

MK Archive – RESIDENCY 2022

Introduction

Milton Keynes Council is looking to appoint a freelance archivist, creative practitioner or curator with an interest in Milton Keynes's new town history and archive, to:

1. Research our new town historical materials, both digital and physical, held across three different organisation's holdings. Taking inspiration from this collection material, develop a creative and engaging Archive Engagement Programme, with the aim of raising the profile of the archive and collection material, whilst reaching and engaging local, regional and national audiences.
2. Working with project partner Pooleyville, feed into the development and delivery of a programme which will be delivered within a mobile exhibition/events space, designed in collaboration with WikiHouse. This has been commissioned as an outreach tool and can support the delivery of aspects of the Archive Engagement Programme.

The project is part of a wider 'Design City' Programme which delivers to the MK Creative and Cultural Strategy 2018 – 27 and specifically to the development of a 'City Archive'.

We welcome applications from individuals or small teams. The total budget for all fees is **£7,000 + VAT**. The work is expected to be undertaken from May – September 2022.

Background

In 1967, Parliament decided to develop a new city for 250,000 people at the centre of the UK - Milton Keynes. In so doing, Government envisaged that the city would need to be a powerful enough to be a 'counter-magnet' to London. This followed Buckinghamshire County Council's decision to promote 'North Buckinghamshire New City' as the first ever city for Buckinghamshire. There is no doubt that it was the intention of both the Government, and the County Council, that Milton Keynes would be developed as a city and indeed, the statutory order designated some 22,000 acres – far larger than most other British cities.

Milton Keynes stands out from any other place in the UK. It represents the pinnacle of the Government-led national post-war planning movement, which sought through utopian principles and ideals to rebuild the country after World War II, accommodating a growing population against the background of bombed cities. Six goals have been its guiding principles for development – opportunity and freedom of choice; easy movement and access; balance and variety, the creation of an attractive city, public awareness and participation and efficient and imaginative use of resources. By any measure, Milton Keynes has been hugely successful, is the culmination of national achievement and from the start, it was and is a mosaic of communities, built by people for people. 'MK', as residents affectionately call it.

Milton Keynes has surprised many with its success: huge expansion expertly delivered by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation in conjunction with famous and talented architects and urban planners, held together by an unrivalled green framework and loved by its residents. Amazing parkland on the doorstep has provided particular comfort to residents during Covid-19 and shown our place is a model of health and wellbeing that can help level up society and support individuals and communities in need. Neighbourhood housing is based around schools and local centres, and many businesses choose to locate across Milton Keynes to take advantage of easy mobility, access to employees, characterful towns and high-quality space with a variety of green landscapes.

The Future

Milton Keynes is admired internationally, and a steady stream of people come here to seek to learn its lessons. And, looking forward, our civic leaders have made a new promise to people now living in Milton Keynes, to their children, and to Government. In the *Strategy to 2050* they have made a commitment to grow the city's population to over 400,000 people, to sustain our prosperity, to provide much needed homes, and to contribute to Britain's efforts to address the challenges of climate change. In making such a promise, Milton Keynes is a model for all British cities to follow through the 21st century and how residents can adapt to continuous growth and embrace the future.

Against this backdrop, Milton Keynes has archives that record this unique achievement of designing and building a city of scale and success. By harnessing their power and content through a single 'City Archive' and shared Archive Activity Programme, we offer increased access to this unique and important material, whilst also initiating ongoing contemporary collecting, capture the diverse heritage that is the Milton Keynes of today. Keeping the archive relevant, of interest and useful to future generations, whether they are local residents, city planners, international researchers, architects, designers, modernism enthusiasts...

Background

Milton Keynes New Town archives are separated into three major holdings. These are:

1. The formal Council and MK Development Corporation (MKDC) archives managed by Buckinghamshire Archives in Aylesbury, some 25 miles from Milton Keynes.
2. Archives held by Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre (MKCDC), including many material donated from the personal holdings of ex MKDC staff.
3. Archives held by the Living Archive MK (LAMK), primarily photographs, film, oral histories and stories of the pioneering communities who helped grow Milton Keynes over many years.

This short residency has been developed in order to offer an opportunity to deliver a creative insight into how, by bringing these holdings together permanently into one 'City Archive', a step change in access and appreciation of the collection can be achieved.

The Project Aims are to:

- Identify known and important collection items amongst these holdings for use in an Engagement Programme, alongside contemporary material emerging from other current programmes, most notably the 'DETAILS' Drawings project and Archives related to Homeworld'81, Energy World and Future World Housing Expos.
- Take inspiration from this material and develop ideas for an Archive Engagement Programme, which potentially incorporates archive partner's ideas.
- Work in collaboration with Pooleyville and WikiHouse who have been commissioned to deliver a mobile exhibition/events space, which will be used to deliver outreach aspects of the Archive Engagement Programme, specifically using the archives mentioned above and others identified and related to this theme.
- Consider from the outset the potential of audience development and how this programme can feed into medium to long-term plans for archive programming.

All relevant material information and introductions to Pooleyville and the Archive Partners will be made to the successful candidate.

Outcomes

Desired Project Outcomes:

- Develop a shared creative Archive Engagement Programme which has brought partners, collection and design materials together in delivery and engaged a wide variety of audiences, including previous non-users.
- Maximise the opportunity of a specially commissioned 'Wiki' mobile exhibition space alongside the Central Library spatial offer, in order to establish an active and engaging profile for the future City Archive.

Submitting a Proposal

The selection process is outlined below. To ensure that submissions are evaluated on a consistent basis it is essential that the required information for assessment is submitted. Failure to provide the required information may lead to the submission being rejected.

Submissions will be evaluated against the criteria listed with their relevant weightings, the information supplied will be evaluated and points given to each element using the scoring system as illustrated. From the submissions a shortlist will be made, and candidates may be invited for interview the week commencing Monday 25th April 2022.

The purpose of the interview will be to:

- Confirm that the contents of the submission are accurate.
- Assess the suitability of the candidate.
- Clarify any uncertainties and /or anomalies in the submission.

Send applications to the MKC Culture Team, FAO Shane Downer, Heritage and International Partnerships Officer on culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk by **Noon, Friday 22nd April 2022**

Information required	Weighting
CV which includes: Career history, qualifications and professional memberships etc.	30%
Letter of interest stating: Your availability and interest in this role Relevant skills and experience Your knowledge of Milton Keynes and or new town archives Your approach to delivering this Brief Stated cover for relevant insurances (Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and if applicable, Employers Liability) at £5,000,0000. Proof to be demonstrated if called for interview.	30%
Proven track record on quality delivery: Two examples of relevant projects or commissions that you feel demonstrate your ability to deliver this contract. Where relevant, please include up to four visuals. Please include details of two referees	30%
Inclusion: Example either within case studies or letter of interest showing your experience Please ensure that your application is no longer than 6 sides of A4 and no larger than 10MB.	10%

END

FINAL VERSION

31 March 2022