



HIVE Kelham Island Sheffield

Hive Poetry Commission

Grantside wish to engage and commission a Sheffield based poet to create a short poem which will be designed onto the façade of its new co-living development, Hive in Kelham Island as a permanent public artwork.

The Hive will be a people, community and environment led development creating a new co-living and co-working destination in Kelham Island, Sheffield. Hive will be Kelham Islands first Net Zero Carbon development and will offer exceptional living and working spaces. www.hive-central.co.uk

Who should apply?

We are seeking applications from early career poets in the Sheffield and South Yorkshire area and our aim is to commission a poem which will be emblematic for the new building.

History

Kelham Island has a fascinating industrial history dating from the 12th century and it is thought to be one of the city's oldest industrial districts in England. The island was created by diverting a mill race from the River Don, and it has been a centre for steel and cutlery manufacturing and the site of the new Hive building was previously used to produce parts for the aero industry and prior to that was a site of manufacturing with 12 crucible furnaces discovered underground during archaeological investigations across the site.

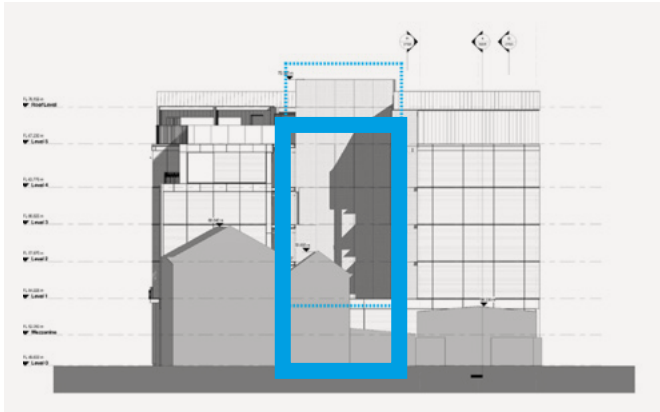
The development aims to create a new and inclusive community and to embody a number of themes which we hope may be inspiring for the poetry project including: Co-Living, Wellness & Happiness, Sustainability, Environment and Social Interaction.

The idea for a large scale poem on the building is inspired by the 'ghost signage' which is often found on older industrial buildings or warehouses and Sheffield Museum have previously organised 'ghost sign' tours of Kelham Island: www.sheffieldmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/walking-tour-ghost-signs/

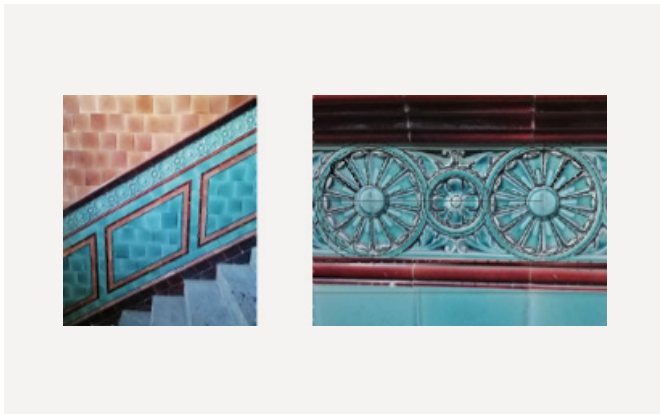
Design

Once the poem is produced the architects will graphically incorporate the text onto or into the external perforated architectural cladding panels and the poem will become a very visible arts feature within the local area.

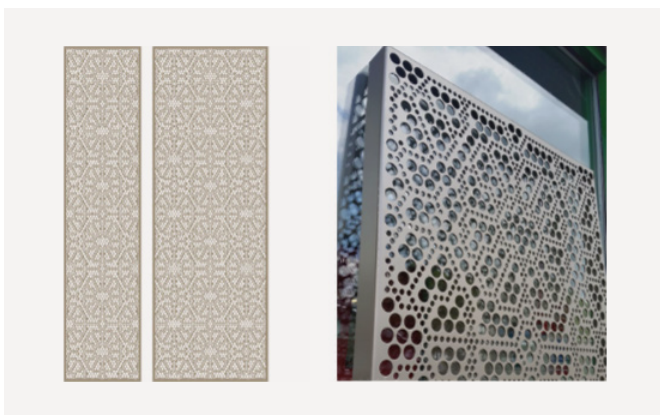
The proposed cladding system offers a number of options for using perforation to create decorative patterns and there is also the potential to use architectural lighting to pick out the poem at nighttime.



Façade indicating poem location



Perforate design — initial stages



Perforate design — final stages

How to Apply

The selected poet will receive a fee of £1500 to undertake research, write the poem, engage with the architects / graphic designers and to read the poem when the building opens in 2027.

Grantside are keen to offer the opportunity to a Sheffield/South Yorkshire poet who is in the early stage of their writing career and the selected writer will receive mentoring and support from Arts Curator Matthew Jarratt throughout the process.

The deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 28th November and the selected poet would need to produce the work by 13th March 2026.

To apply for the opportunity, please send a one-page letter (doc or pdf format) including a writer's bio and a description of your work and interests, together with up to three poems (or links to poems), each no more than 30 lines, that you feel are relevant to this opportunity.

Entries should be emailed for the attention of Matthew Jarratt to info@matthewjarratt.com with the subject line Hive Poetry Commission.

In Summary:

- The selected poet will be commissioned to produce a contemporary poem for the new Hive co-living development in Kelham Island, Sheffield.
- The poem will be integrated onto or into the external architectural cladding.
- We anticipate that the poem will be around 8 to 12 lines of text in total.
- The fee of £1,500 includes research, writing, expenses, travel and the performance of the poem at the building launch.
- The opportunity is open to early career writers and poets currently hailing from or resident in the South Yorkshire area. By early career, we mean that the poet shouldn't have published more than two poetry pamphlets, and they shouldn't yet have a full collection.
- The deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 28th November.
- The selected poet will receive advice and support during the commission.
- Information on Grantside & Hive can be viewed at: grantside.com & hive-central.co.uk