

Your Artsmark Team

Here at the Mighty Creatives (TMC) we have an Artsmark Team full of experience and knowledge to help you on your journey!

In the Office

Based at the TMC office, the Artsmark team is dedicated to the Artsmark programme and to helping you with whatever you might need:

- Hazel Townsend – Development Manager for the Artsmark Programme
- Louisa Wright – Development Coordinator for the Artsmark programme
- Ryan Lee – Programme Coordinator for Artsmark Events

Our Artsmark consultants

We have five part-time consultants working across the East Midlands region, all with lots of experience in cultural education and a passion for the arts. Our consultants offer a range of support depending on your needs, including support sessions/surgeries and remote support over the phone or via e-mail.

Sara Giddens – Dr Sara Giddens is a choreographer, teacher, creative facilitator and co-director of Bodies in Flight performance company. Sara works as a creative facilitator and project manager across the East Midlands, and currently teaches on the Dance Performance and Teaching course at UCLan. She has recently completed a practice-led PhD supported by Dance4 and Middlesex University. In 2005, she was one of six nationally acclaimed choreographers to be awarded a two-year research bursary from The Choreographic Lab (funded by Arts Council England and The University of Northampton). Her extensive choreographic work has toured nationally and internationally. Sara is a great advocate of action-research across a range of learning contexts and is keen to support the continued development of the arts working alongside those who value the arts as a place from which to celebrate difference and embrace change.

Amanda McLaren – Amanda established Partake in 2011 and her work as a freelance arts consultant spans the education, health and heritage sectors. She works with individuals and organisations as a mentor, trainer and external evaluator to improve and develop arts engagement opportunities across the East Midlands.

She lives in Derby and has a studio in Nottingham. Her personal practice is in the visual arts and she has professional expertise in participatory arts and gallery education.

Liz Muge - Liz has worked in and around Music since graduating from Leeds University in 1999. On discovering there wasn't much need for second-rate Oboists in the world she has focussed instead on bringing the best possible musical experiences to children and young

people. This journey has included spending time as the Education Director at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, a Regional Officer for charity Youth Music, the Chief Executive Officer of a small music charity Make Some Noise and more recently as Business Development Manager at the Nottingham Music Service.

Liz is passionate about the arts and the impact great art can have on all people, particularly small people. After 15 years working in Music Education, and following a period of research funded by Arts Council England, Liz established MishMash Productions in 2014 to create magical, original music for young audiences and now combines this role with other freelance work as a producer and consultant.

Michael Supple – Michael is a teacher, coach and advocate for the arts. Based in Northamptonshire, Michael works with schools and arts organisations throughout the Midlands to improve current practice and build sustainable development. Michael is also the director of Game Change Leaders, a coaching programme for young learners in KS2 and KS3.

Samantha Whelan – Samantha's practise focuses on co-creation; encouraging and enabling individuals and groups to achieve their aims through creativity. Alongside her consulting work at TMC Samantha is Director of arts organisation Platform Thirty1, a women-led organisation working across the arts, culture, community and education sectors in the East Midlands. They use creativity to work on generating agency and power, so that those we work with can tackle any societal, environmental, political, personal or cultural problem that is important and impactful to them, their family and/or their community.

If you would like support from our consultants or have any questions relating to Artsmark please contact us via email at artsmark@themightycreatives.com.

Arts Council England

You can also call Arts Council England directly if you have a specific enquiry about the programme on artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk.