



# Grow Local, Grow Vocal

## CALLING ALL POETS AND LOVERS OF LOCAL PRODUCE

Together Artsreach and Dorset Food & Drink are seeking to commission a poet to help us celebrate Dorset's outstanding local food and drink producers, and to acknowledge those who choose to shop local.

Dorset is well known for being home to some of the UK's most outstanding local food and drink producers, and many of these are embedded within communities across the county who partner with Artsreach, the county's rural touring arts charity. **Grow Local, Grow Vocal** is a new initiative that aims to creatively celebrate these producers, and the community residents who choose to shop local, particularly since the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The commissioned poet will receive a fee of £300 to compose a poem in any form, which will then be printed on postcards, and distributed through a variety of networks across Dorset including food delivery boxes/orders from Dorset Food & Drink producers.

When Covid restrictions allow, a second fee will be given for the commissioned poet to perform the poem on the doorstep of customers receiving deliveries from Dorset Food & Drink Producers, over a pre-agreed number of days, as a small gesture to combat the loneliness experienced. A short film of the commissioned poet performing the poem will also be captured as part of the project.

### WHAT IS THE COMMISSION?

- To compose a poem of minimum 20 lines that celebrates Dorset's local food and drink producers and expresses appreciation to those who have chosen to shop locally. We would like the poem to have a light-hearted approach to reducing food miles/carbon emissions and in particular reduction in plastic and waste packaging and plastics. It should also give praise and thanks to those who buy local and mention some of the Dorset place names and produce
- The commissioned poet will be required to accompany local producers on a food delivery round and perform the poem on customers doorsteps as a thank you for shopping local (3 producers, 5 customers each, over 3 days)
- To be captured performing the film on camera as part of the doorstep performances.

### WHAT IS THE FEE?

- The commissioned poet will receive a fee of £300 to compose the poem
- The commissioned poet will also receive a fee of £300 in total and inclusive of travel costs for performing the poem live on doorsteps across 3 days, alongside a local food producers deliveries

### WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

#### Poetry Commission

- **Application deadline: 6pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**
- Commissions offered: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Delivery of final poem: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

- Distributed to food producers: week commencing 22 March and ongoing

### **Doorstep Performances & Film**

- Schedule planned and agreed with poet and producer: when covid restrictions allow and is safe to do so
- Doorstep Performances: when covid restrictions allow

## **WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

The successful candidate will have the following experience/attributes:

- A track record of publishing poetry in magazines, books, and/or online.
- Preferably with experience of working in community settings.
- A confident communicator who can perform their poems live
- The poet must have access to a vehicle for independent travel in rural Dorset.
- An advocate of sustainability who recognises the serious consequences of climate change
- preferably be a Dorset based poet, or a poet who has lived or worked in the county

## **HOW TO APPLY**

If you would like to be considered for this commission, please submit your CV along with two poems (ideally one written and one read/performed as video or audio), and also a short statement of 300 words maximum about your interest in this commission and why it appeals to you. Applications should be sent to [info@artsreach.co.uk](mailto:info@artsreach.co.uk)

We welcome and encourage applications from people from a wide range of backgrounds. If you have access requirements, please let us know in your application. If you'd prefer this application information in an alternative format, please get in touch by email to [info@artsreach.co.uk](mailto:info@artsreach.co.uk)

## **FURTHER QUESTIONS / INFORMATION**

If you have further questions, please email the Artsreach team via [info@artsreach.co.uk](mailto:info@artsreach.co.uk)

You can find out more about Artsreach by visiting <https://artsreach.co.uk/>

You can find out more about Dorset Food and Drink by visiting <https://dorsetfoodanddrink.org/>