Ash Field Academy Artist callout

Attenborough Arts Centre wants to hear from Artists of any discipline looking to collaborate with young people in SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) settings across Leicestershire through intensive 18 day residencies.

Context

As part of the 4 year SENsory Atelier programme funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, a partnership of 9 special schools across Leicester and Leicestershire, and Attenborough Arts Centre, are working with young people, families, a network of artists and teachers, and local businesses to explore arts-based residencies, and creative learning through gallery visits and performance.

Our approach is inspired by social pedagogies including the practice of Reggio Children, Sightlines Initiative and House of Imagination. In short, we seek to develop creative learning behaviours with young people in SEND settings, to develop teacher’s and artist’s abilities to scaffold this work, and to facilitate meaningful sharing of learning through practical and reflective networks.
Fees and commitments

Commitment - 18 days of residency activity - including initial observations, planning, delivery, reflection and evaluation. This residency is expected to be a focused period starting in January 2023 at the earliest, and ending in May 2023 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 20 weeks. Actual grouping of sessions is negotiable between the needs of the school and successful candidate.

Fee - £4500 plus additional materials budget (£150) - £4650 total

Approach

We are seeking artists that are open and collaborative, able to design process focused activity with multiple entry points to ensure equitable access for all participants.

Experience of school working is not essential, but we are seeking artists with an understanding of the professional requirements of this work, including planning for multiple and complex access and communication needs.

The School

We are currently looking for artists to collaborate with the following school:

Ash Field Academy

Ash Field is a specialist school located in the Evington area of Leicester serving over 160 pupils between the ages of 4 and 19 with a predominating physical disability and a range of additional needs. Ash Field are applying for recognition as a Platinum ArtsMark school (having previously held Gold ArtsMark) and they have a national reputation for being at the forefront of educational approaches within SEND, particularly for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD).

The residency would be focussed on working with PMLD learners at the school. Many of Ash Field's PMLD learners also have complex medical needs, multiple sensory impairments and a significant physical disability.
Application process
Send us a copy of your CV, and a cover letter (2 sides A4 max) or short video (5 minutes max) covering the following key pieces of information.

- Your background, including your approach, and why you think this would be relevant for SEND school settings in relation to:
  - Process focused working (such as the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia)
  - Developing creative learning attributes of the young people
- Why you feel your work would be suitable and relevant to the school.
- What inspires or excites you about this opportunity?

Documents can be submitted by email, and video can be submitted by WeTransfer, or as links to youtube or vimeo.

The above should all be sent to Caroline Rowland – Schools Learning Assistant at caroline.rowand@leicester.ac.uk

The closing date for applications has been extended to 1pm on Monday 7th November

Interviews will take place on Wednesday 16th November at the school.

Interviews will consist of a question and answer session, as well as some practical delivery with young people. We positively encourage applications from disabled artists and artists under-represented within the sector. We will gather any access requirements at the point of an offer of interview.

Any questions about the application process should be directed to Bob Christer - Programme Manager at bob.christer@leicester.ac.uk or 0116 252 5343

Successful applicants will be asked to provide two references and will need to undertake an Enhanced DBS check to cover the time period of the residency in line with our Safer Recruitment processes.

For more information on the wider SENsory Atelier programme visit www.unlockingtheworldblog.com where you will also find information on Nurture Network, our support network for freelance artists working in inclusive ways www.unlockingtheworldblog.com/nurture-network/