

# **CROOKSTON CASTLE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

## **Connecting Pollok : Culture Collective Programme**

The Village Storytelling Centre (VSC) is delighted to present an opportunity for a year long (2 day a week) Crookston Castle Artist in Residence post as part of our Connecting Pollok, Culture Collective Programme.

Crookston Castle is Glasgow's only remaining medieval Castle and a significant point of growing local pride for the community of Greater Pollok where it proudly sits. Over the last year with the revival of a Friends of Crookston Castle Group (FOCC) and the delivery of a series of successful community events led by the VSC, FOCC and local volunteers, visibility and engagement with Castle has flourished. Furthermore a geophysical survey was undertaken last year, re-writing the Castle's history. Five Bronze or Iron age roundhouse remains and a fenced enclosure were detected on Castle Hill, connecting people with this land as far back as pre-historic times.

We are looking for a Creative Practitioner who has an interest and experience of working within heritage contexts to interpret and bring alive one or more themes related to the recent archeological discoveries, through the design and delivery of a creative engagement programme.

### **Potential themes:**

- **Celebrating the Castle and Castle Hill as a place of gathering and connection**, drawing inspiration from its prehistoric past to create inclusive creative activities that promote health, wellbeing, and community today.
- **Connecting local people with creativity during Bronze and Iron Ages**, particularly the craftsmanship, cultural practices and everyday skills that shaped prehistoric communities, while providing opportunities to explore and develop their own creative practices.
- **Reimagining the relationship between Castle Hill, local communities, and the surrounding landscape**, using the site's history to strengthen connections to place, explore environmental themes, and inspire thinking about a climate-resilient future for Crookston.

## **Aims of the Residency**

The residency aims to:

- Celebrate and raise the profile of Crookston Castle locally and citywide.
- Use creative practice to engage people in the community that currently face barriers to participate in activities at the Castle.
- Increase knowledge and ownership of the Castle's history for local people.
- Create unique opportunities for participants to develop new creative skills.
- Improve participants' health and wellbeing through engagement in arts activity.
- Support the Artist's professional development through a year-long embedded residency.

## Background to the programme

The Village Storytelling Centre is Scotland's leading applied storytelling organisation. Our vision is a world where people and communities are inspired, connected and heard. Through storytelling and creative engagement, we work locally in Pollok and with partners across Glasgow and beyond.

Connecting Pollok is a community-led arts programme that connects people with the area's culture, heritage and environment to support wellbeing and community-led regeneration. In partnership with local organisations, VSC recently launched the Greater Pollok Arts and Creativity Strategy.

Funding from the Culture Collective Fund will support delivery of actions arising from the strategy, including 4 year-long Artist in Residence opportunities. Culture Collective is a Scottish Government initiative supporting creative practitioners, organisations and communities to make a positive difference locally and nationally.

### For more info :

*Web : [www.villagestorytelling.org.uk](http://www.villagestorytelling.org.uk)*

*Facebook : The Village Storytelling Centre*

*Instagram : @villagestories*

## Residency overview

The residency will run from **10 August 2026 to 9 August 2027**.

The selected Artist will commit approximately **90 days** across the year, to include:

- Research and planning.
- Delivery of weekly workshops and engagement activity.

- Regular meetings with the Culture Collective Co-ordinator.
- Four Artist development sessions with other Greater Pollok Culture Collective Artists.
- Contributing to creative evaluation with support from a Creative Evaluator.
- Documenting their process and sharing content for the VSC social media periodically.
- Sharing artwork created with participants / delivering creative activity at a minimum of four of Crookston Castle's public events.

The Artist will receive support from the Culture Collective Co-ordinator, to include:

- Training and professional development opportunities.
- Introductions to partners and participant groups.
- Securing access to suitable workspaces.
- Support connecting with wider Connecting Pollok activity, (VSC storytellers, local events and opportunities to share work).
- Access to a creative evaluation toolkit.
- Promotion of their work through VSC networks and events.

## Residency Structure

During the first few weeks, the Artist will focus on research, relationship-building and planning rather than delivery. This period will allow time to establish participant groups, confirm venues and develop an engagement plan with support.

**For most of the residency, approximately 50% of the Artist's time is expected to be spent directly delivering creative activity.** Towards the end of the project, more time may be allocated to sharing outcomes and evaluation.

The first key public event the Artist is expected to contribute to will be the Glasgow Doors Open Day Festival on 19 September. The Artist may also choose to engage with the Crookston Castle Fun Day on 29 August, as part of their research and development.

## Participants and audiences

The Project Coordinator will work to connect the Artist in Residence (AIR) with participant groups and audiences that align with their practice. There are no targets for participant numbers; the emphasis is on meaningful, impactful engagement that is rooted in creative practice and supports the project's aims.

