LEFTCOAST

Creative Community Activist

Job Pack

FEBRUARY 2018
**LeftCoast Creative Community Activist**

**Introduction**

Funded by Arts Council England, LeftCoast delivers Blackpool and Wyre’s Creative People and Places programme to develop greater access to arts and culture for those that wouldn’t normally access the arts. We create and co-commission a wide range of arts programmes from large-scale spectacle to smaller, bespoke projects in our neighbourhood communities. We also facilitate the professional development of locally based artists and the wider creative sector.

LeftCoast supports all the people involved in our projects to develop a greater sense of well-being and connectivity to the places that they live in. We work with individuals, organisations and whole communities to bring about positive change and improve the quality of life in local areas.

For the next two years, we require a highly-motivated and people savvy individual to help deliver a dynamic programme of creative community engagement activity that includes:

- Supporting two long-term artist-in residency projects on our Hawside and Flakefleet estates
- Supporting and sign-posting local people to be creatively involved in our partner’s annual festivals - WordPool and SpareParts
- Recruiting and co-ordinating community groups for a mass participation dance project that culminates in a large-scale outdoor performance during LightPool (October 2018)
- Working with our neighbourhood partners (e.g. BetterStart, Regenda, Blackpool Coastal Housing) to pro-actively consult with estate residents to develop creative projects that have a lasting impact and resonance with them and their wider community
- The facilitation of community groups to ‘Go See’ other projects in other places

In the last two years, this creative engagement role has worked on some exciting projects which include:

- The new development of a Parks & Opens Space for early years babies and children, (0-3 years) through the Mereside at Play project
- The brokerage of an artistic commission between the Police and the residents of Mereside
- Enabling community groups to apply for funding and lead on the ownership of community resources e.g. a multi-use games area, an orchard and a wild flower meadow
- Consulting with residents on Hawside and Flakefleet estates through pop up making sessions to engage local residents in creative conversations

Aside from LeftCoast’s neighbourhood partners, the role of Creative Community Activist may involve speaking with PCSOs, local businesses, local schools, local charities and other voluntary sector providers. Hence, LeftCoast is looking for an energetic and communicative individual who is passionate about working collaboratively with other people.

The LeftCoast team will be right behind the Creative Community Activist to employ arts and culture as a means to engage and develop a wide range of people and places relative to our programme.
Creative Community Activist - Job Description

Title: Creative Community Activist
Reports to: LeftCoast Creative Engagement Manager
Responsible for: Casual staff/Commissioned artists
Located at: Peripatetic

Job purpose

Primarily, the Creative Community Activist will work with LeftCoast’s Housing Association partners (BCH and Regenda) across two of their residential areas in Haweside, Blackpool and Flakefleet, Fleetwood. These are the locations for two long-term (12 months) Artist-in-Residency schemes from June 2018-June 2019.

The role will support the Artists to embed themselves in the heart of each community and help to deliver a wide programme of creative and socially engaged projects in direct response to the needs of the families and residents in both areas.

Whilst not prescribed, the intended outcomes of the residencies are to improve the environment and develop a sense of pride in the place where people live, to reduce social isolation, to empower residents to work collaboratively and make decisions together and to provide creative activities for social cohesion and shared learning.

The role will also be required to recruit and co-ordinate community groups to actively participate in local festivals (e.g. WordPool, SpareParts, LightPool) as well as supporting groups to attend any training or rehearsals associated with the Festivals.

The purpose of Creative Community Activist is to identify and work with any individuals, communities or organisations that want to make a tangible and positive difference in the places where they live/work.

Key activity will be:

- Develop and support targeted activities with the residential Artists to help them settle into their new neighbourhoods.
- Support the Artists to seek out and connect to both private and public sector agencies (and their resources) on the Haweside and Flakefleet estates.
- Support and deliver a programme of engagement and community consultation events as required.
- Setting up a community group recruitment programme for a mass participation dance production October 2018.
- Enabling communities to self-organise, solicit resources and make decisions for themselves about the place where they live.
- Administer and report/monitor/evaluate any activities delivered.
- Provide support to BCH and Regenda staff ‘on the ground’ and to LeftCoast’s Creative Engagement Manager to advise ongoing creative approaches for working in both areas.
The key responsibilities of the role are as follows:

- To embed creative approaches as part of engagement and consultation programme including working with artists and creating opportunities for communities to take the lead in creative decision making
- To work in partnership and support residents and artists to develop a series of ‘creative responses’ at Haweside and Flakefleet for the next 12 months. During this period, identifying key audiences to work with may emerge through partnership work with individuals, organisations and communities as well as other public sector agencies
- To be responsible for risk assessing all activity and developing event plans for programmes of work
- To explore opportunities for developing commissioning forums on Haweside and Flakefleet and build capacity and expertise for local residents to work with the artists-in-residence
- To look at strategic development around the role by linking into wider initiatives such as Better Start, Council services etc
- To assist with fundraising for the sustainability of the Activist post
- To help build capacity and share learning within BCH, Regenda and other agencies to work with the creative sector more
- To manage programme budget attached to this work including financial and report back to Creative Engagement Manager
- To be self-managing in terms of administrative support and delivery e.g. creating event plans or risk assessments
- To work peripatetically and outside of usual office hours on a frequent basis
Creative Community Activist - Person Specification

Qualifications

GCSE Maths and English

Experience

- Experience of working with a variety of communities e.g. early years, young and vulnerable people.
- Experience of delivering community consultation and acting upon findings
- Experience of planning, organising and hosting community workshops, events etc.
- Experience of monitoring and evaluation, writing reports and managing a modest project budget (up to 20k)
- Experience of developing (strategic) programmes of work to help build capacity for this role beyond the fixed-term

Knowledge

- Knowledge of Blackpool, Wyre and the North West of England is desirable.
- An awareness of socially engaged arts practice and how that can be accessed by communities to create high quality and transformational creative projects.
- An understanding of how local public sector bodies work (e.g. how they are funded, what outcomes they serve etc.)
- Good understanding of partnership work with art and non-art agencies for more joined up working.

Skills and Personal characteristics

- A strong and positive communicator including very good listening and negotiating skills
- Creative thinking and problem-solving ability
- Passionate about breaking down the barriers to the enjoyment of, and participation in, the arts
- Ability to work flexibly, innovatively and creatively.
- Understands the needs and aspirations of both diverse communities and creative people.
- Entrepreneurial, with great initiative and drive
- Excited about working in Blackpool and the Fylde Coast
Creative Community Activist – Terms of Employment

Contract: The contract is fixed term until 31 October 2019

Working Pattern: 3 days per week, days to be confirmed/negotiated

Salary: £23,698 pro rata

Notice period: One month

Probationary period: Six months, with one month’s notice

Pension: Local government pension scheme

Holiday Entitlement: 25 days pro rata, plus Statutory Bank Holidays

If you would like to speak informally about this role, please contact the LeftCoast Office on 01253 477793.

To apply for this post, please complete the application form and return to kay.trayford@leftcoast.org.uk by 22nd February, 2018

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview on the week beginning 5th March, 2018