

**COVE  
PARK**



The Argyll Beacon Storytelling Commission

### **Background**

In June 2021 Cove Park and the Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT) were successful in their bid to become one of seven Scottish Climate Beacons for COP26. An initiative of Creative Carbon Scotland, the aim of this nationwide project is to enable cultural, heritage and environmental organisations to work together and to collectively bring their diverse skills to bear on the climate challenges communities across Scotland face.

This storytelling commission has been supported by the Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund. This fund is being delivered in partnership between Visit Scotland and Museums Galleries Scotland with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund thanks to National Lottery players.

Cove Park and ACT are based in Argyll. Founded in 1999 and 2014 respectively, both organisations have strong reputations for work that is rooted in this region, engaging actively with our local communities. Cove Park is an artist residency, hosting local, national and international artists working in all art forms, supporting new work and collaboration. Cove Park's engagement programme enables local individuals and groups to connect with the artists and take part in a wide range of workshops and projects.

The Argyll Beacon (Cove Park & ACT) will focus upon Scotland's rainforest. Most of this unique temperate habitat sits within Argyll and the various public events, workshops, residencies, and commissions we will offer will raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity in effective and inclusive conservation and regeneration.

### **Brief**

The commission is for one new story or collection of short stories responding to the theme of Scotland's rainforest which will ultimately be available as a digital download for visitors to Scotland's rainforests.

Although the work should engage with the theme of Scotland's rainforests, we are interested in proposals that are innovative and offer the artist a genuine opportunity to explore new ideas and approaches. We will offer a ten-day residency at Cove Park as part of this commission, to support research and development. And the selected Storyteller will be able to meet with

environmentalists and ecologists from ACT both informally and during our regular Climate Café programme.

Scotland's rainforest is of particular concern to both Cove Park and ACT, the majority of this rainforest (comprising around 30,000 hectares) sits within Argyll. It is one of our most precious habitats, as important as a tropical rainforest, but even rarer: our region is the last stronghold for a habitat that was once widespread along the Atlantic coast of Europe. The future of these remaining areas of rainforest continues to be threatened by overgrazing, invasive non-native species, air pollution and climate change.

Scotland's temperate rainforests are a rare and important landscape, in order to preserve them for the future it is important to listen to the stories of those who live and work in these unique environments. We would like the commissioned storyteller to develop existing stories or craft new ones in response to this unique habitat. We know that people connect with stories and that they have a unique power to inspire change. We hope that by making these stories available to the wider public we can highlight the importance of Scotland's rainforests and help build an understanding of the role they can play in tackling climate change.

As well as the commission the selected storyteller will also provide two creative workshop sessions. Spending one day with pupils from a local primary school, and one with families from the local community.

The copyright for the completed work will remain at all times with the artist. The agreements between the commissioned artist and The Argyll Beacon (Cove Park and ACT) will license the work for use on Cove Park and ACT's websites and will be freely available for the public to download with full credit going to the artist.

Our aim is also to present the work as part of a public event in the early summer of 2022, at a cinema in Argyll along with our film commission (venue to be confirmed) and potentially at a further outdoor event. The work should therefore be completed by 9th May 2022.

### **Budget**

The commissioned artist will receive an award of £2,000, which should cover fee, production costs, and the delivery of two days of creative learning – VAT inclusive. A separate travel allowance will support travel from Cove Park and to rainforest and ancient woodland sites within Argyll.

The artist will receive the full support of Cove Park's Senior Director of Programmes, and the Curator of Engagement, and will benefit from the advice of environmentalists and experts working for ACT and the Scottish Rainforest Alliance.

### **Project Timeline**

- 31 January 2022 – Deadline for applications
- 21 February 2022 – Applicants notified of the outcome of their application

- 7-27 March 2022 – 10-day residency at Cove Park (exact time tbc)
- 26 March 2022 or 30 April – Workshop with local families at Cove Park
- Workshop with local school tbc
- 9 May 2022 – Deadline for story commission

### **PVG membership**

The successful applicant will be required to complete a PVG membership application or update for Cove Park.

### **Submission Process**

The deadline for proposals is 31 January 2022. Proposals should include an outline of initial ideas for this work and a simple budget outlining expected costs.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application via e-mail. This acknowledgement will include a link to our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion and we would be grateful for your time with this. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please contact Cove Park directly to confirm receipt of your application.

Selection for the award will be made by Cove Park and ACT and one external advisor to be confirmed in January. Selections will be made by 21 February 2022.

To apply, please complete and submit the [Year Of Stories 2022 Application Form](#) and include:

- Your name and contact details.
- A statement (no more than 500 words) briefly describing your proposal, workshop ideas and any other relevant information.
- A draft budget
- A List of Documentation uploaded within the Application Form, including image captions when relevant.

Please upload the following accompanying material within the Application Form:

Your CV, including the names and contact details of two professional referees (please note we will only contact your referees if your application is shortlisted for interview).

Documentation of Work:

- Film or video work should be submitted on a showreel (maximum duration 5 minutes) uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo, with the link provided in the Application Form.
- Audio work (maximum duration 5 minutes) should be uploaded to Soundcloud, with the link provided in the Application Form.
- Prose, no more than 500 words (no more than 2 pages).

- Poetry, up to 2 poems (no more than 2 pages).

If selected you will be required to complete a PVG scheme membership.

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, communities and industries, and we are committed to having a programme that consists of diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We actively encourage applications from African Diaspora people; South, East, and South-East Asian Diaspora people; Middle Eastern and North African Diaspora people; ethnically diverse people; people with disabilities; and all those who have been historically underrepresented within the cultural sector. Our intention is to better reflect society as a whole in our Team in terms of race, religion, ability, gender, age and socio-economic status.

We will accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written application. If you consider yourself to have a disability, please tell us if there are any reasonable adjustments to the application process that would be of assistance to you. Hard copies of the application may be sent to:

Emma Henderson, Cove Park, Peaton Hill, Cove, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE

Cove Park is committed to safeguarding privacy and related data within recruitment processes and abides by all appropriate General Data Protection Regulations.

For further information please contact:

Emma Henderson, Curator of Engagement

[emma@covepark.org](mailto:emma@covepark.org)

00 44 (0)1436 850500

