Ellesmere, West Gate and Birkett House Artist callouts

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. We are currently seeking artists for three separate residencies at Ellesmere College, West Gate School or Birkett House School.

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.

phf Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Fees and commitments

Commitment - Each residency consists of 18 days of residency activity - including initial observations, planning, delivery, reflection and evaluation.

Ellesmere College - The residency at Ellesmere College is expected to be a focused period starting in September 2023 at the earliest, and ending in December 2023 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks.

West Gate School - The residency at West Gate School is expected to be a focused period starting in September 2023 at the earliest, and ending in December 2023 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks.

Birkett House - The residency at Birkett House is expected to be a focused period starting in September 2023 at the earliest, and ending in December 2023 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks.

Actual grouping of sessions is negotiable between the needs of the school and successful candidate.

Fee per school - £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 Schools
We are currently looking for artists to collaborate with either of the following schools:

Ellesmere College

The college is located south of Leicester, and caters for students aged 4-19 with a range of special educational needs ranging from moderate to severe and complex needs, autism spectrum disorders, additional sensory or speech, language and communication needs. A small proportion of students have hearing or visual impairments.

For this residency, we would like to focus on our students with more complex needs. The majority of these children are Autistic and have communication and sensory needs. None of these students are wheelchair users but some may require a little support with their gross motor skills. We would really like a focus on physical communication and immersing our students into their environments in a multi-sensory way. We will be focusing on students with a wide age range (6 - 14) but who are all at the earlier stages of learning journeys. The residency will be based at our Aylestone Meadows site.

West Gate School

West Gate School is a Leicester city special school which caters for a wide range of special needs. We are a popular and over-subscribed setting for 4 - 19 year olds. The majority of our pupils have communication and interaction needs.

The school splits into 4 pathways supporting EYFS focused learners; learners with complex communication and physical needs; learners with severe learning difficulties; and learners with moderate learning needs.

We are looking to work with an artist of any discipline with 4 classes representative of the range of needs of the school. We're very interested in how the environment and the materials we use inform the learning possibilities for our learners, and are looking for an artist that will continue to develop these areas alongside the theme of 'The Spirit of West Gate'.

Birkett House

Birkett House School is a special school located in Wigston supporting 240 pupils and their families, all who have special educational needs. The Arts have always held a special place within our work and curriculum as we see this as an area where a young person, irrespective of their ability, could express themselves in a variety of different forms and as an individual.

The residency would have a focus on working with our older age pupils (14 - 19) based at our Wigston campus (LE182DT). This group of learners all have profound and multiple learning needs and we really want this opportunity to push the boundaries around an artform or style that they may never have previously accessed.
**Application process**

Please fill in the form below, or send a short video (5 minutes max) covering the application form’s questions. Please also attach a copy of your most recent CV.

We are looking for artists that are collaborative, understand the context of SEND education, are process focused and skilled in supporting the development of young people.

We prefer to receive PDFs of all documents submitted by email, and video can be submitted by WeTransfer, or as links to youtube or vimeo.

**Where to send your application**

Your application should be sent to arts-learning@leicester.ac.uk with the subject line ‘SENsory Atelier Artist Residency Application’

All applications will receive a short reply email to confirm receipt.

**Closing dates**

**Ellesmere College** – **Tuesday 29th August at 1pm** - Interviews will take place on **Tuesday 12th September** at Ellesmere College’s Aylestone Meadows site.

**West Gate School** – **Tuesday 29th August at 1pm** - Interviews will take place on **Thursday 14th September** at West Gate School.

**Birkett House** – **Tuesday 29th August at 1pm** - Interviews will take place on **Wednesday 20th September** at Birkett House School’s Wigston Campus.

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 to discuss reasonable adjustments.

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 including Children's Barred List 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/
# SENsory Atelier Artist Residency Application form

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<td>Contact number:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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<td>Please tell us briefly about your background, including your approach, and why you think this would be relevant for SEND school settings</td>
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<td>How does your approach align with Process focused working (such as the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia)?</td>
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<td>How does your approach develop the creative attributes of young people?</td>
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<td>Which school you are applying to work with, and why do you feel your work would be suitable and relevant to the school? <em>(Note you may apply for more than one school, but we would wish to see separate application information for each school, tailored to the school's context.)</em></td>
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<td>What inspires or excites you about this opportunity? <em>(Again, this must be tailored to each school you apply for)</em></td>
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Please return your completed application form and a copy of your CV to arts-learning@leicester.ac.uk with the subject line ‘SENsory Atelier Artist Residency Application’