

Expression of Interest

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership
INSPIRED LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Seeking Expressions of Interest for the development of a community engagement project leading towards a large scale public celebration event in Spring / Summer of 2021.

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLPS) is an exciting large-scale partnership, working to conserve and enhance the distinctive Darent Valley landscape and reconnect people to it. At the scheme's heart is the valley's historical connection with the Victorian artist, Samuel Palmer, who lived in Shoreham and called the valley his 'earthly paradise'. Through a partnership approach, DVLPS is delivering over 40 integrated cultural and art, access, heritage and biodiversity projects within communities, towns and villages throughout the scheme area between Dartford and Westerham in West Kent. The DVLPS is a five-year project funded primarily by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and delivered through the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit. The scheme aims to encourage local people and visitors to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural beauty and heritage of the Darent Valley, and to ensure its survival for future generations.

The Inspired Palmer Landscapes project plays a key role within the entire scheme and will be delivered throughout the length and breadth of the scheme area. It will work across communities within the valley to explore, reveal and celebrate the stories of individual places and local landscapes. Creative workshop events will draw together communities and individuals of all ages to investigate the history that has shaped the Darent Valley and created the sense of place for their part of it. Stories will be communicated through a variety of creative forms, inspired by Samuel Palmer's connection with the valley. This will then be celebrated through an event that will enable the wider community to enjoy and learn about the Darent Valley's heritage and celebrate their own heritage connections to the landscape.

The overall aim of the project is to work creatively with communities across the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS) area to explore, reveal and celebrate stories of individual places and local landscapes, culminating in a celebration event in spring / summer 2021 and written document and report. In addition, the full scope of the work includes:

- Work closely with each of the 10 communities identified for this project to capture, record and celebrate their local landscape.
- Deliver 40+ workshops with schools and local communities to gather, reveal, explore and celebrate stories of individual places and local landscapes and produce pieces for the celebration event.
- Plan, coordinate and deliver a celebration event across the valley and with all communities to share and celebrate local landscapes with one another and wider audiences. This will be held during spring / summer 2021 and may include showcasing creative pieces produced throughout the project in an exhibition that takes place over the Summer.
- Produce a report or case study to provide a legacy to the project, that explores what was undertaken and what was achieved.
- Involve local artists from the Darent Valley and surrounding area and establish active links with art and culture partners and art-related community interest groups.
- Recruit volunteers to assist with the delivery of the Inspired Palmer Landscapes project and act as 'community champions' to promote the project among their local community.
- Engage all key target audiences in the project within each community.

- Take part in the Inspiring Palmer Landscapes theme group; this will be used as an outlet for discussion around this and other art-related projects
- Work with the contractor that will be undertaking scheme-wide evaluation of DVLPS and all projects, collect data and images for evaluation
- Under guidance from DVLPS, use the DVLPS website and social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) to promote the project and keep people updated on project developments and opportunities for involvement.

BUDGET

The budget for the above outcomes is capped at £49,999 with additional support provided by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Team.

Additional Support will include:

- Venue Hire, for workshops
- Training for volunteers in the lead up to the celebration events
- Volunteer Expenses
- Some Documentation – film and publication
- Evaluation and Monitoring

TIMELINE

10 July - Tenders open

10 September - Closing date

1 October - Contract awarded

March 2020 – Summer 2021 - Workshops and delivery

Summer 2021 - Celebration Event (coinciding with Samuel Palmer Exhibition: Palmer Returns)

The project will be supervised by Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Team including:

Madeleine Hodge, Art and Inspiration Manager, madeleine.hodge@kentdowns.org.uk

Jennifer Smith, Learning and Interpretation Manager, jennifer.smith@kentdowns.org.uk

We are about to put out a call for tenders to deliver this community engagement work across the valley and we would be delighted to receive a tender from your organisation. If you are interested in submitting a tender please get in touch with us on the above email addresses.

The full tender will be available to view via the Kent County Council Business Portal in July, if you do plan to submit a tender please create an account on the portal so that you can be registered in time.

If you wish to discuss the project in more detail or need more information about the delivery approach please get in touch with Madeleine to arrange an informal chat in advance of the tender process.