

STORYHOUSE

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white classical-style dress with a wide red belt and a gold chain, is performing on stage. Her arms are raised in a dramatic gesture. The background is a deep purple with faint, out-of-focus text that includes "se" and "incredible."

‘Finding Myself’ –
Artist Call Out to
work with
Tomorrow’s Women
and Storyhouse

Antigone, 2021, Mark
McNulty



Storyhouse, 2017, Becci Lane

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Welcome from the CEO

Storyhouse is one of the UK's foremost cultural charities; its home in Chester incorporates a library, theatres, and a cinema. It is also an acclaimed theatre producer and runs the country's most successful regional open-air theatre in the city's Grosvenor Park, as well as the innovative Moonlight Flicks open-air cinema each year.

Storyhouse plays an important part of cultural life in Chester and continues to be a beacon of inspiration for many other cities and towns for the role it has played in social and economic regeneration, its successful and unique integration of world-class theatre, cinema, and library facilities, as well as its bold, exciting, diverse, and award-winning programming.

It is also a great place to work. We offer a flexible and supportive working environment, value experience as well as skills and qualifications, and work to ensure everyone in the organisation is aware of our equality and diversity commitments. We want to support all staff to fulfil their potential and enjoy a happy and healthy workplace.

We hope you decide to join us,

Annabel





Chester Disability Pride Parade, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Story

Storyhouse is a creative community. As a diverse cultural organisation, our home is one of the country's most successful cultural buildings housing a cinema, theatres and a library. Last year we welcomed 850,000 people through our doors. We are both a community hub and combined arts producer.

Our library attracts international recognition, known for its seamless integration, and boasts the longest opening hours of any UK public library.

In 2024-25, we supported 6,289 young people to connect and create, ran 190 free rhyme-time sessions, created 423 magical performances indoors and outdoors, sold 187,916 theatre tickets and hosted a total of 1,618 cinema screenings.

Visits are roughly split into thirds between event attendances, library users, and wider participation. We enjoyed the support of over 17,600 volunteer hours and 1,328 different individuals were involved in making and supporting our work.

Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which we founded in 2010, is the UK's largest regional open-air theatre, welcoming over 28,000 every summer.

You can find even more about who we are on our [website](#), discover more about our innovative home and how it came to be in [this case study](#) by Arts Council England, or read about our renowned library in this [blog](#) by the DCMS's library team.



This House is Your House

We've become vital part of the region's cultural landscape and a place of safety and support for the community - especially for young people, giving them a space where they can reimagine their place in the world.

Over 40 community groups use us as a base for creative activity each month, including LGBTQIA+ and disability groups, refugee integration activities, mental health support sessions, and groups combatting social exclusion by age.

We work extensively with young people and provide a range of different programmes, from youth theatre and our young company, to young leaders, young programmers, and our many schools and education programmes. Throughout our work we collaborate with local partners throughout to ensure we are reaching the people that would usually have the least opportunity to participate.

Across everything we do, we work to give people the power to build their own creative communities through inspiring stories and shared creative experiences: this house is your house.

As we blend theatre, library, restaurant and cinema services, we share inspiring stories and stage creative events which empower people to nurture their creativity and bring together communities. Through our work, we hope to build a more connected, inclusive and creative community network.

The more open we are to the true and rich diversity of our communities, the more vividly we fulfil our purpose. More engagement from more of our communities will make more of Storyhouse.

We are committed to creating a team which is representative of our communities and to bringing together those with a variety of skills and experiences to help shape what we do and how we work.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Strategy...

Storyhouse is about to enter an exciting new phase in our evolution as we look to develop our programmes, based on a new strategic plan, to deliver world class arts and meet community needs.

Our Vision:

Here at Storyhouse, culture is owned by everyone.

Our Mission:

We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Our Values:

LISTEN CLOSELY.

True empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view.

LOOK AROUND.

Opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.

SPEAK UP.

Not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.

STAND UP.

Debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.

REACH OUT.

Diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023,
Mark McNulty

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white flight suit over a dark long-sleeved shirt, is seated on a chair. She is looking down and to her left, with her right arm raised high, hand open. The background is dark, suggesting a stage or rehearsal space.

Our Resources

Storyhouse is a medium-sized charity with approximately 140 staff and a gross revenue of over £6 million per year. The charity is financially stable, with a number of steady revenue streams, including a 20-year lease and contract for services with the local authority (Cheshire West and Chester) and NPO funding from Arts Council England for 2023 to 2026. Revenue from commercial activities is also essential to the charity's financial stability, and over 57% of its revenue is earned.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries: Storyhouse Production Company Limited - creating and staging Storyhouse Originals theatre productions - and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited - providing a range of catering, retail, cinema, receiving theatre and commercial services.

