

Warwickshire Libraries is seeking proposals for a creative practitioner/ organisation to:

- **Work with sixth form/ college students from North Warwickshire to develop a performance using *Shakespeare's First Folio: All The Plays: A Children's Edition* as inspiration, for a primary school audience.**
- **Support the co-creation of an activity/ workshop for a primary school audience by the sixth form/ college students.**
- **Co-produce with community groups from North Warwickshire a collective creative output in response to *Shakespeare's First Folio: All The Plays: A Children's Edition*.**
- **Engage with Warwickshire Libraries' staff to create a digital output of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to share on social media during Shakespeare Week, 2025.**

Fee: a maximum of £5,000 (plus VAT if applicable); an inclusive fee (to include all travel & delivery costs).

Deadline for application: Monday 1st July (12.00 midday) 2024

Summary of Brief:

Warwickshire Libraries is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), directly funded by Arts Council England (ACE), to deliver a range of programmes and activities. We are seeking an experienced creative practitioner/ organisation to deliver 'Shakespeare's County: Bringing the Bard to North Warwickshire' commission.

This will include:

- Promoting Shakespeare's works outside of Stratford-upon-Avon by engaging communities across North Warwickshire.
- Celebrating and breaking down barriers to accessing and enjoying Shakespeare through innovative and dynamic cultural and creative experiences.
- Engaging with and using *Shakespeare's First Folio: All The Plays: A Children's Edition* to deliver the commission.
- Working with a sixth form/ college in North Warwickshire and a minimum of 10 students to develop a performance using *Shakespeare's First Folio: All The Plays: A Children's Edition* for a primary school audience.



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- Delivering a minimum of 1 performance potentially within Shakespeare Week (24th to 30th March 2025) for a primary school audience of a minimum of 60 children within a library venue.
- Supporting the co-creation of a minimum of 1 interactive supporting activity/ workshop for a primary school audience by the sixth form/ college students, which is potentially delivered within Shakespeare Week (24th to 30th March 2025) within a library venue.
- Co-producing with a minimum of 2 community groups (minimum of 16 participants) from North Warwickshire a minimum of 1 collective creative output in response to *Shakespeare’s First Folio: All The Plays: A Children’s Edition* to be shared during Shakespeare Week (24th to 30th March 2025).
- Engaging with a minimum of 8 Warwickshire Libraries staff to create a digital output of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* to share across the libraries’ social media platforms during Shakespeare Week (24th to 30th March 2025), gaining a minimum of 100 views. This play was selected during the Warwickshire Libraries’ Shakespeare Survey in early 2024 as the play the county would most like to see performed.
- Promoting and signposting other opportunities to engage with Shakespeare.
- Creating a minimum of 2 x social media/ content outputs throughout the commission.
- Developing, where applicable, partnerships with local community groups, partners, and stakeholders to support the delivery and legacy of the commission through signposting to further opportunities.
- Supporting increased confidence with literacy and access to/ ownership of Shakespeare within North Warwickshire.
- Increasing wellbeing and sense of place for participants.
- Supporting a change in attitudes towards libraries through reaching new and diverse communities.

Please note, Warwickshire Libraries have links with sixth forms/ colleges and primary schools in North Warwickshire and can support with introductions if required.

The commission will involve working in partnership with the Warwickshire Libraries NPO Team to:

- Support the marketing and promotion of the performances/ sessions to reach diverse communities.
- Incorporate evaluation and data-capture including photography and filming across the commission.
- Create a short film to capture the impact of the commission which can be shared on social media and with partners/ funders.
- Identify potential funding and partnership opportunities to support the legacy of ‘Shakespeare’s County: Bringing the Bard to North Warwickshire’ programme.
- Share the creative output from the commission at the NPO celebration event planned for summer 2025 (date/ venue TBC).



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- Adhere to Warwickshire County Council's photo/ filming permissions, GDPR guidance and, where appropriate, Risk Assessments.
- Promote and embed environmental responsibility throughout the commission, to reflect best practice in this area.
- Raise awareness of Warwickshire Libraries and their free services across the county.

Delivery Timeframe: August 2024 to March 2025

Timetable:

Deadline for submissions: Monday 1st July (12.00 midday)

Informed of invitation to selection meeting: Friday 12th July

Selection meeting: Wednesday 24th July – Nuneaton Library

Successful Creative Practitioner informed: Monday 29th July

Planning meeting with NPO Team: August 2024

Commission to be delivered between: September 2024 to March 2025

NPO Celebration event: Summer 2025 (date/venue TBC)

Location: Working from your own premises, as well as meetings (live and on-line) with the NPO Team and delivering within school and community settings across North Warwickshire.

Fee: The maximum amount available is £5,000 (plus VAT if applicable). Your proposal must include a full breakdown of costs to include all expenses, goods, travel, and services.

Reporting to:

- Dr Anjna Chouhan – NPO Creative Producer

Contractual Details: Please note that Warwickshire Libraries will contract the supplier to deliver the commission and the payments will be staged depending on your budget to deliver the proposal.

How to Submit a Proposal (see below for details)

Both individuals and organisations can submit a proposal.

Proposals should include the following:

- Credentials for your organisation and/ or CV; please include a CV for any individuals who will be involved in this delivery.
- Examples of similar programmes/ events/ projects you have delivered, via websites, LinkedIn, or other evidence.
- An outline proposal of your initial ideas for delivering the commission including a delivery plan and timeline, based on this brief.
- A methodology of how you propose to meet the requirements and outputs of the brief. This should be no more than 500 words.



