

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

- **Co-create content for our Hidden Stories programme, driven by Warwickshire's LGBT+* communities in response to Heritage and Culture Warwickshire Collections.**
- **Work with LGBT+ communities between April to November 2025, in partnership with Warwickshire Pride.**
- **Deliver a minimum of one co-created creative output/ event, develop a Cultural Pride Trail, a community-led event for Fun Palaces (October) and a social media campaign during Pride Month (June).**

Fee: a maximum of £10,000 (plus VAT if applicable); an inclusive fee (to include all travel, materials & delivery costs).

Deadline for application: Friday 28th February (12.00 midday) 2025

*LGBT+ is an umbrella term that refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexualities, romantic orientations, and gender identities. The "plus" sign is used to include people who identify with other categories.

Summary of Brief:

Warwickshire Libraries became a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) in 2023, 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 the Hidden Stories 2025 Commission.

This will include:

- Co-creating creative content driven by LGBT+ communities in response to our Local Studies, Museum and / or Record Office collections.
- Researching and identifying archive photographs and local records that can be used as a starting point for activities tailored to supporting participants' creative responses.
- Revealing hidden and forgotten voices and narratives of Warwickshire's LGBT+ communities by crafting new stories, through the delivery of a minimum of 6 workshops.



- Delivering a minimum of 1 co-created creative output/ event with LGBT+ communities to be shared on 16th August, as part of Warwickshire Pride (Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa).
- Develop and co-create a Cultural Pride Trail. This could coincide with the Warwickshire Pride event in August or Fun Palaces in October.
- Deliver a community powered event as part of Fun Palaces, October.
- Develop a social media campaign for Pride Month, June.
- Create a case study of the commission to share with funders and stakeholders.
- Working in partnership with Warwickshire Pride to deliver the commission.

Working in partnership with the Warwickshire Libraries NPO Team to:

- Enable participants to visit a Warwickshire Library/ Mobile Library or be visited by a member of the library team to encourage library membership.
- Incorporate evaluation and data capture including photography and filming into the activity days and events/ participatory activity, if appropriate.
- Develop digital content that can be shared to promote the Hidden Stories programme on Warwickshire Libraries' social media channels.

Delivery Timeframe: April 2025 to November 2025

Timetable:

Deadline for submissions: Friday 28th February 2025 (12.00 midday)

Informed of invitation to selection meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Selection meeting: Monday 10th March 2025 – Nuneaton Library

Successful creative practitioner/ organisation informed: Friday 14th March 2025

Planning meeting with NPO Team: March/ April 2025

Location: Working from your own premises, as well as meetings (live and on-line) with the NPO Team and delivering a minimum of 6 workshops and 2 events/ participatory activity and a Cultural Pride Trail within Warwickshire.

Fee: The maximum amount available is £10,000 (plus VAT if applicable). Your proposal must include a full breakdown of costs to include all expenses, goods, travel, materials, 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)

Proposals are welcome from individuals as well as organisations.



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 and a delivery plan, 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.
- A cost breakdown/ budget. Your proposal must include a full breakdown of costs to include all expenses, goods, materials, travel 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 local history and heritage;
- Experience of delivering events for communities of all ages;
- Experience of co-creation with community groups;
- Experience of project/ programme management;
- Experience of working with LGBT+ communities;
- Ability to meet established budgets and work to a schedule; and value for money/ price.

Proposals are encouraged from creative practitioners who have lived experience/ identify as being part of LGBT+ communities.

Warwickshire Libraries wishes 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 Friday 28th February (12.00 midday) 2025 to:

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



For any queries:

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

Warwickshire Libraries Hidden Stories 2024

Further Information:

Hidden Stories is part of the Year 3 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 Cultural Communities, which stipulates that villages, towns and cities thrive through a collaborative approach to culture.

The commission outcomes are to:

- Improve access to a full range of cultural opportunities wherever people live.
- Work with communities to better understand, and respond to, their needs and interests, resulting in increased cultural engagement and the wide range of social benefits it brings.
- Work collaboratively through place-based partnerships to support and involve communities in high-quality culture.
- Work collaboratively through place-based partnerships to improve health and wellbeing through creative and cultural activity.

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 2026/27, 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 award will provide funding on top of the service’s Warwickshire County Council budget for additional activities and programmes 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 the people of Warwickshire that delivers against Warwickshire County Council priorities, ACE’s Let’s Create strategy and four investment principles:

- Inclusivity and relevance



- 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 Warwickshire 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 23 Warwickshire areas identified for levelling-up, 18 are in the Nuneaton and Bedworth district.

For more information on Warwickshire County Council policy on levelling-up:

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

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 has recently introduced a tablet lending scheme. We also support a vibrant network of 12 social enterprise libraries, and our services actively involve hundreds of volunteers.

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.
- 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



Heritage and Culture Warwickshire

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire (HCW) provides a wide range of services that safeguard and promote Warwickshire's archives, local studies, human history and natural sciences collections and provide residents and visitors with opportunities to engage with local heritage, visitor attractions and cultural opportunities that support lifelong learning through high quality education activities and events programmes.

HCW contains 5 professional areas of operation (Museums, Archives, Arts, Heritage Learning and Local Studies), across 5 main sites (Market Hall Museum, Warwickshire County Record Office, St Johns House Museum, Museum Collection Centre and Chesterton Windmill).

The service provides an annual learning and engagement programme, including curriculum-based schools programmes and community activity, with a focus on providing the broadest possible access to Warwickshire's heritage and culture.

The service also has a strategic role in supporting the development of the Heritage and Culture infrastructure of the County, and leads the Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy, and the Warwickshire Waterways Strategy.

For further information visit: <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

Warwickshire Pride

Warwickshire Pride is the primary LGBT+ organisation in Warwickshire. We run a number of services and social events for LGBT+ people across the county. Our mission is to ensure that all people feel valued and included in society, regardless of sexuality or gender identity.

We run a whole range of support services and social activities all year round. There's plenty to choose from and we guarantee you'll get a warm welcome.

Whether it's our LGBT+ youth groups, trans social group, LGBT+ coffee morning, book club, parents group, or something else, there are many ways in which you can get involved.

Pride is about so much more than one day. It's a year round protest for our rights and freedom, with support and a social outlet being provided at all times.

For further information visit: <https://warwickshirepride.co.uk/>

