Oaklands, Mill Gate and Ashmount 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 Oaklands School, Mill Gate School and Ashmount School.

Context

SENsory Atelier is Attenborough Arts Centre’s flagship programme funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, which works with disabled children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) to pioneer new ways of learning and communicating through art. SEsory Atelier gives space for children to lead their learning journeys, express themselves and access the world.

We work in partnership with 9 Leicestershire Special Schools and their teachers, support staff and leadership. We support teachers without specialist arts subject or cultural education expertise, giving them the skills, confidence and capacity to devise creative programmes informed by children themselves and in doing so reframe our understanding of how they learn. This collaborative approach shifts the schools’ reliance on external peripatetic staff.

We work with artists who bring varied sensory practices based on sight, sound, touch, smell, taste, proprioception, interoception and vestibular senses to collaborate with young people and their families through artistic residencies and visits to our art galleries and performances at Attenborough Arts Centre. We bring the gallery to the classroom and the classroom to the gallery.

We provide comprehensive programmes for teachers and artists to develop practice and skills and to share their learning together through reflection and evaluation.

SENsory Atelier is inspired by the Italian Reggio Emilia pedagogical approach which is child-centred and co-created and believes that children communicate in 100 different languages. We also draw on the related work of the Sightlines Initiative and House of Imagination organisations.
Inspired by Reggio Emilia, we see disabled children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) as ‘Children with Special Rights.’ We believe that creativity is a human right and that all children and young people should have access to culture.

Fees and commitments

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

Oaklands School - The residency at Oaklands School is expected to be a focused period starting in February 2024 at the earliest, and ending in July 2024 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks. (Dates and frequency of sessions negotiable)

Mill Gate School - The residency at Mill Gate School is expected to be a focused period starting in February 2024 at the earliest, and ending in July 2024 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks. (Dates and frequency of sessions negotiable)

Ashmount School - The residency at Ashmount School is expected to be a focused period starting in February/March 2024 at the earliest, and ending in July 2024 at the latest, anticipated to last between 6 to 12 weeks. (Dates and frequency of sessions negotiable)

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 the following schools:

**Oaklands School**

Oaklands is a primary school for pupils with Special Educational Needs, situated in the Evington area of Leicester. We are a mixed day school catering for 127 pupils aged from 4 to 11 years. Our pupils at Oaklands have a range of learning difficulties. Most pupils have delayed communication and language skills, and difficulties with social interaction. The majority of pupils have a diagnosis of Autism, and some have Social, Emotional, Mental Health issues and/or medical conditions, in addition to their communication difficulties.

**Mill Gate School**

Millgate is a community special school with a roll of 102 students. In the last two years, we have increased our roll from 53 in order to meet the growing needs of the local authority. We are a special school for students whose main SEN type is Social Emotional and Mental Health. Our culture is built on the school motto “Transforming lives and inspiring futures”. Often our students come from diverse and deprived backgrounds which give them additional barriers to learning. Although our students face additional difficulties, The Arts provide a creative outlet where students are able to express themselves and achieve, where they often struggle elsewhere, particularly in academic areas.

**Ashmount School**

Ashmount is a special school located in Loughborough serving over 170 pupils between the ages of 4 and 19 with a range of special educational needs including pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe and additional learning difficulties, autism spectrum disorder and visual impairment.

Ashmount is a platinum ArtsMark school, and have a national reputation for high quality and leading educational approaches within SEND.

Image credit: Bob Christer – Birkett House Residency with Sophie Thorpe
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
Oaklands School – Monday 8th January at 1pm - Interviews will take place on Tuesday 23rd January at Oaklands School, Leicester

Mill Gate School – Monday 15th January at 1pm - Interviews will take place on Wednesday 31st January at Mill Gate School, Leicester.

Ashmount School – Monday 22nd January at 1pm - Interviews will take place on Wednesday 7th February at Ashmount School, Loughborough.

Interviews will consist of an in-person 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>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? (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.)</td>
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<td>What inspires or excites you about this opportunity? (Again, this must be tailored to each school you apply for)</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’