

Creative Sidley, Artist in Residence Job Description



Job Title: Creative Sidley, Artist in Residence

Reports to: Maya Kincaid, Head of Learning and Engagement, De La Warr Pavilion and Sofe Barker, Creative Sidley Project Manager

Location: Sidley, Bexhill, East Sussex. with access to a studio space at Beeching Road Studios

Please note this project is run by The De La Warr Pavilion but most activity will take place in the Sidley locality.

Contract: Part-time, freelance – estimated 24 days' work across 6 months. Commitment to delivering a regular monthly session with the young people.

Fee: £8,400 (£350 per day) for the duration of the residency (April 2025 – October 2025) this fee of £350 x 24 has been calculated using Artist Union England guidance to allocate rates of pay.

Background

The De La Warr Pavilion (DLWP) is a centre for arts and culture in an iconic modernist building by the sea, designed by Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff and opened in 1935 as the ‘people’s palace for art and culture’. With artists and audiences at its heart, it produces an innovative and integrated cultural programme that reflects the world in which we live.

<https://www.dlwp.com/about-us/>

Responding to Rother District Council’s successful Levelling Up bid (2023) for capital projects centred around Creativity, Community and Skills at DLWP and a new Community Hub in Sidley, we wish to transform, through culture, the lives of our region’s most disadvantaged people. This is underpinned by DLWP’s modernist progressive origins and organisational values – to be bold and inclusive, working with care and compassion to create a healthy and happy community.

<https://www.dlwp.com/luf/>

Creative Sidley is a 3-year community-led project funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation under Creative, Confident Communities. It is driven by the needs and aspirations of the Sidley community, an area of Bexhill that is in the top 10% areas of deprivation in the UK and which has amongst the highest number of under 19-year-olds in East Sussex heavily impacted by economic and social inequality. Creative Sidley centres on young people becoming leaders, designing and implementing a creative programme with artists and taking ownership of their community’s creative future in spaces in Sidley. Consultation with Sidley’s young people tell us that they feel positive about their future, improving their environment and making Sidley a better place to live.

For more details visit <https://www.dlwp.com/de-la-warr-pavilion-awarded-202000-for-development-of-creativity-and-skills-for-young-people-in-sidley/>

The Creative Sidley Project

Creative Sidley is a youth-led arts initiative designed to empower young people (ages 11-16) in Sidley by providing access to high-quality creative experiences. The project is part of a broader effort to support cultural regeneration in the area, offering opportunities for young people to develop their artistic skills, leadership abilities, and confidence. Through this programme, participants will collaborate with professional artists, engage in creative workshops, and contribute to public events that celebrate the unique identity of Sidley.

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Creative Sidley is run by De La Warr Pavilion in partnership with local organisations and community groups. The project aims to foster a sense of pride and ownership among young people, helping them to shape the cultural landscape of their community.

Creative Sidley is delivered in partnership with a range of local organisations, including Heart of Sidley, The Sara Lee Trust, The Pelham, Earls Mercantile Café, Flatlands, Beeching Road Studios, and 18 Hours Events. These partners provide space, expertise, and support to ensure the success of the programme, fostering meaningful connections between young people and their community.

Beeching Road Studios and Flatland Projects are key delivery partners for the Artist in Residence. Connecting the Creative Sidley project within the artistic ecology of Bexhill and Sidley, supporting the artist in residence to root the delivery of this project into the growing creative community which Beeching Road Studios fosters in partnership with the De La Warr Pavilion and the wider Bexhill Cultural Network. Beeching Road Studios where this artist will access a studio acts as a stepping stone in this project, as it geographically sits between the De La Warr Pavilion and the creative community of Sidley.

About the Role

The Artist in Residence will play a key role in leading creative sessions that provide space for young people in Sidley (ages 11-16) to develop skills, build confidence, and take ownership of a community arts programme. Through creative socials, workshops, and public moments, the artist will foster a peer-led approach that strengthens community engagement. This residency also offers the artist an opportunity to develop their own socially engaged practice, allowing the creative process to shape the outcome.

The Artist in Residence will also play a key role in supporting the Emerging Creative Facilitator (18-25), ensuring that their role contributes to creating transparent practice in socially engaged arts. This involves providing clear pathways for young creatives to explore facilitation as a career, helping to build an experienced local facilitation workforce, and increasing non-academic learning opportunities for young people to develop socially engaged practice—an area with little formal education provision and awareness.