Potential audiences include:

- Families of all ages who attend public events at the castle.

- Local schools and nurseries, (linking in with up-coming plans for a local Schools visiting programme.)
- Participants in the VSC's Community Stories Programme.
- Global majority communities, who are currently underrepresented in engagement with the castle.
- Older adults in the community who may face health related barriers to engaging with the Castle itself.
- Local arts and craft groups.
- Members of the public visiting the Castle independently.
- The growing network of FOCC volunteers, where opportunities to develop knowledge, confidence and creative skills could have lasting impact.

As this project sits within the wider Connecting Pollok Project umbrella, there will be opportunities throughout the year to showcase work or deliver activities as part of our programme of community events.

We would love to see a collaboration between the different AIR's (4 in total), this may involve delivering one off workshops with participants engaged in another AIR project.

**For more info about the FOCC:**

*Facebook : Friends of Crookston Castle*

*X : Castle Crookston*

*Instagram : crookstoncastle*

## **Residency location and work spaces**

The residency will take place across the Greater Pollok area in South West Glasgow and would ideally suit an Artist based in or around the Greater Glasgow area.

As this is a place-based residency at Crookston Castle, the Artist is expected to spend a significant amount of time on site. The Castle is managed by Heritage Environment Scotland (HES) and is accessible to the public during seasonal opening hours, which the Artist can use freely. HES retains control of access, and opening times should be checked via their website:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/crookston-castle/>

Current opening hours are:

- Apr - 30 Sept: Daily, 9.30am–5pm (last entry 5pm, closes 5.30pm)
- 1 Oct - 31 Mar: Daily except Thu–Fri, 10am–3.30pm (closes 4pm)

Events and workshops outside these hours may be possible but require HES permission. All activity on site must be pre-notified with appropriate risk assessments; the Project Coordinator will support this process.

Practically, the Castle is a hilltop ruin with some consideration required towards access and facilities, the site includes rough paths, staircases, limited parking, no power or internal lighting, no on-site equipment such as tables and minimal shelter, though public toilets are available. Equipment can be borrowed from the VSC and FOCC, including tables, gazebos, and tarps. Certain materials and processes that could damage the historic fabric are not permitted.

The surrounding Castle Hill, owned by Glasgow City Council, is also a potential for activity and is the site of prehistoric archaeological finds. While much engagement is expected to take place at the Castle and Hill, activities may also extend into local community venues such as schools and community centres.

The Artist will be able to book space depending on availability at the VSC studio and office (Langton Halls, Pollok.) The VSC studio is a medium classroom size, with tables, chairs, sink etc. There are also creative facilities available for hire at SWAMP (Great Pollok Community Hub) including meeting spaces, art room, dance studio, recording facilities and wood workshop.

As we have no Artist studios in Greater Pollok the Artist may wish to work from their own studio / workspace some of the time.

## **Fees/budget**

- **Artist fee: £25,000 - based on 2 days per week x 45 weeks** at the following rates:
  - 45 x days @ approx £200 per day (*admin, prep, planning etc.*)
  - 45 x days @ approx £360 per day (*artistic delivery / engagement*)
- **Production budget: £3000** for materials, venue hire and specialist support.
- Additional access budget available where required.

## **How to apply**

We welcome applications from creative practitioners working across a range of disciplines, including collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Applicants should demonstrate experience of participatory practice.

We are committed to contributing towards a more diverse workforce in the arts and the third sector. We welcome applications from people who identify as coming from a group that is marginalised due to (for example) age, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, education, socio-economic background or caring responsibilities.

We particularly encourage applications from Artists based in, or connected to, Greater Pollok.

For further information, please contact: [hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk](mailto:hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk)

## Proposal Requirements

Please confirm your availability for the residency dates and address the following:

1. How would you describe your practice?
2. Why are you interested in this opportunity at this stage in your practice?
3. What previous experience do you have relevant to working with heritage themes?
4. Do you have experience or an interest in working with any specific demographic of participants?
5. Which of the themes above is of most interest to you and how might you approach it?  
We understand that this residency will be informed by the process of gaining a greater understanding of the context including partner and participants perspectives but would like to hear about any initial ideas you may have.

Proposals may be submitted as:

- Written proposal (maximum 2 A4 pages)
- Video or audio submission (maximum 5 minutes)

*Please note it is not compulsory to write 2 full pages*

Please also include:

- A CV.
- Links to five relevant projects/examples of work, or up to ten images (maximum 5MB in total).

Applications should be submitted to [hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk](mailto:hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk) by **9am on Tuesday 21st July 2026**.

Informal interviews will take place on **Friday 24th July**.

**Please note:** Artists must undergo a PVG check with Disclosure Scotland.