Invitation to Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Creative Writer, Storyteller & Performer – Magic of the Tawd (Two-Year Commission: 2027–2028)

Issued by: Positive Placemakers CIC
Location: Skelmersdale, West Lancashire
Commission Fee: £11,800 per year (£23,600 total) *(Fee covers delivery, planning, collaboration, drafting, refinement, performance, college sessions and character development across both years.)*

Introduction

Magic of the Tawd 2027–2030 is a celebration of Skelmersdale's creativity, heritage and ecological wonder. Positive Placemakers CIC invites Expressions of Interest from an experienced **Creative Writer, Storyteller and Performer** to lead major storytelling, character creation, community story making and performance across a **two-year programme**.

This commission is rooted in:

- Co-creation
- Environmental stewardship
- Local heritage and folklore
- Joyful community imagination
- Inclusive engagement with children, young people, families, schools and targeted groups

The role is central to animating local heritage, ecology, folklore and community memory, and will contribute to the development of **twelve new characters** forming part of the Magic of the Tawd schools programme and future Augmented Reality experiences in Tawd Valley Park.

Two-Year Structure of the Commission

The commission is structured into **two years**, each with distinct creative responsibilities, community engagement expectations and performance elements.

YEAR ONE (2027)

1) The Boggarts Tale – Young People's Creative Writing Programme

Purpose

To facilitate a young people's creative writing group to co-create **The Boggarts Tale**, inspired by:

- English folklore
- Local coal mining heritage
- Skelmersdale New Town history
- Stormy Corner stories

This strand contributes to the development of **one of the twelve Magic of the Tawd characters**, planned for animation.

Responsibilities

- Facilitate **12 × 2-hour creative writing workshops**
- Deliver associated planning sessions
- Support co-creation of narrative, characters, worldbuilding and story structure
- Collaborate with the lead creative professional on character development for animation
- Produce a refined draft of *The Boggarts Tale*
- Present the draft to the Community Panel
- Attend the Magic of the Tawd launch event

Outputs

- Complete draft of *The Boggarts Tale*
- Character development notes for animation
- Workshop documentation and story assets

2) The Magic of the Tawd Tale – Community Storymaking Programme

Purpose

To work with the wider community to co-create **The Magic of the Tawd Tale**, weaving memories, local stories and ecological knowledge into a magical narrative that promotes environmental stewardship and celebrates Skelmersdale's heritage.

Responsibilities

- Deliver **3 storytelling sessions** at Skelmersdale Library

- Deliver sessions at **all 5 community hubs**
- Deliver **6 sessions** with targeted inclusion groups
- Facilitate memory-gathering, story making and ecological heritage conversations
- Support development of the **Selkie of the Tawd**
- Contribute to the Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival narrative
- Produce a refined draft of *The Magic of the Tawd Tale*
- Present the draft to the Community Panel

Outputs

- Complete draft of *The Magic of the Tawd Tale*
- Community-generated story assets
- Selkie of the Tawd character and narrative development notes

3) Character Development (Year One)

- Develop **six characters** created by local school children
- Integrate these characters into the emerging *Tales of the Tawd*
- Provide narrative notes for future AR development

4) Selkie Role – Inclusive Engagement & Performance

- Develop the role of the **Tawd Valley Selkie**
- Deliver an inclusive engagement programme as the Selkie
- Perform as the Selkie at the **Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival (October 2027)**

5) West Lancashire College Delivery

- Deliver **one professional practice session** to students
- Introduce your creative practice and your role within Magic of the Tawd

YEAR TWO (2028)

1) Tales of the Tawd – Character Development

- Develop the **remaining six characters** created by local school children
- Integrate these into the expanded *Tales of the Tawd*
- Provide narrative development notes for future AR integration

2) Development of the Magic of the Tawd Quest

Purpose

To transform *The Magic of the Tawd Tale* into a **quest experience** that:

