



## **Make It Happen: Sunderland Young Cultural Ambassadors Team Artist Brief**

Make It Happen is an action learning and development programme designed and delivered by National Portfolio Organisation Helix Arts ([www.helixarts.com/mih.php](http://www.helixarts.com/mih.php)). Groups of community volunteers across Sunderland and Gateshead are trained and supported to create their own projects, events and productions in their own neighbourhoods and wider communities. Make it Happen is supported by National Lottery Community Fund.

Make It Happen: Sunderland Young Cultural Ambassadors is a collaborative programme with Sunderland Culture <https://sunderlandculture.org.uk>.

The Sunderland Young Cultural Ambassadors are a team of young people aged 13-25 from across Sunderland who want their voices to be heard, to be change makers, the creative instigators, the excited doers and champions for other young people across Sunderland.

This project has been developed thanks to the support of Hays Travel Foundation and Culture Bridge North East Partnership Investment Fund.

Sunderland Culture have challenged the team to take over Arts Centre Washington on 1 November 2019 with a 'get in' for production on 31 October 2019 (half term). The current trainees make up a growing team of 8 young people from across Sunderland, who are organising the takeover event for the entire building.

The takeover is the first project the team will work on together. It involves a takeover of all spaces at Arts Centre Washington, which the team will fill with exciting commissions and local work from artists and the local community.

### **Spaces include:**

- Gallery
- Low Barn (an open mixed use space with lighting and tech rig)
- Recording studio
- Art workshop
- Theatre (full lighting rig and sound)
- Various foyer and reception spaces

This project will allow young people to lead and make decisions from inception to completion on many aspects of art production, including: planning, production, marketing, design, budgets, and managing artists along with curating, monitoring and evaluation.

Collectively, the team decided on a thematic approach for the event around 'Body Positivity.' Aspects they explored include: gender norms, image and identity, cultural and religious assumptions and pressures to fit in.

The team is doing an **open call** to commission participatory artists across any specialism to create work for the Arts Centre Washington takeover. The work must be created before or on the day to be celebrated in the takeover event. They are also interested to hear about workshops that can be offered for the audience on the day of the event. The team wishes to work with artists who already have connections with partners or community groups, schools, or centres in the Sunderland area, which would co-create the work with them.

There will also be a **general call** for work in the various spaces, which will be open to community groups and artists who have existing work they may wish to share and celebrate as part of the takeover.

### **Budget**

The team has a project budget of £2500 and an additional event management budget.

It is anticipated this open call will involve working with 2-3 artists who will work with community groups in the Sunderland area, i.e. 2 x £1000 commissions with additional materials budget. If you are already working with a community organisation in Sunderland please let us know in your application.

The involvement for the general call would be work that is already being funded and delivered, but feeds into aspects of 'Body positivity and wider inclusion themes'.

The team seeks musicians, visual artists, makers, creators, designers, dramaturgs, and performers from a range of backgrounds. Artists are required to collaborate with the young people's team, Helix Arts and Sunderland Culture before, during and after the event, to work towards the final artwork(s) display/production. The team is very flexible to the participatory arts approach or structure.

### **The young ambassadors said they'd love the artists to...**

- Contribute to their shared vision for the takeover and connect and respond to the theme of 'Body Positivity'
  - Be an active participatory artist/workshop leader with experience of working collaboratively with artists, young people, managers and volunteers
  - Have an ability to plan, organise and deliver effectively with community groups
  - Take pride in your artistic output and seek to mentor participants to achieve the same, allowing for creative expression of participants
  - Be inclusive, approachable and understanding...building good working relationships with participants will enable them to make and share brilliant art!
  - Be reliable - The personal and professional reliability of artistic team is essential to the success of this takeover
- Be available for delivery between September and October 2019 and available at some point on 31 October (get in) and 1 November (takeover)
- To work closely with the project team to design, plan and install / programme your work **and also be...**

**Original, experienced, passionate, organised, friendly, fun and enthusiastic, open to suggestions, flexible, innovative, patient and a great listener, please!**

## **Core responsibilities**

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Lead, deliver and engage community participants in creative workshop(s) in their dedicated artform
- Collaborate with other associate artists, producers or specialists in event production as part of whole day activities
- Plan, coordinate and oversee aspects of the production of a final artwork resulting from the sessions
- Demonstrate the ability to embed issues around body positivity
- To foster an attitude of support, encouragement, empathy, kindness and compassion within the group
- Liaise with Helix Arts, Sunderland Culture and Arts Centre Washington as required

## **Person specification**

The successful applicant will be a professional artist and able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

- An understanding and ideally experience of young-people-led social action projects
- Ability to work with people as individuals, ability to increase participants' sense of autonomy, belonging, feeling valued and awareness of their strengths and resources
- Experience of delivering engaging participatory arts projects
- Ability to lead engaging creative workshops
- Ability to facilitate the production of work of the highest quality
- Ability to work successfully both independently and as part of a project team
- Ability to monitor and review their project plans and develop them accordingly as the project progresses

The successful applicant must hold a current DBS and hold or obtain public liability insurance for a minimum of £5 million, and ensure equipment is insured against loss or damages from fire, theft and other usual risks for the duration of the contract.

## **Key dates:**

- Submission by **10am, 10 September 2019**
- Shortlisting and selection with Young People (meet the team) 11 and 18 September

### Delivery /post production

- Week commencing 23 Sept - Week ending 21 October 2019
- Installation 31 October 2019
- Takeover 1 November (workshops can happen on this day too, but advertised event starts at 6pm)

Elements of this brief are flexible; this is a real-world learning programme. The team are still undergoing training and development and planning the event. They want artists to be involved in the development of the programme with the team.

**Next Steps:**

It would be great if confirm your interest in the takeover or enquire with Cheryl Gavin [cheryl.gavin@helixarts.com](mailto:cheryl.gavin@helixarts.com) 0191 241 4931.

**Send in a submission to [info@helixarts.com](mailto:info@helixarts.com)**

**Please return submission by 10am on 10 September 2019.**

**Submissions must include:**

- A covering letter, to include your response to the brief, ideas and/or approach and a relevant experience statement. No more than 2 x A4.
- A basic budget of expenditure costs
- A current CV reflecting your participatory arts work and arts discipline  
Up to 2 examples of work

The team will be selecting on Wednesday 11 September and inform successful artists as soon as possible thereafter.

**Thanks for reading...**

**Sunderland Culture Young Ambassadors Team**

**Make it Happen trainees/volunteers**

**Notes:****HELIX ARTS**

Helix Arts specialises in the development of projects and initiatives exploring the role and potential of the arts in a social context. Long-term partnerships, particularly with the public and voluntary sectors, enable Helix to produce projects designed to engender broad participation, collaboration and sustainability. Established in 1983, Helix Arts has charitable status and is revenue funded by Arts Council England, North East.

**SUNDERLAND CULTURE**

Sunderland Culture was formed in 2016 to bring together the cultural programmes of Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust into a single, independent, organisation and to realise the ambition of a city brimming with creative potential.

Sunderland Culture works in National Glass Centre, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Arts Centre Washington and The Fire Station, and delivers programmes of cultural engagement and events across the whole city. It works across the city to ensure the power of great art, culture and creativity is harnessed for the benefit of Sunderland, its residents and visitors. Sunderland Culture's mission is to improve life for everyone in Sunderland through culture. Sunderland Culture is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.