

People Powered: Community-based Creative Practitioner Callout

A 10-month collaboration and participation residency in Kirklees for 4 Yorkshire-based Creative Practitioners (accommodation not provided)

Creative Scene is inviting applications from Creative Practitioners (in any discipline) who are interested in developing their participatory arts practice through working with our communities in Kirklees. We are looking for four Creative Practitioners who will make the most of this opportunity to get to know communities in Kirklees, explore their own participatory practice in relation to these communities, and share their work and skills with these communities and each other. This residencies will lead to a sharable outcome, however, are focused on the process, rather than commissioning a product.

For us participatory arts is about people taking part- making choices about what creative activities they'd like to try, being active in artistic decisions, developing their voice and the skills to tell their stories through the arts, and co-creating events and productions. The Creative Practitioners will develop a relationship with the community, create opportunities to enter into a dialogue with them, and work collaboratively with them to ensure activities are genuinely community-led. In practice this looks like,

- Creative Practitioners are active listeners
- The work is community led rather than Creative Practitioner led
- The work is co-created with participants based on the wants and needs of the community involved
- Community/participant voice is key and is at the heart of the process and any work created
- The Creative Practitioner is responsive to what the community wants to say/explore
- The work created has a positive social impact
- The work created is sustainable or leaves a legacy

Working with integrity, and always adjusting the balance between the time and care it takes to build trust and pushing artistic boundaries by being positively disruptive and innovative, our aspiration is to facilitate community-led practice that builds genuine connections between people, focuses on process and creates high quality artistic work that matters to the communities it is created with.

Brigantia Creative is a charitable organisation that supports positive social change through arts and culture. Creative Scene is a project of Brigantia Creative. Brigantia Registered Office: 15 Union Street, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF13 1BG. Brigantia Creative is a Company Limited by Guarantee 12898557 Registered Charity number 1195678.

Residency dates: mid-September 2023 to mid-July 2024

Creative Practitioner Fee: Flat fee of £10,000

Residency budget: £5,000 (includes materials for activities and final output)

Opportunities for additional budgets and fundraising

Location: Communities in North Kirklees (Creative Practitioners will be partnered with a community)

Works with: Community members, Producer, Participation and Engagement Lead, Deputy Director, Community partners, Arts Adventurers (volunteers)

Reports to: Head of Programme

Application deadline: Friday 21st July, 5pm

We are open to applications from community arts organisations with a proposal for managing and running all four residency opportunities. If this is of interest, please contact paula@creativescene.org.uk for an informal chat.

The Residency

Creative Scene is looking for up to four Creative Practitioners who have experience of community-led and participatory arts practice and who wish to further develop their skills in these areas. We are looking for people who are passionate about working with Kirklees communities, value different lived experiences, are up for challenge and are excited about supporting local people to take part in, make and experience high quality arts and culture that is relevant and meaningful to them.

You will be committed to engaging with local communities in Kirklees, and delivering a range of regular co-created and participatory activities in a creative and enjoyable way through the residency. Working collaboratively with communities, you will bring residents together, providing the opportunity for conversation, social interaction and participation that responds to the aspirations and needs of the community. Through facilitating a shared space you will encourage and support people to have a 'voice' in the activities and the work created, bringing stories to life and making the experience relevant and meaningful to participants and their communities.

The Creative Practitioners will be partnered with a community in Kirklees and spend time in the location getting to know the community, this may take the form of, but is not limited to, attending local events, making links with residents associations, facilitating natter and create sessions, riding buses, chatting in the local park and joining local groups to talk to people, ask questions, listen, observe and explore ideas. This will be an opportunity to have a series of conversations and creative experiments to establish connections, bring stories to life and start to build relationships and trust. This period of research and mapping will shape activity in the remaining time of the residency, so the activity is shaped by the community, responds to the needs of the community, and is relevant and meaningful.

Our priority areas are neighbourhoods are in and around the towns of Batley, Dewsbury, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Birstall and Huddersfield. We are working over the summer with local stakeholders to identify opportunities and the neighbourhoods where these residencies can best take place and be supported.

Throughout the residency you will strengthen your experience of making art and/or facilitating arts activities with people that is genuinely collaborative. We are looking for Creative Practitioners who experiment through doing and making and are genuinely interested in exploring and developing approaches to engagement that are participative, reflective and imaginative. You will be open to conversations with communities, enjoy co-creating with people and listening to people's ideas and stories. We are open to approaches that are based on facilitation, prompts, invitations, participatory methodologies, or other forms of engagement that enable the residency to be shaped by the people, has the potential to create an opportunity for delight, wonder and surprise for participants and leads to a sharable outcome.

Support from Creative Scene

As part of this residency opportunity Creative Scene will provide ongoing support, skills development, peer learning, sharing and networking opportunities. These opportunities will be developed in partnership with the Creative Practitioners, responding to their needs, supporting their understanding of and experience of participatory arts practice and helping them in the devising and delivery of activities with their partnered communities. For example, gaining skills in project planning, facilitation, working with vulnerable people including safeguarding and evaluation of activities, and gaining knowledge through guest speakers and field visits. Creative Scene will provide the Creative Practitioners with a space in which to meet, plan, reflect, share their skills and experiences, develop ideas and network. Through this support we wish to facilitate the development of a network of community-engaged Creative Practitioners in Kirklees.

The Creative Practitioners will be supported by the Head of Programme, Producer and the Participation and Engagement Lead. You will be expected to work closely with these roles and draw on their support and expertise, to work with community partners and at times with other members of the Creative Scene such as the Communication and Marketing Lead, Director and Deputy Director. As part of the role you will be required to complete relevant documents for planning and evaluation, and to develop creative methods for gathering and collection of feedback and data.

