast and marine environment.

More information about SeaScapes programme of 23 projects can be found here:

<https://exploreseascapes.co.uk/>



## Living History North East

Living History northeast, the Regional Oral History Learning Centre in Sunderland, records oral histories in all kinds of settings to ensure that important regional heritage is captured, shared and enjoyed as widely as possible.

Oral history is the recording and sharing of peoples' personal memories of their life experiences, thoughts and attitudes to life, ensuring that our rich social and cultural heritage about lives lived, or living histories', are captured and kept safe for future generations.

Over time Oral history enables people's voices to be heard, opening up a window on the past, personal experiences and generating fresh insights and perspectives on people and other communities and cultures. This can help us to reflect on our own lives and communities and to imagine how the lives of others have played out – letting us, '...walk in their shoes'.

<https://www.livinghistorynortheast.com/>

## Curious Arts

Curious Arts is a Newcastle Gateshead based not-for-profit organisation championing and developing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + arts, artists and audiences across the North East of England.

Producers of award-winning *Curious Festival* – a celebration of LGBTQIA+ culture, Curious Arts co-ordinate queer arts network *Queer Arts North* and develop community-focused arts projects, events and artist development opportunities throughout the year. In partnership with cultural and community organisations from across the region.

[www.curiousarts.org.uk](http://www.curiousarts.org.uk)

