



## MINISTRY OF STORIES

### **Artist Brief - *The Story that Moves***

Ministry of Stories, on behalf of the Story Venues Cohort

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**Commission Fee: Up to £15,000**

Contract Dates: July / August 2026

Expression of Interest deadline: **12noon, Monday 6th July 2026.**

### **About the Story Venues Cohort**

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We are a group of eight 'Story Venues' – Alibi (Exeter), Discover (East London), Grimm & Co (Rotherham), Ministry of Stories (East London), The Reader (Liverpool), The Story Museum (Oxford), The Writers Block (Cornwall) and Z-Arts (Manchester). We are each rooted in our local communities and united by our commitment to empowering children and young people. We deliver immersive programmes, creative writing workshops, exhibitions, performances and community-led initiatives that engage over 380,000 children and young people each year.

### **The Story that Moves**

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The Story that Moves is an oversized spectacle of a story book that will tour our network of Story Venues, forming a centrepiece for workshops that collect story components from children, young people and families in a celebration of the National Year of Reading.

The book will be a large, specially commissioned artwork with sections enabling each venue to 'slot in' their contributions as the artwork tours and grows.

## The Commission

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We are seeking a 3D artist-maker with experience of creating engaging, hands-on, playful pieces to create the magical giant Story Book that will travel the country between September and December 2026.

The work will need to be:

- Large! The artwork needs to stand out in busy Story Venues and form the centrepiece of workshops with groups of up to 30 people at a time. We are envisioning at least child height with a six foot maximum.
- Suitable for transport: ideally lighter weight materials, robust, easy to take down and set up and ideally freestanding, not exceeding the dimensions of a standard van (dimensions to be agreed with Project Manager)
- Child-friendly: touchable, interactive, clear in its identity (ie it must very definitely look like a book), engaging and exciting
- Safe: the artwork needs to be safe, stable and robust.
- Growable: the intention is for each local community to work together to create their own story components through workshops. Each group (between 4-12 per venue) will co-create a set of story elements to add to the book – hero/ine, location, motivation, a problem to overcome, someone to help them, an ending – and a story that flows from these. The creation of each group will then be added to the artwork and taken on into the next venue. How each story / set of story elements is added to the book is for the artist to determine – a new page, flip parts, an insert. However this is done, adding each new element must be easy enough to deliver within the project schedule – ideally delivered on site by venue staff. It will not be possible to return the artwork to the artist between venue engagements.
- Sustainable: materials used should be locally sourced, reused and/or biodegradable wherever possible.

We hope to find a permanent home for the artwork at project conclusion and welcome artist input.

Contract subject to completing an Enhanced DBS Certificate

This project is funded and supported by Arts Council England

## Next Steps

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Interested artist-makers are invited to attend an optional online Q&A session on **Wednesday 1st July, 2:00 - 2:45pm** [via this link](#). This will be an opportunity to hear more about the project and the partners, and to ask any questions you may have about the brief.

To apply, please send us:

- An expression of interest letter (no more than four sides of A4), or short video no longer than 4 minutes, to [rob@ministryofstories.org](mailto:rob@ministryofstories.org) that tells us:
  - Why you are interested in the project
  - The skills and experience you bring, and their relevance to this project
  - A high level outline of how you would propose to deliver the brief, including your approach to the 'growability' of the artwork and to ensuring sufficient safety considerations and robustness for project purposes
  - Initial fabrication plan / preferred materials
  - A proposed timetable, including design iteration stages and allowance for minimum two rounds of feedback. Please confirm that you are available to design and fabricate the artwork within the project timeframe, i.e. complete, tested and ready for the first venue in the tour from early September 2026
  - Up to four images of relevant examples, or links to two examples from your portfolio/website.
  - Breakdown of Fees, inclusive of all materials and expenses, travel to Story Venues if required, and inclusive of VAT
- a CV, professional biography or LinkedIn profile
- a completed [diversity monitoring form](#)

Artist(s) will be fully credited throughout the project. IP in the artwork will remain with the artist but ownership of the work will rest with the Story Venues Cohort.

We welcome applications from artists of all backgrounds. If you require any adaptations to this application process in order to be able to take part please let us know and we will help wherever possible. Please note that artists may be based anywhere in England; we regret that this opportunity is not available to artists based in the wider UK or beyond the United Kingdom.

Applications will be assessed by members of the Story Venues cohort according to the following criteria:

- Relevance and strength of track record /past projects (30%)
- Imaginative engagement with the brief (20%)
- Feasibility of the proposal (30%)
- Value for money (20%)

Deadline for expressions of interest: **12noon, Monday 6th July 2026.**

Interviews will take place on zoom on: **Tuesday 14th July 2026** (3:00 - 5:00pm).



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