

MK Gallery

Dear applicant,

MK Gallery Associate Artist Scheme 2017: Call for Artists

Thank you for your interest in working with MK Gallery. Our programme allows us to work closely with a focused group of practitioners, nurture both artist and audience needs and explore a wide breadth of participatory arts practice.

MK Gallery is currently recruiting for a team of Associate Artists to work with learning staff over the coming two years. The team, re-recruited on a bi-annual basis will support, and deliver, elements of the programme which connect with, and expand upon, themes from *City Club* – MK Gallery's site redevelopment. Please take the time to carefully read this pack considering whether the opportunity complements and expands your current practice, along with your ability to support the programme.

Enclosed you will find:

- Background to MK Gallery Expansion and City Club context
- Description of opportunity
- Information for supporting applicants
- Recruitment Monitoring Form

How to Apply:

After reading the enclosed information please email the Learning Team at learning@mkgallery.org and include a short statement (two sides of A4 max), names and contact details for two referees and an up to date CV. Closing date for return of your application is 10am Monday 24 October 2016. Please enter 'Associate Artists Scheme 2017' into the subject header when emailing. Shortlisting will take place in late October, followed by informal interviews scheduled for November. For reasons of economy, MK Gallery will only contact those who have been shortlisted.

Yours faithfully,

The Learning Team
MK Gallery



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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MK Gallery

Background Information

MK Gallery is a registered charity, and NPO organisation, inspiring and enabling people to experience, learn, participate in, and enjoy the arts. We are a well established locally rooted community resource. Attracting 30,000+ visitors annually MK Gallery's exhibitions programme sits alongside a growing engagement and multi-disciplinary events programme including opportunities for early years, children and young people, families, schools, artists and adults.

MK Gallery Expansion

MK Gallery is soon to embark upon a significant capital expansion and site redevelopment with the delivery of a substantial 'interim programme'. Running in parallel to the Gallery expansion is a major artists' commission addressing the public realm immediately surrounding the gallery. Entitled *City Club*, the concept is 'borrowed' from an ambitious unrealised project from the original MK Masterplan (c.1970) – which informed the design and development of Milton Keynes. Artists Nils Norman and Gareth Jones will revisit and reinterpret the *City Club* vision to bring to life a new type of social space. *City Club* will result in three main elements being developed around the gallery site; a garden, playspace and a piazza. These elements, and their associated themes, form the inspiration for the interim Learning Programme, and provide rich opportunities to further examine the process of audience participation and ownership of public spaces.

Learning at MK Gallery

MK Gallery's Learning Programme encourages interaction and learning through direct contact with artists and their practice. Collaborating with local, regional and national partners, MK Gallery delivers an integrated programme of formal and informal creative learning for over 10,000 participants annually, with a strong track record of inspiring a wide range of audiences, ages and abilities. In particular we seek to nurture children and young people's creative potential, offering a substantial programme for early years, childhood learning, families and young people. As co-chairs of the MK Creative Learning Network we seek to bridge the gap between cultural organisations and schools by providing CPD and networking opportunities for teachers and educators.

Our Schools Programme demonstrates a range of connected approaches including workshops, gallery visits, micro-residencies and special projects. The current focus is on reshaping this work in order to develop new initiatives for audiences to reconnect with the city's design, architectural make-up and long-term social ambitions whilst nurturing a curious future audience in the lead up to re-opening. Over the next two years such approaches will be tested, reviewed, and developed as part of core provision.

Expectations

Associate Artists will work with MK Gallery Learning staff to support the direct development and delivery of the Learning Programme - providing a welcoming and familiar environment for all participants and a commitment to developing high quality engagement opportunities within arts and participatory practice.

Applicant artists must be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for working with audiences, an interest in participatory arts based practice and excellent people and communication skills. Having the confidence to guide audiences and their creative learning experiences will be vital to ensure all participants fully engage with activities.

MK Gallery Associate Artists Scheme

Opportunity for artists working in participatory settings

MK Gallery is looking for enthusiastic artists, educators and creative practitioners to work with its Learning Team across 2017 and 2018 to support the conception and delivery of various elements of the core Learning Programme inspired by [City Club](#). This opportunity applies to multiple areas of the engagement programme including:

- Early Years
- Family Learning
- Youth Engagement
- Schools Programme (EYFS & Key Stages 1-4)
- Audience Development
- Teachers CPD
- Access & Inclusion
- Public Programme
- Special Projects

We are offering opportunities to:

- support the Learning Team to develop rich content for various audiences to engage with the *City Club* concept and MK Gallery's capital expansion
- work with themes of *City Club* to relate contemporary issues and artistic practice
- engage a range of local schools and/or community settings
- work with diverse individuals and groups from MK communities and further afield
- support the development of Arts Award and grow participation locally
- share skills/ideas with other educators and across gallery networks
- support audience development through the Gallery's Learning Programme
- be at the forefront of developing exciting learning frameworks in the visual arts

