
YVAN Freelance contract: 10 months October 2020-July 2021

CULTURAL CO-PRODUCER

Yorkshire visual arts network (YVAN) is looking to recruit a freelance post to continue to build and support artist networks across the region and co-produce projects to enable sector resilience and relevance.

YVAN VISION

Yorkshire & Humber is a place where the visual arts thrive through collective strength and collaboration across the sector, founded on the creative vision of individual artists. The visual arts are accessible to meaningful participation and enjoyment by the diverse range of people who visit, live and work in Yorkshire & Humber. The important strategic contribution of the visual arts sector to place making and quality of life in Yorkshire & Humber is recognised and valued.

YVAN MISSION

To be a voice and advocate for the artist, artist-led and the visual arts in Yorkshire & Humber, delivering a programme that effects change in the profile, reputation and sustainability of the visual arts sector in Yorkshire & Humber and beyond.

CONTEXT

YVAN has developed a programme of support with and for artists. Under the title of 'Beyond The Obvious', this comprises of;

- micro-grants including peer crits;
- sector snap-shots artist-led commissions resulting in publications
- Nourish outreach and consultation events at regional and sub-regional levels.

Initiated in 2017, these programme elements have been independently evaluated with artists and arts organisations and demonstrated positive impacts such as increasing artist's confidence and self-validation, easing access to funding or exhibition opportunities and connecting artists to new networks of peer support.

With a close network of research collaborators including universities, Cultural Forum North and arts publishers Corridor8, YVAN is restructuring to facilitate programmes 'co-produced' with the artist-led sector that facilitate new knowledge and narrative. YVAN has developed two new posts critical to its mission:

1. **Cultural Co-Producer (this post).** The purpose of the CCP post is to bring research to life, to make it real for the practicing artists and to generate opportunities for live action research to feed back into the research framework. This will also enable the region's artistic networks to have meaningful dialogue with future clients and decision & policy makers and explore how practice can be embedded in research.

2. **Research, Learning and Evidence Lead.** The purpose of the RLE Lead is to establish a research framework with research questions and priority objectives that are relevant to the artist and artist-led sector. Through robust relationships with the HEI sector and evidence collection from across YVAN's programmes, this post will ensure that learning, knowledge and narrative is produced that is valued and impactful on the artist and artist-led network to inform and shape practice, makes visible the contribution of the artist (in addition to the arts institutional sector) to wider society, and produce data to feed into policy development through the CVAN national network.

Beginning this process, YVAN's Board commissioned a 'meta report' of all YVAN's project evaluation covering activities from 2013-18. Undertaken by Kerry Harker and John Wright, the documents provided a critical review and analysis. The conclusions were invaluable providing the organization with an evidence-base baseline whilst outlining the current challenges for individual artist practitioners in engaging with the funding sector and larger arts institutions, not just on a professional but also on a psychological level.

Existing YVAN partnership programmes include;_

- A long-term programme with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) as a key partner in 'The Artist Journey' conference and related activities aimed at emergent artists
- YVAN is an Affiliate Partner of Centre for Cultural Value, University of Leeds, a national research programme developing learning and evidence over the next three years
- Partnership with White Rose College of Arts and Humanities (Doctoral Training Partnership) to run paid research placements
- Partnership with Cultural Forum North to strengthen the relationship between artist-led research, the role of the artist as researcher and the HEI sector
- Working with arts publisher Corridor8 to commission artists and co-produce further publications
- Establish an open Reading Group with artists and curators 'working in the commons' focusing on themes of Care, Concern and Maintenance to re-address notions of resilience across relationships of the arts, society and ecology
- In partnership with CVAN network, YVAN's strategic role in gathering evidence on the Visual Arts as a Global Force, now drafted as a Report for Parliamentary attention.

TASKS, DELIVERY, SCHEDULE AND FEES

This is a freelance contract to identify opportunity, design and deliver co-produced projects to assist in the objectives of YVAN as described above. The delivery of any successful projects will expand the remit of this role accordingly.

A summary of the tasks to be undertaken is to:

- Undertake on-going research to identify and log the diversity of artists networks across the region
- Develop a working policy on Artists Co-production & Engagement with definitions and working practices
- Set up YVAN programmes and ensure their successful deliveryCo-produce projects with artists and artist-led regional networks to enhance and enable their work to embody and enrich sector specific research
- Co-produce creative approaches and methods for collecting data to evidence impacts
- Develop and deliver an audience development strategy
- Prepare reports and supply useful and relevant data and opportunities from the regions networks for our communications
- To write/ co-write funding bids as appropriate
- Seek other relevant income generating potential
- Represent and advocate for YVAN at agreed events.
- Act as co-ordinating liaison for YVAN within the wider CVAN region.

Covid-19 – In light of the pandemic, we are in the first instance asking for this post to be delivered remotely and to begin by collating good news stories and strong messages of support from the artist and artist-led sector. You will need to be an excellent communicator and understand the power of the media. Please address how you would deliver the objectives in this new framework.

Outcomes:

- 3 regional co-produced events
- Audience development plan
- 1 new funded project
- New media content monthly
- 3 new regional networks identified and relationship started
- Log of artists networks in Yorkshire and The Humber

Reporting:

- This freelance post will report to the YVAN Exec Chair and Board of Directors. At the outset of the contract, there will be a briefing workshop with YVAN team to fine-tune the delivery methodology, share knowledge and contact, and agree resource use and support from the team.

Fee and budget:

- Fee of £6,100 inclusive of VAT. Travel budget of £200.

Requirements:

- This is a fixed term contract to deliver the stated services. Applications must be registered as self-employed with HMRC.
- You will need to demonstrate previous experience of working collaboratively within the arts or in other sectors, and successful fundraising leading to project delivery within the creative and cultural sector.

- You will hold a current enhanced DBS check or be willing to undertake one.
- You will need good communication skills and be well connected, building relationships quickly and efficiently, with project management skills to enable delivery when funding is secured.
- There is an expectation that travel around the regions will be a requirement. YVAN is committed to energy efficiency and is committed to enacting a green agenda across its operations, and would therefore be happy to discuss other options for consultation including video conferencing.

APPLICATIONS

We welcome applications from all sectors of the arts consultancy and project management community. We are particularly keen to hear from people of colour and from candidates who self-identify as disabled.

We would like you to submit:

1. A proposal in no more than three A4 pages (alternatively a 3-5 minute video link) outlining your interest in undertaking this contract; detailing relevant experience, skills, a methodology for co-production, and what you can bring to the role
2. A current and relevant CV or company bio.
3. Link to evidence of previous projects.
4. Confirmation that you are available to attend an induction workshop at the beginning of October 2020 at the commencement of your contract.
5. A completed Equal Opportunities monitoring form (included in the pack).
6. Contact information for 2 referees.

TIMELINE

1. Your proposal and related documents should be sent to jobs@yvan.org.uk with the deadline of 17:00 on Monday 10th August 2020. Please include the subject line "YVAN Co Producer application" in the email.
2. Interviews will take place on Wednesday 19th August 2020 (please reserve this day in your diary)
3. Candidates will be informed by Friday 21st August 2020 by email. Commissions will be subject to contract and agreement of a budget and schedule.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Receipt of two satisfactory references covering employment and education for the last 5 years.
- Proof of identity
- Proof of qualifications where applicable
- Proof that you are legally entitled to work in the UK.