

Appendix 15

Funding proposal

1 The Brooks Books Proposal





Synopsis of key elements of *The Brook Books project*

We propose that *Once - arts & ceremonies* work with the communities that live and work alongside The Pigeonhouse, Brislington, Colliters and Malago brooks in South Bristol to create four creative story books. Each story will have the same beginning and the same end, mirroring the four brooks source at Dundry Hill and meeting point in the River Avon, but each would tell of their different journeys to get there.

The stories will take the unique approach of mixing fact and fiction, each rooted in the nature and personality of its brook, geography and community whilst drawing on myth and enchantment to create a tale of each stream to be remembered and passed on.

The books will be composed of material developed in workshops and visits to the community by *Once* artists, from allotment holders to schools to nursing homes, using our skills in oral history gathering and accessible creative activities. The four sets of material will then be weaved into four distinct and beautiful story books.

After the creation of each book there will be performed readings at sites along the brooks where contributors and friends and family can watch the tale come alive in situ. Each household alongside the length of the brook will be given a copy of the book to keep in the house and local schools and libraries will hold copies.

The Brook Books will engage different members of the community in their local environment, creating opportunities for expression and delight in their surroundings. It will encourage people to talk about their surroundings across generations and to visit and connect with the environment in a new and creative way.

The Brook Books project aims to:

- Introduce creative techniques such as simple printmaking or haiku writing to individuals and families within the four communities.
- Encourage community members to explore their local identity through creativity and to get involved in social groups and activities (e.g. Get further involved in rivercares groups and their activities).
- Inspire community members to share their stories, memories and dreams for the area.
- Create a sense of community pride and ownership of the brook habitats and their creative and social potential.

The Brook Books project will achieve this by:

- Setting up, promoting and facilitating creative consultations and making sessions within the community (in community centres, schools, day-care centres, youth centres etc). Conducting on-street creative consultations to engage as many sections of the communities as possible in the creation of the books. Over **65** workshops and intervention sessions will be facilitated in public places and community run spaces for over **700** people.
- Producing four distinct artist-made story books (for adults and children alike). The books will be based on material collected and made in the four areas, produced and collated by *Once* artists and writers alongside commissioned graphic designers



and illustrators. Each book with the same start and end mirroring the Brooks journeys - coming from the same source, Dundry Hill and having the same meeting point in the River Avon.

- **8000** copies of the books will be delivered for free to homes a certain distance from the brooks and to local libraries, schools and community resource centers
- Holding performed readings of the books at streamside and in community venues, for over **400** people with over **30** performance events bringing various groups and individuals together.
- Working alongside *The South Bristol Riverscapes Project* to maximise potential and reach of the work.

Rough Project Timetable:

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|------------------|--|
| FEB - MARCH '09 | - Planning |
| APRIL - JULY '09 | - Creative consultations and workshops |
| SEPT - DEC '09 | - Book making and distribution |
| MAR - MAY '10 | - Performed book reading events |
| JUNE - JULY '10 | - Evaluation and dissemination |

Supporters of the project:

The *South Bristol Riverscapes* project and steering committee will act as an advisory partner on the project. Offering contacts and promotion via their own networks and using the projects events for their own promotion (e.g. having a representative at performances to talk to participants about their work/group). The steering group and project worker will also offer invaluable information and contacts as source material for the books alongside participant's contributions. The steering groups may also be able to offer volunteer time where appropriate (stewarding at performance events, delivering books). Lorna Heaysman, Community Development Officer, Engagement Team, Bristol City Council has also offered her support of the project.

"The Brooks Books Project will offer the opportunity for local communities along the 4 brooks to work together on a creative project that helps them to explore and enjoy their local river. It will put their local stretch of river in a wider context - that of the whole length of the river, from source to mouth...It will give groups the chance to work creatively on their own small project, but see their work reflected in the larger project. The Brooks Books Project will help to give people a sense of place. The river gives a chance for stories, both to be told and heard. It will give local people the chance to add their voice (whether vocal or visual) to other local voices. I see the Brooks Books as helping me to get the Riverscapes message out to a wider audience than I could without the work of Once." Helen Adshead - Project officer for *South Bristol Riverscapes* project

A statement of the way in which it is proposed to fund the project:

Once have so far applied to Arts Council England and The Foundation for Sport and the Arts for approx 20% of the cost of the project, for which we are awaiting responses. We are currently applying to Natural England to cover the remainder of the budget (around £58,000).

Basic Budget:

Creative consultation and oral history work in x4 areas - £13,100
Book making in x3 areas - £15,120

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info.once@gmail.com

www.once.uk.com

07969 746720

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Performances in x3 areas - £15,600

Printing costs - £8000

Overall project management, evaluation, documentation - £5,520

FCR - £16,061

APPROX TOTAL project costs - £73,401

