

NEW WRITING NORTH

Freelance role: Creative Producer, West End of Newcastle
120 days per year @ £175 per day

New Writing North has received funding from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation to run an ambitious three-year programme of community driven, co-creative activity in specific Newcastle locations. We are seeking a freelance Community Creative Producer to lead the work in the Scotswood and Benwell areas of Newcastle.

The Creative Producer is pivotal to the success of the programme, you will develop partnerships with community-based organisations and relationships with individual residents year-round over a three-year period. You will have excellent interpersonal skills and a strong track record of creative facilitation. You will have access to a flexible programme budget with which to respond to the cultural ambitions and also the needs, drivers and barriers of people in those communities. The programme invests in promise, leadership potential and ambition of people in the area.

We have a very impactful relationship with Excelsior Academy in the area, having been embedded there for the past seven years, and want to use that relationship-based approach to engagement as a model for this. The parents and families of pupils we work with or have worked with will be key target communities for this, as would the alumni of our programmes there.

There are five principal components to this role:

- To develop relationships with communities in and around Scotswood and Benwell, initially through conversation, local research, drop-in sessions, detached work and partnership building
- To bring people together using creative facilitation skills, identifying opportunities for co-created cultural activity
- To develop, in partnership with residents/participants and with New Writing North's support, a programme of creative activities, projects, ongoing provision involving a range of other artists which reflect the needs and interests of the community
- To get to know the participants well so that pathways for development are identified for people or groups coming through the programme according to their needs and interests
- Document and help evaluate (with some freelance support and alongside NWN staff) the programme.

Your practice will be generative, you will work with the community and local partners, supporting them to develop community-led infrastructure for culture. This could include partnerships with health providers and/or wellbeing

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organisations to explore social prescribing pathways. New Writing North will support the forging of these partnerships.

Many of the communities we work with think that culture is not for them. They do not see themselves in it. They do not consider working in the cultural sector as an option. 47% of the 700 working class writers applying for a place on our A Writing Chance development programme identified 'I grew up thinking a job in the creative industries was not attainable for someone from my background', and 46% identified 'I do not know anyone who has worked or worked in these industries' as the top two barriers to entering the creative industries.

People may express themselves artistically through social media or music or write their own poetry but many would not take this seriously as a possible profession. Others haven't engaged artistically since school, or don't see what they do culturally as art. We think it is our job to respond to this complex picture in a variety of ways. Targeted support for people in their own communities to discover for themselves what a cultural life might be like for them is one of the ways we will address this.

The programme is expected to run between September 2022 and September 2025.

A programme budget will be provided.

Responsibilities:

Delivery

- Engage in local research and relationship building in the area
- Work with key partners to programme arts activity in the local area
- Attend and support workshops and activity as part of the project
- Lead some arts-based sessions in consultation with local partners and participants
- Be the 'on the ground' contact for, and link between, the community, New Writing North and other partners including with the health, voluntary and education sector
- Support individual members of the community where appropriate, both in terms of their progression and their engagement in sessions
- Organise regular drop-in sessions for the local community in a central location
- Coordinate and produce relevant artistic outputs from the programme (e.g. films, music recordings, poetry collections)
- Ensure that artistic outputs are celebrated in the community and are opportunities to bring people together

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- To ensure that all programmes are high quality and delivered within NWN's quality standards
- Adhere to New Writing North's Safeguarding policy.

Artistic Development

- Work with local communities on developing inclusive projects and programmes of activity
- Listen to intergenerational community members and ensure their ideas, interests and concerns are central to the opportunities we offer
- Identify opportunities to develop projects so that they achieve profile and sustainability where appropriate
- Recognise potential, ensure members of the community are given access to opportunities to develop and/or are signposted to opportunities within NWN's wider programme or the cultural programmes of other organisations
- Support annual call outs for writers and artists interested in working on this programme
- Oversee and promote our annual programme of mentoring and investment in promise in the community
- Attend regular planning meetings with NWN staff.

Project Management

- Build and maintain relationships with members of the community as well as staff at other partner organisations
- Liaise with partner staff and freelancers to organise delivery of sessions
- Undertake ongoing evaluation with community members including in-session observations and end of project evaluation using tools including narrative interviewing and questionnaires
- Produce end of project evaluation reports
- Convene and run an Advisory Group of local community members on a quarterly basis
- Attend regular meetings with NWN staff and other producers to analyse data collected the previous quarter, identify trends and features and plan evaluation focus for forthcoming
- To take photographs where appropriate and create social media content to promote the programme
- Report to NWN at the end of each session using an online monitoring form
- Budget Management in partnership/consultation with NWN.

Person Specification

We are looking for a creative self-starter with exceptional communication and relationship building skills who is not afraid to take calculated risks.

You need to be confident working with a wide range of people and able to initiate contact.

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You must be proactive and a creative problem-solver. It is essential that the Creative Producer is inclusive, adaptable, and responsive in their working style.

We will be using the following criteria in our selection:

- At least one year's experience of working directly with communities in statistically disadvantaged areas
- A passion for working with people and recognising and developing their potential
- Knowledge of participatory arts practice and policy
- Experience of delivering and/or producing projects in the arts
- Experience of working with community organisations
- Self-starter with the ability to demonstrate an entrepreneurial and ambitious approach to developing arts activity
- The ability to work flexibly and independently, manage competing workloads and be highly proactive
- Strong planning and organisational skills with excellent attention to detail
- Ability to demonstrate experience of building and maintaining relationships with a wide range of people
- Ability to work flexibly both with colleagues and with partners
- Ability to identify opportunities and see them through
- A passion for the arts and literature and the role they can play in helping to address social justice issues
- Knowledge of contemporary literature and current affairs
- A good knowledge of the North East region
- The successful candidate will be required to apply for a DBS check if they don't already have one and hold their own Public Liability Insurance
- Evidence of budget management and report writing/evaluation skills.

How to apply

Please apply with the following:

- A supporting statement of no more than 2 sides of A4, explaining why you are interested in this residency and how you would approach the challenge. The statement should include evidence of previous relevant experience which demonstrates your suitability for the post
- An up-to-date CV of no more than 2 sides of A4
- Details of two referees.

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And submit it [here](#) by midday on Friday 26 August 2022. Interviews will take place on Thursday 8 September 2022.

If you have any queries about the role or to talk it through, please contact anna@newwritingnorth.com.

Anna Disley will be available on Zoom for a chat with anyone who is interested between 11am – 12pm on Tuesday 16 August 2022. This is an optional session to find out more about New Writing North and the Creative Producer role. Please book [here](#).