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New Artist Opportunity at Fleetwood Museum # 1 : Census Data Commission

In January to March 2022, we are looking for two artists to work alongside the Museum and bring Fleetwood's census data and mapped memories to life for wider sharing in the local community and across the heritage/museum sector.

This is the Artist brief for the Census Data Commission. The Artist brief for the Mapping Memories Commission can be found here
<https://www.fleetwoodmuseum.co.uk/blog/>

Background/context

The Fleetwood Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Cultural Consortium is a group of local arts and heritage organisations led by Fleetwood Museum, delivering a 3-year cultural programme of events and activities to celebrate and engage local people with their town centre heritage.

The project is titled, "From Nothing to Now: Fleetwood's communities celebrate their people and place on the high street".

There are two main strands in the 'From Nothing to Now' programme. The first is a mass research project in 2021 to create a vibrant new archive and record of the town's people and built heritage. This will be done in two strands – collecting early census data to produce a new record of Fleetwood people from the 1840's to the 1920's, and then collecting people's memories of place in Fleetwood town centre from the 1950's up to the present day.

In the second stage, the project will celebrate and explore 4 seminal historical moments in the town through commissioned events and activities in 2022 and 2023. The form that the commissions will take have deliberately been left open, to allow residents to play a key role as co-curators and co-commissioners in determining the nature of the responses and how these are brought to life digitally or physically.

For more information about the Fleetwood cultural programme see <https://www.fleetwoodmuseum.co.uk/blog/mapping-memories-needs-you/> and <https://www.visitfleetwood.info/about/memory-map-project/>

The New Census Commission

As part of the 2021 mass research project, volunteer researchers are transferring data from original census records on Ancestry.com to excel spreadsheets, creating a new record of Fleetwood people and places street by street, starting with the first census relevant to Fleetwood in 1844.

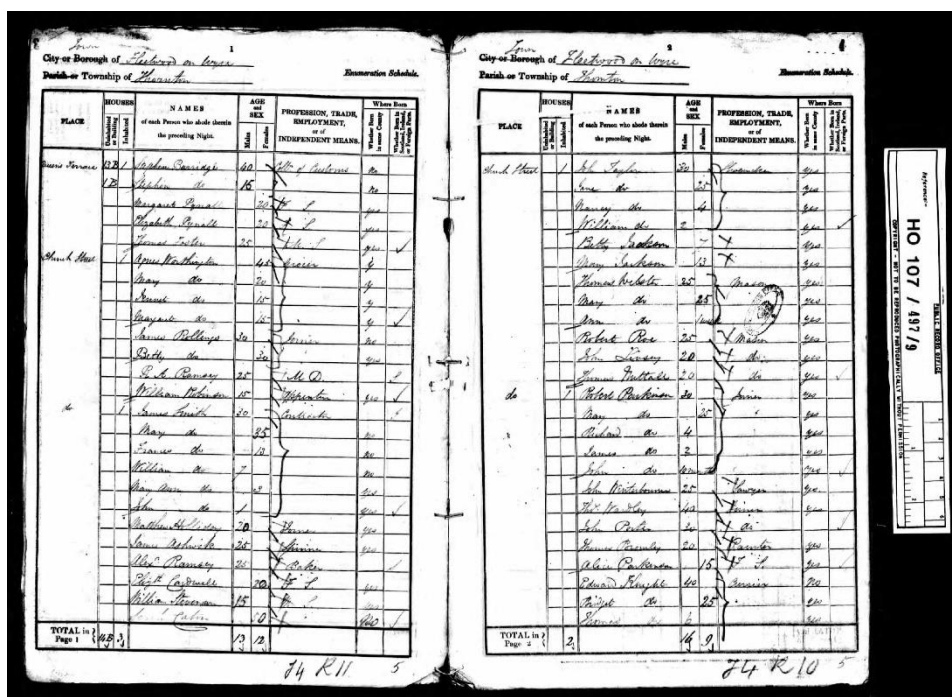
This data includes street names and details of people and families living in Fleetwood – their names, ages, sex, occupations and place of origin. By the end of 2021, the data from the 1841 and some of 1851 will have been collected. The collecting process will most likely continue into 2022 with the 1851 and 1861 census.

The Census Artist Brief

We would like to commission an artist with an innovative practice that enables the Museum and Fleetwood HAZ Cultural Consortium to present project data in an accessible and compelling way.

By way of example, the census data may be suited to an artist specialising in data visualisation with experience of turning data sets into pictures that uncover previously unseen connections and patterns.

Images of the original census pages can be utilized as inspiration or source material.



An example census page from the 1841 Fleetwood Census - one of 53 pages.

The 1861 census for Fleetwood is larger and has around 161 pages.

The artist will work alongside the Museum team and the volunteers to bring the census data off the spreadsheet and into an artform that might be 2D, 3D, analogue or digital. We

anticipate an initial meeting at the Museum with the opportunity to learn more about the Town and its people when you visit.

Timeframes

The commission will commence in January 2022 and should be completed by March 2022.

Budget

The fee for this commission is £3750

This fee is to include all travel, materials, and expenses to realise the final artwork.

How to apply

To apply please submit a short proposal to ben.whittaker@fleetwoodmuseum.co.uk that outlines:

- Why you are interested in the project and how you might approach the commission
- CV and/or three examples of *relevant* past work/projects that you think demonstrate how your practice fits this brief

Please send your proposal as one PDF document (CV's can be separate), no more than 1,500 words. Please embed links to any films or websites you would like to show us in this document.

For more information contact Ben Whittaker at the above email or call 01253 876621.

Closing date & Interviews

- Closing date 4th January 2022
- Interviews to take place on Thursday 20th January 2022

The cultural programme is funded by Historic England, the National Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Arts Council England. The programme is administered by Fleetwood Museum and is developed and delivered by the Fleetwood HAZ Cultural Consortium.