



**Wensleydale Railway Association Trust
Leeming Bar Station House Restoration Programme
Phase 2**

**Brief for Artist Commission: Community Heritage Arts
Project**

Wensleydale Railway

The Wensleydale Railway is a heritage railway, just over 22 miles in length, which runs from Leeming Bar to Redmire along the lower Wensleydale valley. The line was built between 1848 and 1878 and closed to passengers in 1954 and goods traffic in 1992. The line was reopened to the public for the first time in 2003 by the Wensleydale Railway PLC and the Wensleydale Railway Association, a charitable trust, and now carries around 40,00 visitors a year. The Railway is supported by a large and dedicated volunteer community, who work on a wide range of operational activities on a weekly basis.

Project background

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund funded restoration and redevelopment programme at Leeming Bar Station in North Yorkshire, we are delivering an exciting Education and Engagement Programme which seeks to engage new audiences with the station and the Wensleydale Railway through opportunities to explore and interact with the Victorian station setting and its fascinating heritage story.

The restoration and programme delivery will include the redisplay of the station buildings and adjacent Station Master's house, as they would have looked in the 1920s, complete with a Booking & Parcels Office, Ticket Office and Waiting Rooms. The Station Master's house will include a redisplayed Parlour and Kitchen, which will tell the story of how the Station Master and his family lived a century ago. All redisplayed spaces will include self-guided interactive activities, and a regular programme of family/community events will provide a wealth of opportunities for people to find out more about the station's story and explore the Railway's heritage.

Wensleydale Railways is supported by over 250 volunteers. Volunteers play a vital role in operating the railway, for which they have won two National Railway Heritage Awards for the quality of building restoration and a British Museum Award for best volunteer contribution to museum interpretation.

Brief

Wensleydale Railway Association Trust (WRAT) are looking to commission an artist or arts organisation to deliver a community arts project that engages the local people with Leeming Bar, its station and its history. The project will engage local residents in the creative process and the community will have input throughout, feel better connected to the railway and their heritage. The successful project will exemplify strong knowledge of community engaged practice and experience of working in this way.

The community arts project will work with at least 35 participants from the Leeming Bar community and will provide a high quality, creative way to engage people in a more in-depth way with the Leeming Bar Station House. The project will deliver a creative output that will be created in collaboration between a professional artist and the local community, it will engage the community so they may learn more about their heritage and have an enjoyable time. We would also like there to be an artistic end product that could be displayed, shared or performed at the station and/or toured to community centres as part of outreach work. The form of the end product is open depending on the artistic practice of the successful applicant.

WRAT will connect the artist with local community groups and support them in planning, delivery and briefing about the history of the station. Volunteers from WRAT will support the project development and delivery where appropriate. The successful applicant will liaise with WRAT to deliver on time, in a way that meets the requirements of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and in line with Covid-19 safe practices. The artist will be responsible for managing the budget and delivering the agreed outputs.

Application

To apply please submit:

- Your creative pitch (no more than 1 side of A4)
- Project delivery plan (including number of community sessions)
- Examples and evidence of previous work showing your style and your work with communities
- Evidence of public liability and professional indemnity insurance up to £1,000,000.
- Budget breakdown for the project, including your fee and time and all project delivery costs

Budget

Total project cost: £2850 (inclusive of VAT if relevant)

Suggested breakdown to include:

- Artist fee: £1750 (to include travel)
- Project materials: £500
- Venue hire: £350

Timescale

Submission deadline: All submissions must be completed and entered by 00:01 31st July 2021

Appointment: Appointment of the contract will be given following a review of applications together with informal discussions. Final appointment will be made by Thursday 19th August.

Delivery of project: Delivery of this project is intended for May 2022 and all preparations will need to be made in advance of this point. It is expected for the commissioned group to begin community work in December 2021/ January 2022. Exact timelines to be confirmed upon appointment.

For further information or to submit your application, please contact Will Burnham (Community Engagement Officer): w.burnham@wensleydalerailway.com