

WELCOME TO

# EMPORIUM OF STORIES

Freelance Researcher -  
Story Venues Consortium

## Freelance Researcher - Story Venues Consortium

---

### Contract:

Equivalent of 41 days at £350 per day, up to a maximum of £14,350. There is flexibility on the use of these funds within the day rates, i.e. can be used by the freelancer to secure additional support (graphics/consultation with other researchers/costs incurred). Expenses/costs/travel will be capped at £2,250.

### Total award:

£16,600.

### Location:

Hybrid. Home working with regular communication with host Grimm & Co in Yorkshire. Travel is required as the researcher is expected to visit all nine story venues across England on at least one occasion.

### Timeframe:

Please see the proposed sched below:

- June 2025: Report on initial findings - unique and common approaches, impact and value
- August 2025: Responses to curriculum review/ story venue cohort position – opportunities for bridging the gap/supporting agendas
- 30th September: First draft of final report presented to cohort
- 30th November 2025: Final report presented and dissemination completed.
- 30th December 2025: Collective case prepared with summary for presentation to government and policy makers.

Variation to the schedule could be considered where completion dates are earlier than outlined here, especially where they align with points of influence around policy.

To apply please email  
amanda.barnes@grimmandco.co.uk  
Send your CV and a letter of application that outlines your suitability for this role, including your relevant successes and particular areas of expertise.

Please also complete the [EDI monitoring form](#) and return to Amanda Barnes (above) with subject title: *Freelance Research Role Application*.

**Deadline for application is 2PM, Monday, 17th March 2025.**

### Process:

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview with a panel of Chief Executives from the Story Venue Consortium.

### Start date:

Ideal start date would be 01 April 2025, however there is a degree of flexibility. There will be an induction with Grimm & Co, followed by online consortium meetings and visits to the venues.

Grimm & Co wish to make our application process as accessible as possible. If you are experiencing any barriers in applying for this position, please contact us to discuss this further.

We also welcome your thoughts on how we can improve our approach so please do tell us if your experience of this process could have been improved.

If you have questions about the role and would like to have an informal conversation before submitting a completed application form, please contact Grimm & Co's Chief Executive to arrange a conversation by emailing  
Deborah.bullivant@grimmandco.co.uk



▲ Theatre Alibi, The Wardrobe Ensemble's *The Star Seekers* © Emily Appleton.

## The Brief

---

The core aim is to increase visibility, impact demonstration and articulation for the 'Story Venues cohort' as a sector.

We are aiming to build awareness of our distinct and collective pedagogy, and the impact of our work against government priorities. We are particularly keen to align our work in response to the Curriculum Review, and make the case for future investment.

The postholder will support the venues to work effectively as a group, and will consider ways in which this can be sustained beyond the life of the brief.

Whilst the Story Venue Cohort is not strictly defined and may change in membership, this postholder will focus their work on supporting those venues offering an immersive story experience targeting early years to teenage, in and beyond their venues. Activities for the postholder might include:

- Coordinate / facilitate meetings that focus on key issues, and develop the cohort and its goals
- Develop a working plan and set of objectives for the cohort
- Visit each venue to learn about their work
- Understand and communicate 'the collective signature pedagogies' of the cohort, and the elements that are distinct and unique to each. This is to build awareness of the venues and their work as a 'recognised sector', highlighting the effectiveness of their approaches.
- Map current impact measures across the story venues
- Build an overview of connecting campaigns/ organisations and potential relationships

- Test the feasibility and understand the value of the venues working together as a cohort
- Support making the case for future investment
- Gather the venues' submissions to DfE's curriculum review, where relevant, to develop a case for how they align with the recommendations of the review
- Respond to requests for data and information (gather, evaluate and share), potentially supporting any future Spending Review case-building by Arts Council England or other partners
- Liaise with policy makers to make the collective case to government, articulating the value and impact of the Story Venues' unique and common approaches
- Creation of a comprehensive, well-structured, accessible, final report, including:
  - summarising internal findings, collective achievements, and learning
  - recommendations for external positioning
  - options for resourcing the cohort work sustainably.

The role will be hosted by Grimm & Co on behalf of the cohort. The host and wider cohort will support throughout the process, providing data, venue tours, access to key members of the team, access to resources, signpost to wider research, providing feedback throughout the formation of the report.

The research activity will require:

- Defining the research objectives and developing a research plan.
- Data collection: Gathering data through primary and secondary research methods
- Data analysis: Interpreting collected data to identify patterns and trends.
- Report writing: Creating clear, concise, and informative



▲ Discover Children's Story Centre, *Monster Funfair*

▼ Ministry of Stories, *The Day the Night Was Broken*



**We are looking for someone who possesses the following:**

- Research expertise: Strong understanding of research methodologies, data analysis techniques, and appropriate data collection methods.
- Writing and communication skills: Ability to clearly articulate complex research findings in a professional and engaging manner.
- Analytical skills: Capability to interpret data, draw meaningful conclusions, and identify key insights.
- Project management skills: Effective time management to meet deadlines and deliver projects within budget.
- Technical proficiency: Familiarity with data analysis software, research tools, and presentation applications.
- Specialisation: Combination of industry research, studying the cultural/charity sector, identifying opportunities and challenges, academic research and business intelligence – data driven insights to inform decisions and approaches.

**The Story Venue Consortium includes:**

- Grimm & Co (Yorkshire)
- Ministry of Stories (London)
- The Reader (Liverpool)
- Seven Stories (Newcastle)
- The Story Museum (Oxford)
- KEAP – Writers' Block (Redruth, Cornwall)
- Theatre Alibi (Exeter)
- Discover (London)
- Z-Arts (Manchester)

This project is funded and supported by Arts Council England



GRIMM & CO

**seven stories**  
The National Centre for Children's Books

---



*Host Organisation:*

Grimm & Co.  
Ship Hill,  
Rotherham,  
S60 2HG  
01709 829 750

[info@grimmandco.co.uk](mailto:info@grimmandco.co.uk)  
[grimmandco.co.uk](http://grimmandco.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1154990



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**