**Opportunity:**

**Seeking TMC Consultant to support the development of our East Midlands SEND School Arts Network**

1. **About The Mighty Creatives**

Established in 2009, The Mighty Creatives (TMC) is a registered charity whose mission isto inspire children and young people (CYP) to harness the power of the arts, culture and creativity for positive change, by delivering four programme strands: *Creative Schools*, *Creative Communities*, *Creative Mentoring* and *Creative Futures*. We provide and champion artistic and cultural opportunities for children and young people 0-25 who are the most in need.

Based in Leicester, our remit is to serve the East Midlands, particularly places with high levels of deprivation, including Levelling Up for Culture Places and ACE Priority Places.

Our mission is driven by **five** strategic objectives:

1. Co-design, develop and deliver high quality creative activities to increase CYP participation and skills.
2. Develop and promote creative expertise for the cultural education sector workforce.
3. Build strategic partnerships that strengthen local creative/cultural access and progression for CYP.
4. Develop and promote cultural practice that supports CYP in need.
5. Develop and promote leadership, employment and enterprise progression routes of YP into the cultural and creative industries.

**Four** core principles guide our engagement:

**Listen and act:** a person-centred approach which commits to listening, learning and actively improving access to creative opportunities for CYP.

**Respond to need:** by providing CYP with both access and opportunity for arts, culture and creativity, we support them to improve their personal wellbeing, educational achievement, and life chances—especially those in need who are significantly disadvantaged.

**Champion EDI:** we stand in solidarity with marginalised communities and will speak out against injustice.

**Collaborate:** working with cultural, community and education partners is central to improving creative, sustainable and scalable cultural opportunities for CYP.

1. **Background**

In November 2018, linked to the Splash! project The Mighty Creatives launched a specialist regional arts and culture **SEND teacher network** for schools in the East Midlands.

The network aimed to bring together teachers from across the region to share practice, provide CPD, and to foster better connectivity to the arts and cultural sector across the region.

**Network development to date:**

Network meetings have been termly and we have worked with partners from across the region including Attenborough Arts, Nottingham Playhouse, Bamboozle, Lincoln Drill Hall, Deda and Hubbub. We have also commissioned individual creative practitioners to share elements of their practice and ideas with teachers, and have invited keynotes and presentations from schools. Network meetings were originally programmed to move around the region and focused on different art forms/creative mediums.

More recently we have moved these network meeting online, which has meant they are more accessible (in relation to travel) but there are less opportunities for practical sharing, play and exploration. It has also been more difficult to encourage networking between teachers.

To date 34 different SEND schools have engaged in these network events. Over the next 3 years we would like to build on this and increase engagement from more schools and also to encourage more creative practitioners to join. There are currently approximately 140 SEND schools in the East Midlands.

**Network programme to date:**

**28/11/18 – Attenborough Arts Centre (AAC) Leicester. Launch event.**

* Introduction from AAC on their work with SEND schools
* Practical session with AAC associate visual artist Sian Watson-Taylor

**28/3/19 – Nottingham Playhouse, Nottingham.**

* Practical session led by Bamboozle Theatre and introduction to their work with schools and families
* Keynote presentations from 2 x schools – Ashmount School, Leicestershire and Oak Field School, Nottingham.

**25/6/19 –** **Déda, Derby**

* A practical workshop led by Hubbub Theatre company offering insights into creating non-verbal, physical approaches to well-being, personal and inter-personal skills and creative expression.
* Dance practitioner, Debi Hedderwick gave a presentation on her work and projects with SEND schools
* Déda introduced their work and shared a range of cultural education and participation based opportunities.

**27/1/20 – Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln**

* Bamboozle Theatre led a practical drama workshop. The session had an emphasis on working with PMLD students.
* Presentation from Greenfields Specialist School for Communication, Northants on their Arts Award development.

**2/12/20 (online) -** A session to reconnect schools and share experience of the pandemic and lockdown.

* Consultant Andrew Fox gave a presentation sharing some of his research on how Artsmark could support school improvement in SEND settings
* Presentation from creative practitioner Nikki Charlesworth on some of the digital resources developed in response to work on the TMC Splash! project.

