



**CentreStage, a Community Project in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**  
**Designer/Model Maker Brief**  
**May 2025**

CentreStage puts the people of Wisbech in the spotlight, celebrating the diversity of the people that call this historic town their home. This project is inspired by an unfinished painting in the collection of Wisbech & Fenland Museum depicting Wisbech Market Place during the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. The painting, by Alfred Balding features many of the residents of the town within the still recognisable backdrop of the Market Place, many of whom paid for the privilege of being featured.

To celebrate the residents of Wisbech today, CentreStage looks to capture a snapshot of contemporary Wisbech through photographic portraits of people from the communities that make up the town. These portraits are to be housed inside a theatre set inspired model that depicts a re-imagining of the Market Place for the 21st Century.

This model will be created by the community of Wisbech, in collaboration with lead artists Electric Egg and a set designer, to help create the final interactive installation. The final work will be shared and displayed at Wisbech and Fenland Museum, alongside the portraits and the original 1887 painting, in October 2025.

Creatively directed by lead artists Electric Egg, CentreStage has been commissioned by MarketPlace Arts and funded by Arts Council England. The project has additional support from Wisbech & Fenland Museum and many organisations and groups within Wisbech.

**The Brief**

A theatrical set designer is required for a collaborative project to design and direct the build of a "set" model, that is inspired by, and reimagines, the Market Place of Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. As part of the CentreStage project, creatively directed by Electric Egg, the chosen designer will respond to the town and design a set in which to house micro portraits of approx 100 people. The portrait prints will be provided and be required to be cut and mounted, sized between 10-15cm, they are a mixture of full length standing and top body shots and should be installed in the model as dynamic moveable pieces.

The build of the model will be in collaboration with members of the community from Shedders and Fixers (Wisbech Men's Shed), these "community set builders" will be a group

of people with practical skills and equipment to realise the design as directed by the designer. The role requires the designer to engage with this community group, the lead artists Electric Egg and commissioners MarketPlace Arts to finalise the brief and specification of the model. The set designer will be responsible for the design and realisation of the model to that specification.

The resultant model (no larger than 2x2 metres), when populated with the portraits, will be on display from October 2025 in Wisbech & Fenland Museum. It should be designed to be touched and interacted with as we wish to concourse audiences to rearrange the people within the scene to create their own portrait of Wisbech. It should therefore be robust enough to withstand handling for 6 - 9 months and allow for accessible interaction from the public.

An abstracted and creative response to Wisbech Market Place is essential - whilst it should evoke the town it should not be a mere recreation of the town as it is now or was in the past, rather it should embody a celebratory, joyful and colourful approach to this contemporary reimagining that excites the public.

We wish to commission a designer with experience of creating exciting theatrical set designs and models and working collaboratively ideally with community groups.

The project is to take place between July and September 2025 with the final model and exhibition of portraits going on display in October 2025. Designers should be able to present a more detailed timeline agreed in consultation with MarketPlace Arts. The fee includes all design, preparation, time with community groups, build and attendance at the October event. Exact dates will be agreed with the successful designer.

Set Designers based in or from Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk are actively encouraged to apply as are designers with roots and origins in Eastern European communities.

### **Terms & Conditions**

Set Designer Fee: **£2870**

Materials: **£800**

Deadline for applications: **20th June 2025**

Design Meetings & Interviews: **w/c 23rd June - w/c 30th June 2025**