Timeline

September 2023	2 x People Powered Introduction Days
September and October 2023	Conversations, creative exploration and making connections
November 2023 – December 2023	Phase 1
January 2024 – May 2024	Phase 2
June 2024	Celebration/sharing of work created
July 2024	Reflection and evaluation

Commitment from each Creative Practitioner

The exact schedule of working days and hours will be set around the needs of the communities and the opportunities to develop and run projects at the most suitable times. You will need to be flexible and have the capacity to work evenings and weekends, and during school holidays, and to plan and deliver workshops in the location on a regular basis. Working days and times will be negotiated after an initial research and engagement period; and there will be some core commitments:

- A minimum 1 day per week working in the community, which can be flexible /split days or hours
- Being available for a minimum of 35 weeks across the 10 months
- A total of 70 days commitment between September 2023 and July 2024, including:
 - o Attendance at 2 x Introduction Days in September 2023
 - o Attend and take part in Creative Practitioner network, 1 set day a week – Tuesdays - at our base in Dewsbury - this will be an opportunity for planning, reflection and peer learning
 - o 1 day per week between September and December 2023 in partnered communities for conversations, creative exploration, making connections and Phase 1.

Please note:

- a half day is up to 3 hours and a full day is 7.5 hours.
- Number of days for delivery, dates and times of sessions and proposed activities will be agreed with the Head of Programme and Participation and Engagement Lead during the conversations, creative exploration and making connections period.
- Days in the community will need to be worked around the communities needs and we anticipate that activities may take place after school, during the evening, during school holidays and at weekends.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- Conversations, creative exploration and making connections
- Plan and deliver creative activity sessions
- Research and explore themes/issues/interests/needs/aspirations/stories of the communities that arise e.g. Wellbeing, connection, identify, loneliness etc.
- Develop and co-create ideas for a long term project over the 10 month residency
- Project and skills sharing with the Practitioner peer network
- Planning, documentation, producing of outcomes and projects

About You - We are looking for Creative Practitioners that are/have:

- Interested in exploring and developing participatory arts practice with communities and a diverse range of people
- Great creative and artistic ideas and concepts
- Able to imagine and plan creatively and collaboratively
- Creative Skills in any discipline, and an enthusiasm to develop these

- Sensitive to and aware of the different needs and expectations within the communities involved
 - Team-players, sharing ownership of the project and involving the community as co-collaborators, enabling local people to have a voice in shaping arts and culture in the place they live
 - A Positive and enthusiastic attitude
 - Warm, friendly and collaborative
 - Flexible, responsive and adaptive, able to hit the ground running
 - Committed to ensuring that Creative Scene's health and safety, child protection and equal opportunities policies and procedures are adhered to.
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How to apply

Either:

a) Send us your CV and a proposal (max 3 pages) that outlines:

- Why you are interested in this residency.
- A background to your participatory arts experience and/or your arts practice and why you feel it to be relevant.
- Your ideas on where you might start (drawing on how you have done this previously).
- Your answers to the following questions:
 - What arts event/project/activity/art work/performance have you seen recently that inspired you? Why did it inspire you?
 - If funding was not an issue and you had an unlimited budget what are your ideas for a participatory arts project and/or events with one of the communities listed in this call out? How might you start this work with the community? (drawing on how you have done this previously if relevant).
- Responds to the person specification (About You section) telling us your strengths.
- Details of two referees.
- Please include up to three examples of your work/activities/projects that you think demonstrate how your participatory arts experience/your interest in exploring and developing new models of participatory arts practice with communities fits this brief. Including any links to relevant websites or online materials that support your application.

Please send your proposal as one document, ideally a PDF.

Or

- b) Send us a link to a video** (no longer than 5 minutes) where you give your responses to the above points.

Application Deadline: Friday 21st July, 5pm

Applications should be sent to: Paula Clark, Head of Programme at paula@creativescene.org.uk

As part of your application, we request that you please complete our Equality and Diversity Monitoring Survey <https://forms.office.com/e/i2hG2uQnV8>

If you would like to have an informal conversation before applying, please contact Paula Clark at paula@creativescene.org.uk

About Creative Scene

Creative Scene is the Arts Council England Creative People and Places project in our area, covering Kirklees, West Yorkshire, funded by ACE to invest in areas where participation in arts and culture is lower than the national average. There are many reasons why this might be including: low awareness, lack of accessible or relevant opportunities. There are over 30 Creative People and Places projects in England, located in areas where people have traditionally had fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts. To date, Creative People and Places projects have reached over 1.2 million people, 90% of whom do not regularly engage in the arts.

In our area, covering the wards of Batley & Spen and Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, there is very little by way of professional arts infrastructure, cultural organisations and venues. Creative Scene sets out to develop this infrastructure as a way to grow the local cultural ecology, and to support the public in shaping local arts and cultural provision. In so doing so, we aim to increase attendance and participation in excellent art and culture.

To do this we work with a wide range of creatives, of all kinds; sketchers, print makers, craftivists, poets, video makers, bloggers, light artists, and performers. To create new experiences that inspire, stimulate, and intrigue. The events and performances we produce take place on streets and in parks, in community halls, pubs and social centres, with stories projected onto buildings, operas sung from church halls, and dance bringing life to the market squares.

Above all, we work with the people of the area to co-create projects - involving them from the very start, in identifying opportunities, developing briefs, selecting artists, co-producing events, and taking part in events.