

Artist Brief: *Common Ground: Sleaford's Shared Stories*

1. Project Overview

Common Ground: Sleaford's Shared Stories is a dual-site exhibition taking place at the Hub, Sleaford, and Sleaford Museum from 18 July to 8 November 2026. The exhibition investigates and reimagines the **industrial, ecological** and **cultural** past and present of Sleaford. These histories and stories will be explored through new commissions from internationally recognised artists, a series of residencies working with collections and communities, and loans from Sleaford Museum and Lincolnshire County Council Culture Service that all bring together varied perspectives and interpretations of Sleaford's shared identity.

In collaboration with the Hub, Lincoln Museum are looking to commission an artist/ collective to undertake a research residency around the theme of the work of artist and musician Karl Wood (1888 – 1958). This opportunity sits alongside the ones currently being advertised directly by the Hub for 6 residencies and commissions, all of which will come together, alongside this work in the exhibition at the Hub and Sleaford Museum opening in July.

Wood was born in Derbyshire and moved to Gainsborough where he worked as a teacher, musician and artist. He spent most of his artistic life travelling around the UK via train and bicycle to create over 1200 watercolour sketches of windmills with the aim to publish 'The Twilight of the Mills' (which by the end of Wood's life, remained unpublished). Sleaford's mills are featured, and Wood also captured key, local monuments like St Denis' Church and the Handley Monument, as well as pubs such as the Nag's Head and the Marquis of Granby. As an avid documenter of social life, Wood's work sits within all three themes of the industrial, ecological and cultural past and present of Sleaford. In 1951, Wood was imprisoned under the Gross Indecency Act of 1885 for homosexual activity. Following this, he never returned to Gainsborough. This residency is an important opportunity to reconsider the life and legacy of one of Lincolnshire's most prolific artists.

We have many works by Wood in our collection at Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery, as well as notebooks, and information from our collections team will be provided to the artist. However, the artist will also be expected to undertake their own research and make connections outside of the organisation in order to bolster knowledge. We hope that this research and response will bring a new perspective to our own collection and future interpretations of the works we hold, whilst also allowing us to connect works from our collection to the communities that they represent.

2. Objectives of the Artist Commission and Residency

- This residency will be primarily research based, with the artist then developing a work in response to the research they have undertaken, in time for the exhibition at the Hub and Sleaford Museum in July 2026.
- The outcomes of the residency are not specified. This is open to all artists working in any medium, whether it is performance, painting, sculpture, spoken word, a written commission, digital art or otherwise.

3. Budget breakdown

Artist Fee for a maximum of 10 days (£295 per day, total of £2950) – to be paid in two halves at the beginning and end of the project.

Artist travel & accommodation budget: £1,000 – to be paid to the artist to manage their own travel and accommodation.

Production fee for new work – to be managed by Lincolnshire County Council

Exhibitions Team: £1000

4. Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected in collaboration between the Hub and Lincoln Museum. Each application will be assessed on the quality of the four required points:

- Artist Statement
- Proposal
- CV/Resume
- Portfolio

5. Timeline for Residency and Commission

What	When
Artist brief commission launched	Friday 30 January
Deadline for applications	Monday 2 March at 9am
Shortlisting deadline	Thursday or Friday 5/6 March
Shortlisted candidate conversations*	Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March

Confirmation of selected candidate	Friday 13 March
Research residency period (10 days to be agreed upon selection).	April – May/June (TBC)
Exhibition dates	18 July to 8 November

*These will be an opportunity for you to meet the team and discuss your proposed project before the final artist is selected.

6. How to apply:

We want to hear how you work, what your research and practice interests are and what experiences you bring to this new commission.

You can apply via written application or through video recording via email to

lincolnmuseum@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please send the video file via a Google Drive link or similar file transferring software.

Applications should include the following:

- Artist Statement (max 500 words or 3 mins recording). Outline your artistic practice and your interest in this specific project.
- Proposal (max 750 words or 4 mins recording). Briefly outline your initial ideas for responding to the museum's collection. Please consider a timeline for the research phase and development of the new work, though we do not expect this to be definitive.
- CV/Resume highlighting relevant experience (1 page or 5 mins recording).
- Portfolio: Up to 5 images of previous work (with descriptions) or links to relevant online portfolios/videos.

Please send completed applications to the following email address:

lincolnmuseum@lincolnshire.gov.uk

This email address is monitored during office hours only from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. You should receive an automated response upon submission.

Please note:

Lincoln | Usher
Museum | Gallery



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We are fully committed to Lincolnshire County Council's Equality Policy and will proactively offer opportunities to people from different backgrounds as a contribution to developing and maintaining an organisation where differing ideas, abilities, backgrounds, and needs are fostered and valued and where those with diverse backgrounds and experiences can participate and contribute.

Further, candidates who face cultural, social, physical or economic barriers to applying for opportunities in the arts are particularly encouraged to apply. Our selection panel understand our commitment to equality and diversity.