



WALES' INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL GŴYL CHWEDLEUA RYNGWLADOL CYMRU

Call Out / Job Description for Year 1 Contemporary Cyfarwyddion –

Mycelium Storytelling Hub

Fee: £7,750 for 12 months, based on 58 days of funded time, worked flexibly over that time plus £1,000 towards developing your own practice (ring-fenced time for your own creative work) and £500 towards professional development (mentoring, coaching, shadowing, courses)

Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival (BTB) is recruiting two storytellers to develop programmes of storytelling activity which reach widely and deeply into communities, as part of a Mycelium Story Hub project supported by Arts Council Wales Connect & Flourish funding. Over 2 years, the Hub will support, champion, learn from and shape the work of 4 x Contemporary Cyfarwyddion, 4 Producers, 2 Associate Cyfarwyddion and 3 mini-festivals/events, bringing new stories to light.

The aim of the Mycelium Story Hub is to develop a storytelling ecosystem rooted in local communities that will connect to a larger ecosystem across Wales. The Hub is now inviting applications from storytellers and producers who are keen to initiate a range of activities rooted within their communities, connected to key strategies of diversifying and widening access to storytelling, developing more Welsh-medium opportunities within storytelling, and supporting the establishment of a healthy, sustainable and socially responsible storytelling network across Wales.

Background: In medieval Wales, the role of the “Cyfarwydd”, the old Welsh storytellers, captured and reflected what was happening in their communities, offering subtle guidance through the stories they told. Starting as an apprentice, the Cyfarwydd would have become a highly respected member of society, travelling and bringing news back to the courts, and reflecting the society of their time through their stories – so a networking figure in many ways.

BTB is initiating four new **Contemporary Cyfarwydd** roles over the next two years as the centre of a growing, proactive and responsive Mycelium Network of Storytelling Connections across Wales,

linking with producer(s) and organisational partners to increase the range and widen the diversity of engagement with storytelling. Each Cyfarwydd will fulfil the role of storyteller within a specific community, responding to community needs and potential, fostering diverse cultural partnerships while also nurturing their own artistic growth – sharing initiatives and support across the network of posts and with a partnership HUB.

Cyfarwydd Role Brief: The Contemporary Cyfarwydd will develop a programme of storytelling activity, including storytelling performances and engagement, which reaches more widely and deeply into the community in which their residency is based. Some communities will be geographic, but we are also open to applications based on communities of interest. Over the course of your role, your work will:

- enable more partners from across your community to connect creatively with storytelling
- enable more people to experience storytelling as a meaningful part of their daily lives
- enable more people to develop creativity and confidence in engaging with storytelling
- enable the expansion and deepening of your own practice and skills through the work you initiate and focused time on your own artistic development.

Each Cyfarwydd will have ownership to develop their ideas and programme in partnership with their communities, enabling individuals to be proactive and work in flexible ways, responding to the need and potential of each area. We are conscious of the diversity of storytelling practice and its manifestation across a broad range of work, health and well being, language learning, education, performance, nurturing new artists, training. As part of your application, we will ask you to specify the communities you are most keen to work with – this could be:

- Community of interest (people linked by a shared interest/work)
- Communities of identity (shared culture or experience)
- Geographical Community (town/street/area)
- Communities of Circumstance (people knitted together by a shared experience)

We are especially keen to hear from artists who are interested in working through co-creative principles, working with or alongside people and communities to develop skills and showcase people's capabilities, prioritising the involvement and experience of young people and families, D/deaf and disabled people, Black, Asian and global majority people, the LGBTQIA+ community, Welsh speakers.

Beyond the Border has particularly identified priority communities for the first phase of work as storytelling in Welsh language and the Valleys but we are also open to locating residencies in other areas with identified needs and potential.

Fees: Each Cyfarwydd will be guaranteed a starting fund of £7,750 (paid monthly), approximately quarter of the average annual UK salary for around 58 days of funded time. Organisations that wish to develop projects working with the CC will be encouraged to augment these fees and expenses, in negotiation with the postholder, based on the scale and ambitions of their projects and their access to resources. The CC will have discretion to allocate their time and negotiate fees within a suggested framework. The CC will be supported in finding additional funds and making funding applications where appropriate by BTB and Hub partners.

Support and Networking: A Mycelium Hub Group made up of BTB and partners (including storytellers) will support each CC throughout their post, with a named contact for individual support. Each CC will attend at least four networking sessions with other postholders and wider partners – the agenda for which will respond to themes emerging from each residency and connecting to wider initiatives across Wales. CC will be encouraged and supported to capitalise on the festival's ongoing programme of activity e.g. Ysbrydoli talks, online training webinars, and Casglu discussion groups as an opportunity to extend their networks.

Evaluation: BTB will be appointing an independent evaluator to help document and evaluate the strengths and learning from this initiative, to help shape future opportunities. Contribution to evaluation will be a requirement for all postholders.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Has experience of developing and delivering participatory storytelling activities with people from a variety of backgrounds
- Has an understanding of a community development approach
- Is an experienced storyteller or performer with an understanding of a wide range of audiences/participants
- Has experience of developing effective working relationships with partners
- Has experience of fulfilling project outcomes

- Has experience of monitoring and evaluating projects
- Is self-motivated and has the capacity to be administratively self-sufficient
- Has knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and child protection
- Has an imaginative, enthusiastic and flexible approach
- Has great communication skills
- Is committed to equal opportunities and social justice
- Is able to represent Beyond the Border Wales' International Storytelling Festival at all levels

Desirable:

- Has existing creative networks within communities in Wales
- Has capacity to offer training and mentoring to other storytellers
- Experience negotiating partnerships and fundraising
- Capacity to work in Welsh language

The successful candidate will be subject to a DBS check and satisfactory references.

We warmly welcome applications from those who are significantly underrepresented in our sector, such as disabled people, Welsh speakers and individuals from LGBTQIA+, Black, Asian and Global Majority Communities.

We will offer support to people making applications. We will run an open session for people to find out more and can chat about the role. We will offer guaranteed interviews to Welsh speakers, and LGBTQIA+, Black, Asian and Global Majority and Disabled applicants.

Sept/Oct 2021: We are recruiting for a minimum of 2 posts, to run from January to December 2022.

- At least one post will be a Welsh Language postholder
- At least one post will be based in South Wales Valleys, and work with a producer partner

To Apply:

Send your CV with a letter of application no longer than 2 sides of A4 outlining:

1. Your Relevant Skills and Experience, using the FEST competencies model as a frame of reference: <https://fest-network.eu/research/a-competence-model-for-oral-storytelling/>
2. The priorities you would be interested in exploring through a residency, in relation to both community activities and your own development
3. Details of communities you are particularly keen to be based within – whether community of interest, identity, geography or circumstance
4. A short performance extract (3 mins max) with an example of your storytelling practice.

You can also apply by video, filming yourself answering these questions.

Please send your application to info@beyondtheborder.com by **Friday 29 October** at 5pm

We will be holding an online webinar to share information about the roles and answer questions on **Friday 15 October** from 4.30pm. Book your free place for this webinar here: (Event Brite)

If you have any queries about the role and would like to discuss these before making an application, please send your queries to info@beyondtheborder.com

