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**Summer at the Quayside - Artist Call Out**

**29th July - 29th August 2025**

**Background**

Building on the success of our previous Summer at the Quayside programmes, Exeter Canal & Quay Trust are looking to commission a range of individuals or organisations to create a family-friendly offer on the Quayside over the school summer holidays. We have set aside the Transit Shed for Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays (please note Fridays have been allocated, so it is only the Tuesdays and Wednesdays we are looking to fill). Our preference is for activity that reflects the setting and heritage of the Quayside in some way - there are some incredible stories to be found and we love these to be built into our cultural programme, wherever possible.

All events or sessions must be free for the participant to access. Our preference is for informal drop in sessions, but if booking is key to your project we can talk about ways of making this work. Please note you will be applying for one day only, to allow us to offer a range of activities over the summer.

Exeter Canal & Quay Trust will pay your fees and expenses, so please include these within your application.

**Who are the Exeter Canal & Quay Trust?**

ECQT was set up by the City Council as an independent charity in 1981. The main aim was to enable money to be raised and spent on the historic buildings around the Quayside, which did not count as part of the City Council’s capital programme in a time of austerity. Some things never change!

In the 1990s, the Trust concentrated on running its property portfolio and supporting its tenants in the area. Several property deals were done involving the sale of longer leases or freeholds, which produced significant capital receipts.

After the millennium we shifted to become more welcoming to grant applications. Over the years we have made significant grants to local organisations. We have also made grants to enable arts events to take place on the Quay, including the popular Jazz on the Quay in the summer.

The most recent acquisition in our portfolio is The Custom House, which was added to our lease by the City Council in 2015.

ECQT manages a Cultural Partners programme focused around the Custom House, which appoints two organisations over a three year residency. The desire to develop the space as a Literature Hub means one of these partners will be specific to this art form, the other is more open. For the period until the end Spring 2026, our partners are [Literature Works](https://literatureworks.org.uk/) and [Art Work Exeter](https://artworkexeter.org.uk/) who both run wonderful, place-based activity in and around the Custom House.

An important part of our remit is around Exeter’s official status as a designated Heritage Harbour. As part of this, we encourage activity that promotes Exeter’s historic maritime significance. More information on the status can be found [here](https://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/page/about-heritage-harbours#:~:text=Heritage%20Harbours%20are%20places%20of,to%20the%20UK's%20maritime%20past.), or you are welcome to contact our Heritage Harbour Development Office on hannah@exetercustomhouse.co.uk.

**More information on the Custom House can be found at** [**www.exetercustomhouse.co.uk**](http://www.exetercustomhouse.co.uk)



Photo courtesy of Appleton Event Photography.

**FAQ’s**

**What space is available?** We have allocated the Transit Shed, and the Piazza Terracina for Tuesdays and Wednesdays over this period. Please note, the Transit Shed is essentially an outdoor space (with a cobbled floor) with cover! For the Piazza, there is no cover at all. If you have a particular request to use another space on the Quayside, please do get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate this. Walkabout acts are also welcome.

**Who can apply?** All are welcome! We can accept applications from individuals, collectives and organisations. Please be aware that there will not necessarily be staff support available from the Custom House, so make sure there are always at least two members of your team and that the activity is one you are happy to set up and run without additional support.

**Is there power available?** There is power available in the Transit Shed upon request.

**Are there any restrictions on times?** We would like activity to be held no earlier than 10am and no later than 7pm, but are flexible within this.We would suggest peak hours are between 11am and 3pm.

**What marketing is provided?** ECQT funds a Social Media & Digital executive to support ECQT and will be available to help promote the programme of activity. Digital copies of a poster, schedule and social media assets will be provided and we would welcome you helping us spread the word as much as possible.

**Do I need to provide insurance and risk assessments?** We will ask all successful applicants to provide us with up to date Public Liability insurance and a risk assessment for activities prior to the event date.

**Is parking available?** I am afraid we are not able to provide any parking on site, so please do build these costs into your fees. The cheapest parking is at [Haven Banks 3](https://exeter.gov.uk/car-parking/car-parks/zone-3-car-parks/haven-banks-car-park-three-and-coaches/) (£5 per day), which is about a 10-minute walk from the Transit Shed. You are able to unload at the Transit Shed prior to 10am.

**Is any equipment available?** There are a limited number of small tables and chairs available for you to use - please note you may need to move these from the store close to the Transit Shed if we do not have staff available. If you need these at the Piazza, this may not be feasible unless you are able to transport them yourself. If you have any specific requirements, please do let us know in your application and we will do our best to accommodate this.

**How and when will decisions be made?** Decisions will be made by ECQT no later than the end of March 2025.

**How will payment be made?** We will work out a payment schedule with all successful applicants and can be flexible with this to cover any up-front costs, however the majority of invoices are paid immediately after your sessions.

**Photography.** We will employ a photographer to visit as many sessions as possible and these photos will be available for you to use after the Summer. Please note this is on the condition that you credit the photographer, ECQT and that the photographs are not edited or taken out of context in any way.

**How to apply**

To apply, please complete the form [here](https://forms.gle/z1sxGD7xuzYDhcZE6) no later than close of play on 14th February 2025. If you have any questions, please email anna@exetercustomhouse.co.uk

Please note - we anticipate more applications than we are able to fund. We would love to keep everyone's details on file in case there are future opportunities, but do let us know if you’d prefer us not to do this.

Best wishes,

Anna Gilroy

Project Co-ordinator

Exeter Canal & Quay Trust