

COVENTRY UNIVERSITY GROUP CITY OF CULTURE GRANTS

2018-19

1. NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT:
Glenn Noble
2. FACULTY/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/RESEARCH CENTRE:
SMPA/FAH
3. ARE YOU AN EARLY CAREER MEMBER OF STAFF? Y
4. NAME(S) AND AFFILIATIONS OF ADDITIONAL APPLICANTS:
Lou Lomas [HPL], Joshua Patel [HPL], Gareth Price-Baghurst [HPL], Jes Rowe [HPL]
5. NAME(S) AND INSTITUTIONS OF EXTERNAL PARTNERS (IF ANY):
The Fabularium – www.fabularium.co.uk , Wild Rumpus - www.wildrumpus.org.uk
6. AMOUNT REQUESTED:
£5,000

7. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (up to 200 words):

This is pilot project to develop the a small tourable performance event in 2019 and to represent the context with which to grow strategic partners, community participants and audiences for the establishment of annual Theatre in the Parks initiative from CU and The Fabularium and provide a unique offer to Coventry as it builds towards 2021.

Working in partnership with The Fabularium, current PA undergraduates and recent graduates will create a new piece of promenade performance work for presentation in two of the 'lesser programmed' parklands in Coventry over three days in each location. The work will be planned and designed following workshops and consultation with community organisations in close vicinity of these parks, and created in June 2019, with performances in early July, prior to the end of the school term. For Undergraduate participants, the project will act as a work experience placement between 2nd and 3rd year, and for recent graduates an early employment.

The work is part commissioned by Wild Rumpus, with whom SMPA/The Fabularium have collaborated since 2015 and the piece will also be presented at the Just So Festival in August – giving the student and emerging performers an experience of an extended run of work.

8. HOW DOES YOUR PROJECT ALIGN WITH THE CU GROUP CULTURAL STRATEGY? (up to 200 words):

- The project is explicitly as framed as a **Cultural Event and Activity, of Coventry, by Coventry, for Coventry**. The August platform at Just So festival will continue our work of flying the **From Coventry** flag.
- At the heart of this project is **Community engagement** providing both participatory opportunities within local communities and bespoke performance work for local spaces and the surrounding local residents/park users.
- The work is designed as a Promenade performance experience to encourage audiences to be active and explore their local greenspaces in a collective experience. This promotion of **Health and Wellbeing** is both important for physical but also mental wellbeing, and speaks to place-making and local pride strategies.
- The Project Lead established a similar initiative for Liverpool 2008, and this acted as an **innovative** driver for the re-purposing and re-generation of the parks that were used across Merseyside. that were. Many of Coventry's parks suffer from similar under use.
- As with the establishment of the Fabularium itself, this project is designed over-time, to contribute to the critical mass of opportunities within the city for graduate retention and enterprise, contributing to the **Economic Growth** of the city.
- **Education and Lifelong Learning** are key factors, as skills training of emerging graduate artists and the community participation aspect will be delivered as cross-generational engagement.

9. HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TO THE UK CITY OF CULTURE? (up to 200 words):

The project will build to present a memorable, high quality, large numbered public event for 2021.

The project will also build (with subsequent applications to the CU – culture grants, Coventry2021 and ACE) to offer a major body of work across the summer of 2021 and with the intention (and time to develop) a sustainable position beyond the culture year. The experience of delivering a similar project on Merseyside means that there is great deal of best practice that can be shared with Participants, City Council parks unit, Groundwork West Midlands, CU BA Events Management course team and students, and

local community organisations that can envisage new uses for their local parks and greenspaces.

From this project onwards, professional artists from a range of art forms will be contracted to deliver training and skills within the projects and an association with the national membership organisation Outdoor Arts UK has already been established and a meeting of their stakeholder board is taking place in Ellen Terry building on Feb 7th to contribute to the planning overview of this initiative and to bring a wide range of UK artists to Coventry. CU championing outdoor Arts as a contribution to CoC2021.

10. WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES/AUDIENCE OF YOUR PROJECT? (up to 200 words):

- Primarily, Coventry University PA students, recent graduates, Community Organisations and their constituents (Stoke Heath and Canley in 2019). Local residents of the immediate parks and wider Coventry audiences.
- A build strategy will be implemented across late May and June with visits and workshops to engage local schools for weekday matinee performances, with a broad public performance on the weekend in each location. For this Pilot year, we will be capping attendances at 100 for each performance, so capacity is within the means of the project as it develops across year one.

11. WHICH OF THE CORPORATE PILLARS DOES YOUR PROJECT SUPPORT AND HOW? (up to 200 words):

- **Education and Student experience** is explicit to this enhancement training and work experience initiative for our UGs and graduates
- **Corporate and Social Responsibility** is key to this – as a CU project it ‘gives back’ to the residents and communities of Coventry. In the face of growing frustration at the scale of CU spread in the city centre, this represents a hearts and minds offer.
- This is pilot project aimed at establishing a new annual initiative with local **impact** and longevity.
- **Enterprise and Innovation** are also key to this project through the development of the graduate retention initiatives (Fabularium, Noctium etc) that come from the SMPA course.

12. WHAT WILL BE THE OUTPUTS OF YOUR PROJECT AND WHEN/HOW WILL THEY BE DELIVERED? (up to 200 words):

2 Consultation meetings and practical workshops in Stoke Heath & Canley)

4 Schools workshops exploring mask and puppetry

A brand new piece of theatre performance for family audiences performed 6 times in two Coventry parks. 4th-6th / 11th-13th July

Photographic documentation

Video documentation

Evaluation report with stakeholder and participant contribution – Sept '19

PLEASE ATTACH A DETAILED BUDGET. IF YOUR PROJECT IS INTENDED TO RUN FOR MORE THAN ONE ACADEMIC YEAR, DETAIL WHAT YOU WILL NEED IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND WHAT DELIVERABLES WILL BE PRODUCED YEAR BY YEAR. PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDING IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS WILL DEPEND ON A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN THE CURRENT YEAR AND A SATISFACTORY REPORT ON THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITY.

3x workshop leaders/core artistic team fees (5 weeks delivery) – 3 x £1500 = £4500

Production budget materials - £1500

Mask & Costume commission - £1500

Transport and Contingency - £500

Exp Total £8000

Income:

Wild Rumpus - £1500 (confirmed)

Fabularium - £1500 in kind (confirmed)

CU Culture grant £5000

Total Income £8000