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- A cost breakdown/ budget. Your proposal must include a full breakdown of costs to include all expenses, goods, and services (please itemise VAT if applicable).
- Details of two referees for whom you have done similar work.

Please note: if you are successful, we will ask for Public Liability Insurance and DBS.

Selection – Proposals will be assessed against the following:

- How well the proposal meets the brief;
- Knowledge and passion for libraries and the role they play in their communities;
- Knowledge and passion for Shakespeare and engaging children, young people and communities creatively with his body of work;
- Experience of delivering engaging and innovative events/ sessions for communities, young people and children;
- Experience of co-creation with young people and community groups;
- Experience of working within education and community settings/ venues;
- Experience of project/ programme management;
- Ability to meet established budgets and work to a schedule; and value for money/price.

Proposals are encouraged from artists residing in Warwickshire and across the West Midlands area, and from artists who have previously lived, were born and/ or have studied here, or have family links to the area.

Warwickshire Libraries is hoping to attract a more diverse range of proposals from people of different ages, ethnicities, and educational backgrounds, from all parts of the wider community, who can bring fresh ideas and new perspectives. Previous experience is valued; however, we aim to take a whole person/ organisation approach to our commissions.

Please e-mail your proposal and any supporting documentation by Monday 1st July (12.00 midday) 2024 to:

Dr Anjna Chouhan – NPO Creative Producer, Warwickshire Libraries:
anjnachouhan@warwickshire.gov.uk

For any queries:

- Dr Anjna Chouhan: anjnachouhan@warwickshire.gov.uk



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Further Information

Shakespeare’s County: Bringing the Bard to the North is part of the year 2 Activity Plan for the Warwickshire Libraries NPO, which is informed by the ACE Let’s Create strategy – www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create. There are three outcomes for the strategy, and this commission sits within Creative People as everyone can develop and express creativity throughout their lives.

The commission outcomes are to:

- Support people of all stages of their lives to design, develop and increase their participation in high quality creative activities.
- Promote creative opportunities in the local community to people at all stages of their lives.
- Improving teaching through creativity in schools.
- Supporting children and young people to develop their creative skills and potential.

For further information about *Shakespeare’s First Folio: All The Plays: A Children’s Edition*, please visit: <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespeares-first-folio-all-the-plays-a-childrens-edition/>

The edition was conceived and edited by Dr Anjna Chouhan; Warwickshire Libraries is therefore able to support with access to copies and distribution.

Background Information

Warwickshire Libraries NPO

As the first library service in the West Midlands to become an NPO, Warwickshire Libraries is being funded directly by ACE from April 2023 to March 2027, with the opportunity to reapply at the end of the period. It is both an honour and an accolade to be awarded NPO status.

ACE describes NPOs as “leaders in their areas, with a collective responsibility to protect and develop our national arts and cultural ecology.” The NPO investment provides funding to extend and enhance our arts, heritage and culture offer across the county, particularly focusing on areas of greater need.

Our overarching ambition is to grow and develop a high-quality cultural offer for, with and by the people of Warwickshire that delivers against County Council priorities, ACE’s Let’s Create strategy and four investment principles:

- Inclusivity and relevance



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- Environmental responsibility
- Dynamism
- Ambition and quality

In essence, the NPO is about making arts and culture more attractive and accessible to all Warwickshire residents, wherever they live, whatever their circumstances or previous levels of engagement.

The Warwickshire Libraries NPO will focus heavily on the Levelling Up agenda. The NPO team will support County Council ambitions towards narrowing gaps and creating equality of opportunity for all Warwickshire residents, with a particular emphasis on rural communities, young people, and those living in less advantaged parts of the county. Of the 22 Warwickshire areas identified for Levelling Up, 17 are in the Nuneaton and Bedworth district.

For further information on the NPO visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/npo

For information on the County Council policy on Levelling up:

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-970487194-271>
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-808477336-692>

For the County Council approach, to environmental responsibility and a sustainable future please visit: www.sustainablewarwickshire.co.uk

Warwickshire Libraries

We have 18 council-run libraries, three mobile libraries and a Schools Library Service. In addition, Warwickshire Libraries has specialist reading and learning, digital and outreach teams, and a tablet lending scheme. We also support a vibrant network of 13 social enterprise libraries, and our services actively involve hundreds of volunteers. As part of the ambitious Transforming Nuneaton redevelopment scheme, Warwickshire Libraries was awarded capital investment to update our estate, technology and develop plans for a flagship Library and Business centre in the heart of the town.

The Warwickshire Libraries service is part of the British Library’s Living Knowledge Network and has a crucial role to play in delivering the Warwickshire Waterways Strategy, as well as the Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy 2020 – 2025. Both are key five-year strategies for Warwickshire County Council, shaped around three main themes: health and wellbeing, sense of place, and economic vibrancy.

Our work and programmes need to meet the key aims of the Council Plan, which prioritise the following:

- To have a thriving economy and places that have the right jobs, skills, education, and infrastructure.



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- A county where all people can live their best lives; where communities and individuals are supported to live safely, healthily, happily, and independently.
- Sustainable for the future, which means adapting to and mitigating climate change and meeting net zero commitments.

Key themes in our NPO Programme support all the above.

For further information: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries



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