



Lead Artist Educator for Portsea Young Curators July 2021 - March 2022

Aspex is looking for an experienced freelance artist educator to inspire and empower young people in our local community of Portsea, supporting them to develop their contemporary art knowledge and the skills to commission new work for their neighbourhood.

For an informal chat about the application, if you need any assistance completing your application, or need materials in an alternative or accessible format, please contact Harriet Carr by emailing harriet@aspex.org.uk or by calling the gallery on 02392 778080 to request a call back.

Deadline for Applications: **Monday 31 May**

Interviews: **Thursday 10 June**

Start date: **June/July**

Portsea Young Curators (interim project name)

In 2021 **Aspex** is celebrating its 40th anniversary, since launching in Art Space Portsmouth in 1981. From the very beginning, inviting our local community to be involved with our programme has been a key part of what we do, and the creative experiences of children and young people are at the heart of our participation activities. This year as part of our *Aspex (life begins) at 40* project supported by Arts Council England, we are launching a new programme for young people based in Portsea, to support them to become the next generation of curators, artists, activists, community leaders - or whatever they dream of doing!

Aspex recognises young people as leaders who are capable of influencing their communities, and we respect their skills and ideas. This project will provide opportunities to gain knowledge about working in the cultural sector, as well as practical experience of self-organising and project management. We want the 'Portsea Young Curators' (interim project name) to be ambitious and innovative and we need an artist educator who can help them to think big, be creative and achieve amazing things.

The six month project will consist of weekly workshops, which will equip the young people (who will rename their project) with the confidence and expertise to commission artists and determine the future direction of their collective practice. The sessions will include masterclasses with guest artists/professionals, offering an insight into a range of creative practices and cultural professions, whilst simultaneously providing a safe space to stimulate debate and encourage collaboration. The young people will build on their learning and experiences of the masterclasses to develop four commissions, which may be presented as exhibitions, residencies, performances, participatory events and/or online content, and may take place at **Aspex** or within the community. **Aspex** will also support the project by offering use of the Learning Space for an exhibition in January 2022 and a celebration event in March 2022.

Young people will learn and develop transferable skills in:

- What commissioning is
- Commissioning processes
- How artists maintain and sustain their practices
- How galleries work and what they do
- What curators and producers do
- How to organise exhibitions/residencies/events
- Project management techniques
- Marketing & communication
- Financial management

They will feel:

- Inspired;
- Confident;
- Capable;
- Empowered;
- Proud of their achievements;
- Connected to a creative community at Aspex;

and able to:

- Communicate/express themselves;
- Make decisions;
- Build friendships;
- Collaborate;
- Produce high quality work.

The contract

The artist educator will support **Aspex** to recruit young people to take part in ‘Portsea Young Curators’ and will lead on planning the programme of workshops, with input from project participants and support from **Aspex** staff to invite guest speakers. You will get to know the young people’s interests and needs, and help them to develop their ideas and the commission briefs, which will inform how you support them to work with artists in the second half of the project.

You will also work with **Aspex** staff to support the young people in activities towards achieving their Bronze Arts Award, and will contribute to and help with collection of information for the project evaluation (led by an external evaluator).

Fee: £5200 (approx 26 days)

Responsibilities

- Assisting with recruitment of young people
- Working with Aspex’s programme team to plan and deliver sessions
- Facilitating weekly sessions with young people
- Supporting young people in the commissioning process and working with artists
- Participating in evaluation
- Adhering to Aspex safeguarding procedures

Person specification: essential (e), desired (d)

- Experience working with teenagers and young people (e)
- Confident and experienced artist educator (e)
- Knowledge of contemporary art and curation (e)
- Arts Award Advisor at Bronze level (d)
- Confident with a range of digital technology (d)

The artist educator will at all times carry out their duties with due regard to **Aspex Visual Arts Trust's** Health and Safety and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and other relevant policies.

To apply

We want to make the application process as simple as possible for you. You can either send your application using the google form link below or by emailing written or recorded (video or audio max. 5 mins) answers to the questions below to takepart@aspex.org.uk

We are asking you for:

1. Your name
2. Your email address and phone number
3. Your experience of working with young people - age ranges, settings, length of time
4. Your approach to facilitation
5. Previous experience of commissioning artists, exhibitions, events, residencies, etc
6. Details of two references who can provide details of your work credentials and character: name, address, email and in what capacity you know each other.

To submit your application by google form [CLICK HERE](#).

All applicants must also complete an anonymous Equal Opportunities Monitoring form. This will help Aspex to better understand the reach and fairness of our recruitment process.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the monitoring form.

Closing date for applications is Monday 31 May

Interviews will be held via Zoom on Thursday 10 June.

Aspex welcomes applications from all members of the community, irrespective of gender, race, disability and age. We are very open to a discussion about additional support/resources that might be needed during the application process or once recruited to enable you to do your best work. This will not affect your eligibility for the role or the strength of your application.

For information and useful resources about access visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

<https://www.accessdocsforartists.com>

Aspex | Background

Our mission is to support emerging artists and reveal the creative process to audiences.

We have a 40-year track record of supporting artists at key points in their career, offering the exhibition or studio space, curatorial and technical support to make a step change in their practice. We've given an early break to a long list of contemporary visual art's current international stars!

Established in 1981 by artist members of Art Space Portsmouth, Aspex Gallery was based in a converted chapel on Southsea's Brougham Road for 25 years. **Aspex Visual Arts Trust** was formed in 1991, no longer part of the studio group, but continuing to work in close partnership. From the very beginning, artists and their practice have been central to the organisation.

We relocated to the Vulcan Building, a former naval storehouse on the waterfront at Gunwharf Quays in 2006. The award-winning conversion of this stunning historic building provides an attractive base from which to work. A further small capital project in 2016/17, significantly improved the building's facilities and enabled the development of a large new learning space and an artist's studio. We actively reach out to new audiences across Portsmouth and the surrounding region, particularly through delivery of off-site projects and use of our new Mobile Learning Studio. A lively learning programme focuses on connecting audiences with artists, providing fun and engaging activities and events for all ages, while developing artists and curators of the future.

Aspex Visual Arts Trust is a registered charity (1007620) and a company limited by guarantee (267597), governed by a board of Trustees. A National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England, South West, we have confirmed financial support through to March 2022. We receive annual financial support from Portsmouth City Council and raise money for the programme from trusts and foundations, sponsorship from businesses, and donations from individuals. We also earn money from craft sales, premises hire, education activities and other services related to the staff teams' expertise, all of which is invested back into the creative programme.

Our mission and vision provide a simple focus that is always used in the development of the artistic programme, and more broadly within our trading activities. All our activities either provide an opportunity to support emerging artists; or seek to reveal the creative process to our audience; but ideally achieve both.

For further information about Aspex please see: www.aspex.org.uk