This project is youth-led, the artist will work with a cohort of 8-12 young people from Sidley to build a programme of creative workshops and events.

Key Responsibilities

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- Collaborate with the Creative Sidley Project team to ensure alignment with the project's goals and vision.
- Lead a monthly creative session with young people in Sidley (ages 11-16) to develop and lead a community arts programme.
- Work with young people to co-produce and deliver creative socials, workshops, and public moments.
- Use additional working days for planning, exploring practice, and reflection to ensure high-quality engagement and creative development.
- Use studio space at Beeching Road Studios for planning, preparation, and creative development related to the role.
- Create a collaborative and inclusive space that empowers participants to explore themes of place, identity, and community.
- Support peer-led development, enabling young people to establish values and leadership within the programme.
- Acknowledge that collaboration moves at the speed of trust, allowing time and space for relationships to develop.
- Engage with local artists who have existing relationships with the Sidley community and Beeching Road Studios.
- Develop a residency framework that aligns with the theme of "We Are Here"—exploring collectiveness, context, and identity.
- Draw from previous successful place-based engagement projects, such as the HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) projects, to inform programming.
- Contribute to evaluation processes, ensuring that young people are actively involved in shaping and assessing the impact of the programme. An evaluation framework will be built, you will not be expected to create this, but you will interact with the evaluation consultant during its development.
- Ensure that evaluation remains youth-led, creating opportunities for young people to reflect on and contribute to the development of the programme.
- Support young people in documenting their experiences and outcomes through creative and accessible methods.

- Contribute to project reports and funding applications by providing insights and reflections on the residency's impact.
- Work closely with project partners to implement feedback into ongoing programme development.

Person Specification

Essential:

- A current Enhanced DBS check or willingness to apply for one with our support.
- Experience working in a critically socially engaged way, particularly within community settings.
- Commitment to accessibility and inclusive creative practices.
- A strong practice in participatory arts, with experience in youth-led initiatives.
- Ability to create a supportive and inspiring environment for young people.
- Experience facilitating workshops and creative activities for diverse audiences.
- A well-developed and engaging art practice (across any medium/s) with the ability to share skills and inspire creative confidence in participants.
- A flexible and adaptive approach, responding to the needs of participants and the community.
- Basic understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures when working with young people, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.
- Ability to document and share creative processes through various mediums (photography, video, writing, digital platforms).
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines with the strategies and tools that work for you, ensuring a structured and adaptable approach to organisation.
- Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively using clear, accessible, and adaptable approaches that support diverse communication styles.

Desirable:

- Prior engagement with the Sidley community or Beeching Road Studios.
- Experience in co-designing creative programmes with young people.
- Experience working with young people to co-produce public creative events.

- Knowledge of socially engaged and place-based artistic practices.
- Familiarity with evaluation tools and frameworks for participatory projects.
- Experience in mentoring or coaching young people in creative fields.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At the De La Warr Pavilion, we are committed to building a diverse and inclusive community that reflects the diversity of our society as fully as possible. A community of staff, artists, residents and audiences where everyone feels valued, where their contribution matters and where they can reach their full potential, irrespective of their background, identity or circumstances.

We are committed to ensuring we work with people that reflect the Southeast in its broadest form, and we are currently taking action to improve representation from Black, Asian and ethnically diverse, LGBTQ+ and lower socio-economic communities and those with a disability.

We welcome applications from the above under-represented groups.

How to Apply

- To apply for the Artist in Residence role, please complete the linked application form, which includes four questions.
- We also ask you to submit by email 3-5 examples of your practice in any format that best conveys your approach to working with community (e.g., images, videos, audio, written text, web links).
- Additionally, applicants are asked to create and email to us a 1-page headline document for young people (ages 11-16) that introduces your practice and summarises key points from your application in an engaging and accessible format. You can include images alongside text. This can be a word document, PowerPoint slide, PDF (if using Adobe design programmes, save as PDF before sharing).

Please fill out the application form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/OXMGh5fxYY>

Please send your 3-5 examples of practice and 1-pager for young people to learning@dlwp.com with the Subject Line ‘Your Name – Artist in Residence, Creative Sidley, supporting documents’

Please submit your application by **Wednesday 2nd April 2025**.

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Young people will be part of the interview panel, and interviews will take place during the week of **April 7th 2025**.

For any queries or if you'd like to arrange a 10-minute chat about the position before completing your application, please contact maya.kincaid@dlwp.com.