

A Sea of Words for Portsmouth

Access Information

This guide is for anyone who would like to know more about what to expect before visiting the installation. It may be especially helpful for visitors with additional access needs, sensory sensitivities, or those who simply prefer to prepare in advance.

(If you would like to keep the experience a surprise, you may prefer not to read this in advance.)

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1. Practical Information

- **Location:** Boathouse 5, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- **Session times:** Every 30 minutes from **10.30am to 3.30pm.**
- **Expected visit duration:** About **30–45 minutes.**



- **Tickets:** Free for Portsmouth residents (booking encouraged); £5 for adults; free for under-16s.
 - **Carers:** A companion or carer may attend free of charge.
 - **Assistance requests:** If you would like a team member to walk through with you, please let us know when booking via Eventbrite, or email projects@cryingoutloud.org in advance. This can sometimes also be arranged on arrival, subject to availability.
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2. Physical Access

- **Step-free access** throughout Boathouse 5, including entrances, the installation space and toilets.
 - **Seating:** Available in the foyer and near the installation.
 - **Rest area:** The foyer provides a calm space if you need a break or prefer to sit out part of the experience.
 - **Toilets:** Accessible toilets are available within Boathouse 5.
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3. Sensory & Environmental Information

- **Lighting:** The installation space is dimly lit, with reflected light moving gently across the room and the pool.
- **Sound:** The atmosphere includes two layers of sound - ambient sound created from audio and singing bowls, and recorded personal stories voiced by participants.
- **Volume:** Moderate - headphones are not required, though sensitive visitors may prefer to bring ear defenders.



- **Temperature:** The space can feel cool; a jacket is recommended.
 - **Smell & movement:** No strong scents or strobe lighting are used.
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4. Content Notes

The installation shares true personal stories about life in Portsmouth and beyond. Themes include:

- **Migration & displacement** (experiences of leaving home / seeking safety)
- **Homesickness and belonging**
- **Work at sea and life in the Navy**
- **Resilience, kindness and community**

While most stories are calm and reflective, some visitors may find references to **war, loss, or difficult journeys** emotionally affecting. If you would like to know more specific examples before visiting, a short summary of each recorded story is available on request.

5. Language & Communication

- **Captions** are provided for all films and moving-image content.
 - **Transcripts** of recorded stories are available in printed and digital formats.
 - **Staff and volunteers (Captains)** will offer guidance and conversation.
 - **Assistance dogs** are welcome.
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6. Experience Flow

Visitors can move through the experience at their own pace.

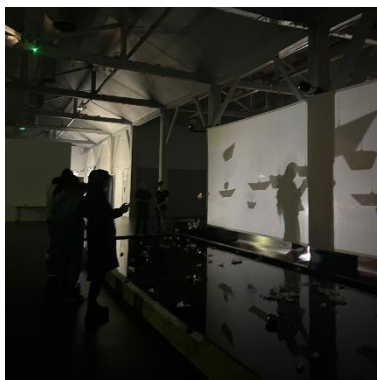
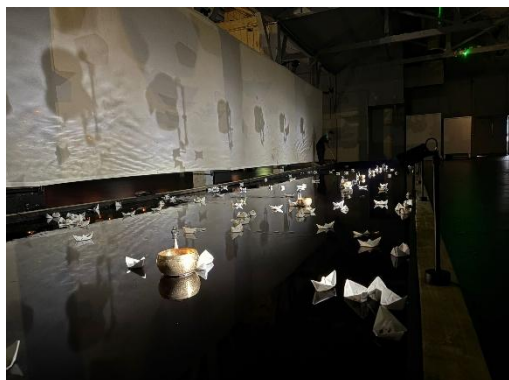
- **Film area** – a short film introduces the stories and themes of the project.
- **Hanging Boats** – an installation of 90 large origami boats suspended above, each displaying words and stories (with translations). Ten featured boats include accompanying audio recordings.



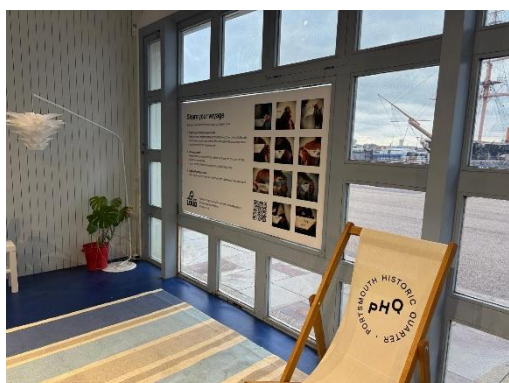
- **Boat-making area** – a guided, hands-on space where visitors can fold and name their own paper boat. You can also **photograph your boat** before launching it into the pool - we'd love you to share your images using **#ASeaofWordsPortsmouth** and **#CryingOutLoud**.



- **The Pool** – a shallow 20 × 3 m pool where visitors release their boats and words into a growing sea of light and sound.



- **Foyer** – a seated space to pause, reflect or talk with others. You can also give feedback here or after your visit.



The experience is non-linear; you may choose to spend more time in one area or skip sections if you prefer.

7. Contact & Advance Arrangements

If you would like to **highlight any specific access needs** when booking, you can do so via the Eventbrite form or by emailing us directly. This helps us make your visit as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

projects@cryingoutloud.org