- Promotes local ownership
- Strengthens connection to nature

- Celebrates ecological and biological heritage
- Encourages creativity and exploration
- Builds pride in Skelmersdale's identity

Responsibilities

- Collaborate with the lead creative professional and project team
- Contribute to quest structure, narrative beats, character roles and environmental themes
- Support development of story-based tasks, challenges and encounters
- Attend planning and collaboration sessions
- Produce a refined quest narrative draft for review by the Residents Panel

Outputs

- Quest narrative framework
- Character integration notes
- Story-based tasks and encounter concepts
- Final draft for Residents Panel

3) Engagement & Performance

- Deliver storytelling sessions at the **Making of the Magic of the Tawd Event**
- Perform as the Selkie at the **Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival (October 2028)**

4) West Lancashire College Delivery

- Deliver **one professional practice session** to students (Year Two)

General Expectations Across Both Years

- Planning, collaboration and creative development time
- Attendance at key project meetings
- Contribution to the development of **twelve Magic of the Tawd characters**
- Participation in the **Making of the Magic of the Tawd Event**
- Commitment to inclusive, accessible and community-centred practice
- High-quality written and performed storytelling

Commission Fee – £23,600 Total

£11,800 per year, covering:

- Delivery
- Planning
- Collaboration
- Drafting
- Refinement
- Performance

- College sessions
- Community engagement
- Character development

Commission Value: £23,600 Total (£11,800 per year)

Year 1 Budget (2027)

Budget Category	Description	Cost
Creative Writing Delivery	12 × 2-hour youth workshops for *The Boggarts Tale*	£3,000
Community Storymaking Delivery	Library sessions (3), community hubs (5), targeted groups (6)	£2,400
Planning & Collaboration	Story development, meetings, drafting, refinement	£2,000
Character Development (6 characters)	Integrating school-created characters into Tales of the Tawd	£1,200
Selkie Role Development	Creating the Selkie identity, voice, narrative	£600
Selkie Performance (Festival 2027)	Performance at Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival	£500
College Delivery (West Lancashire College)	1 professional practice session	£500
Drafting & Documentation	Boggarts Tale + Magic of the Tawd Tale	£1,000
Contingency / Materials / Travel	Local travel, printing, props, rehearsal materials	£500

- **Year 1 Total: £12,000**
- **Year 2 Budget (2028)**

Budget Category	Description	Cost
Character Development (remaining 6 characters)	Integrating school-created characters into Tales of the Tawd	£1,200
Quest Development	Structure, narrative beats, tasks, encounters	£3,000
Planning & Collaboration	Meetings, drafting, refinement, integration	£2,000
Engagement Delivery	Storytelling at Making of the Magic of the Tawd Event	£1,000
Selkie Performance (Festival 2028)	Performance at Magic of the Tawd Lantern Festival	£500

Budget Category	Description	Cost
College Delivery (West Lancashire College)	1 professional practice session	£500
Drafting & Documentation	Quest narrative + Tales of the Tawd updates	£2,000
Community Panel Review Sessions	Presenting drafts, responding to feedback	£1,000
Contingency / Materials / Travel	Local travel, printing, props, rehearsal materials	£500

- **Year 2 Total: £11,800**

How to Submit Your Expression of Interest

Please submit an EOI (maximum 2 pages) including:

- Name, contact details, website/portfolio
- Short biography
- Examples of previous creative writing, storytelling or performance work
- Experience with young people, families and community groups
- Your approach to co-creation and inclusive practice
- Why Magic of the Tawd interests you
- Any initial ideas or inspirations
- Availability between **January 2027–December 2028**

Submission Deadline

30th September 2026

EOIs should be sent to:
Helen Juste Positive Placemakers CIC - **helen.juste@positiveplacemakers.org.uk**

Next Steps

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal conversation with the project team. Final selection will be based on:

- Experience
- Creative approach
- Inclusive practice
- Alignment with project values
- Feasibility of delivery
- Quality of proposed ideas