Despite our financial stability, like all other charities our resources are being eroded by rising costs caused by inflation and higher energy prices, and as a result of the continued cost of living crisis, demand for free-to-access services (such as warm spaces) is increasing.

Our Building

The original parts of Storyhouse were constructed as an art deco Odeon cinema in 1936, and have been restored, extended and renovated into a library, two state of the art theatres, a cinema, restaurant, and two bars.

The larger theatre is an 800-seat proscenium arch stage. With state-of-the-art facilities, its auditorium spreads across three tiers: stalls, circle and gallery. This same theatre converts into a 500-seat thrust stage (with the audience wrapping around three sides of the stage). In this format, the auditorium spreads across two tiers, with intimate seating putting the audience right in amongst the action.

On top of the building sits the Garret Theatre and Bar. This 150-seat black-box theatre is a flexible, fully-equipped performance, rehearsal, or workshop space. It is designed to be full of work made by local creative companies, individuals, and community groups, as well as a space we hire to companies and individuals.

The 100-seat boutique cinema is designed to honour the original Odeon's history as a cinema in 1936. With red velvet, soft, sunken seating, it is a beautiful event space.

The library spreads right through the building, with a dedicated family-friendly area (with wet play, storytelling room, and arts and crafts) in The Den and extensive book-stocks covering the walls throughout Storyhouse offering opportunities for studying, learning, and research.



The Role

Storyhouse would love to hear from female identifying artists working in any artform aged 18+, ideally those who have experience of working with vulnerable women.

Storyhouse Women is a weekend of events at Storyhouse celebrating women and girls. A vibrant celebration of empowerment and connection and a place for urgent conversations. Storyhouse Women has been a festival in the Storyhouse co-curated calendar every year since opening in April 2017.

Tomorrow's Women offer support for women aged 18+ with a range of issues including mental health, substance misuse, confidence & self-esteem, money, exercise, and social isolation. There is a centre in Chester and the Wirral.

This is the first year we are working with another charity (Tomorrow's Women) on a project devised and led by the women who use the Chester Centre.



The Kitchen, 2023, Mark McNulty

About Tomorrow's Women & Storyhouse

When asked what stories they would like to tell the world, the women came up with the following topics:

Mental Health

Domestic Abuse

Physical Abuse

Invisible Disabilities

Bullying and harassment

Health

Sexual Abuse

Cancer

Self-Harm

Ageism

Safety

Suicide

Homelessness

Alongside this list the women spent time discussing the topic of self-worth. The following were quotes taken during the session:

“I’m my own worst critic”

“Capital is based on what you look like”

“I just wanted to be noticed”

“Am I capable?”

“No one knows what is happening behind anyone’s face”

“I have felt guilty putting myself first”

“I didn’t recognise myself”

About Tomorrow's Women & Storyhouse

The Brief

To engage with a group of TW members (approx. 10) who have committed to taking part in the project.

To meet the objectives listed below - what the women would like to get out of the project and what they would like the audience to experience from the outcome

The project could result in an exhibition, presentation, performance, or a celebration event/sharing to bring the project to a close.

Tomorrow's Women members want to get the following out of the sessions:

Explore their own creativity/ creative skills

Help raise awareness of a particular topic relating to their own story

Help improve other people's self esteem

Educate people on the subjects relating to the women's stories

Show people they are not alone

Allow people to feel heard, seen and less invisible

Timeline, Budget & Location

Monday 17 Nov	Artist Selection process with TW members	
Monday 1 Dec	Session 1	£120
Monday 15 Dec	Session 2	£120
Monday 5 Jan	Session 3	£120
Monday 19 Jan	Session 4	£120
Monday 2 Feb	Session 5	£120
Monday 16 Feb	Session 6	£120
Monday 2 Mar	Festival	£200
Planning day and preparation days		£800
Materials		£500

Location: Sessions will take place in Chester City Centre at the Tomorrows Women Centre on Mondays early afternoons (12.30 -2pm). You must be DBS checked.

Application Process

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter expressing interest in the role and a CV demonstrating relevant experience online at:

www.storyhouse.com/jobs/

Please include visual examples of previous projects you have worked on
- this could be pictures or web links.

Applications should be submitted on or before Wednesday 12th
November 11.59pm

No agencies please.



Faustus That Damned Woman, 2023,
Mark McNulty



GDPR

Personal Data Notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

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