We are looking for artists and practitioners who can demonstrate an ability to:

- work in collaboration with the team and others to explore the *City Club* concept – its connections, themes, structure and history
- embrace themes from *City Club* translating them into high quality, experimental and shared learning opportunities in order to: enhance the audience experience; inspire a range of creative responses; support the personal progression of participants; facilitate critical thinking and enquiry, original ideas and action
- shape new, and relevant, opportunities to work with a diverse mix of audiences
- work as an individual to plan, resource and deliver sessions with groups
- link where possible to the National Curriculum in order to support schools
- work flexibly including term-time, school holidays, weekends and evenings
- offer diverse skills in the arts or areas of specialist interest
- express interest in and an awareness of best practice in order to reflect current issues and topics relevant to the wider arts and education sectors
- enhance an audience experience whether through links to cross-curricular, cultural, or access i.e. foreign languages, creative writing, music, BSL, dance etc

Pay and Conditions:

- Associate Artists are contracted on a freelance basis. Rates of pay vary depending on the duration and nature of individual sessions and projects
- Associate Artists are liable to make all tax and national insurance payments to HMRC. MK Gallery's Finance Team will need advanced proof of your Unique Tax Reference (10 digit number) before any invoices can be processed
- In line with our Children and Vulnerable Adults protection policy, you are required to provide a standard DBS check in advance of any learning based activity.
- You will need to supply us with the names and contact details for two referees.

MK Gallery

Information for supporting applicants

Your written statement plays an important part in the selection process; both as a tool in helping us to shortlist artists for interview, and as a basis for the interview itself. The following advice is designed to help you complete your statement as effectively as possible.

Read the job / opportunity description

- The opportunity has been outlined in the above information including the types of activities which Associate Artists may be asked to deliver. Ensure that you have read and understood this information before you begin to write your statement.

Analyse the job description

- Look at the activities of the post. Ask yourself why you are interested in this opportunity. It might be a chance to develop or gain more skills or enhance your creative practice. We are particularly keen to hear from individuals whose personal and participatory practice interlink and creatively feed off one another.

Consider your experience

- Think about any evidence you have at your disposal which you can use to prove you have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience. Explaining your current (and previous) projects to someone else may help you uncover 'hidden' skills that you take for granted. You may also want to consider any voluntary or unpaid work experience which you've completed to support your application.
- Please include a description of your personal artistic practice. We would like to know about your artistic focus, breadth of skills, use of materials, and how you reached this point in your career. We are particularly keen to understand how your artistic practice complements your participatory and/or education practice inspiring the cross fertilisation of ideas and reflective thought processes. Please provide details of past workshops, projects and programmes you have worked on including your processes, successes or a particular learning experience and your approach to engaging diverse audiences.
- Please provide links to supporting materials e.g. websites, social media, Youtube etc. If you are sending hardcopy images, discs or DVD please note that we cannot return any materials sent to us. Please do not send us any original work.
- Please provide information about any additional skills or strong interests you have which may be particularly useful for engaging audiences. For example these might include: foreign languages; IT; technical; curriculum; craft; art history; poetry; music; film; dance; BSL/audio description; performance; storytelling etc.

Employment history

- Write out your artistic career history. Do not go into too much detail but make sure you explain the main features of relevant and associated projects.

Please submit your CV, statement and Recruitment Monitoring Form by 10am 24 October 2016 to learning@mkgallery.org entering 'Associate Artists Scheme 2017' in the subject header. Alternatively please send to the Learning Department, MK Gallery, 3 Theatre Walk, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3PX.

MK Gallery Recruitment Monitoring Form

The data on this form is used for statistical purposes to provide MK Gallery with information for its annual statistical returns to Arts Council England and to monitor the performance of its Equal Opportunities Policy. Any reports produced using this information are anonymised. Any information given on the form is treated in the strictest confidence and is not used in any part of the selection process.

Post applied for	MK Gallery Associate Artist
Date of application	
Your surname	
Your first name	

Gender

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Age

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 70
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Ethnic Origin (please cross the box which most closely relates to you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> White British
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Black British
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
Black other (please specify)		
White other (please specify)		
Other ethnic background (please specify)		

Dependents

Do you have any dependents (children, elderly relatives)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you registered disabled?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

*A disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as a "physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities." Disabilities can be hidden and include long-term conditions which can be controlled through medication, for example epilepsy, asthma, heart conditions, diabetes.

Where you have an impairment or condition please use the space below to describe any accessibility requirements (e.g. physical access, hearing and/ or sight requirements) you would wish us to accommodate should you be invited to attend interview.