**10/3/21 (online)** A session focussed on sensory approaches to learning and engagement including:-

* Attenborough Arts Centre presentation on their SENsory Atelier programme and the work and resources their artists have been developing for SEND schools during the pandemic.
* A presentation from Natalya Martin, a specialist sensory artist - sharing her work, ideas and top tips for developing sensory work with young people.
* Presentation from Ashfield School, Leicester, on their Sensory resource project

**6/10/21 (online)** – postponed from summer due to low initial bookings in June 2021

* Presentation from Sinfonia Viva on their work and key projects with SEND schools in Derby
* A presentation from artist Sian Watson-Taylor (visual arts) on her work with schools during the pandemic, including examples of building Arts Award into projects.

**30/11/21 (online) Sharing event**

* Network to share learning and outcomes from the TMC SEND 50 Years Celebration Projects – 8 schools from across the East Midlands presented.

**7/6/22 Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester**

* A practical workshop and presentation led by Richard Hayhow from Open Theatre exploring nonverbal physical theatre practice.
1. **The Brief:**

We are looking for someone to work with us to develop this regional network further to include:-

* CPD for teachers (and creative practitioners) - a mixture of opportunities to share best practice but also practical elements to allow teachers to explore their own creativity and play! We have feedback from teachers gathered at previous network events that can inform the design of these events.
* Opportunities for networking and peer learning – teacher to teacher *but also* supporting links between creative practitioners/partners and schools
* Inspiration! Sharing work that will inspire, excite and feed creativity.

We will hold at least 2 network events in the 2022/23 financial year – 1 x Autumn term 2022 and 1 x Spring term. You will support the development and delivery of these events, taking the lead role in chairing these meetings.

We are also keen to develop the network from a series of events to something more connected – to build more of a coherent community of practice; we would like members to feel more ownership over the network and see it as their ‘go to place’ for advice and support.

Over the next 6 months, and beyond, we would like to expand the network to include more creative practitioners and cultural organisations, to support richer conversations around practice and to help build more connections across the region.

1. **Criteria**

Applications are invited from individuals within the arts, culture and education sectors with experience and understanding of cultural learning.

TMC is seeking to work with an individual or organisation that has:

**Essential**

* A good understanding of schools and the challenges in which they operate, including SEND schools and settings
* Experience of establishing and building confident and productive relationships with a range of stakeholders
* Good understanding and knowledge of cultural education
* Experience of developing and delivering training/network meetings with a range of stakeholders
* Knowledge and experience of working in/with the arts and cultural sector. We are particularly keen to work with someone with a good knowledge of Disability Arts and organisations/creative practitioners who specialise in working with SEND schools.

As an equal opportunities employer we are keen to receive applications from disabled practitioners and practitioners under-represented within the cultural sector.

1. **Fees, timescale and contract terms**

**Fees**

The fee available for this work is **£2750** (calculated at £275 per day)

This is calculated as follows:-

* 5 x days network development and delivery
* 5 x days research and development

There is an additional budget available for the network events themselves

The above fee is inclusive of any VAT and expenses. However, travel costs can be negotiated.

**Timescale**

The initial contract period for this service specification is Sept 2022 - March 2023 (with opportunity for extension into 2023/24).

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is an important priority at The Mighty Creatives and as a freelancer working on this programme, we expect you to follow our Safeguarding Policy and procedures. Our Safeguarding Policy will be supplied separately.

**Contract terms**

This opportunity is offered as a freelance opportunity. The work will be undertaken in accordance with TMC’s standard contract terms and conditions and any additional agreed conditions specifically required for the delivery of this work.

1. **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying, please submit a completed application form.

**This should be sent to recruitment@themightycreatives.com by the deadline of 10am Monday 15th August 2022 .**

We’re an accessible and equal opportunities employer, so please get in touch with

**recruitment@themightycreatives.com**if you’d like to receive and return your application form in a different format.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with us (via video call). Provisional dates for interviews are 23rd/24th August.

**Equal Opportunities**

We're an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.

As part of our commitment to equal opportunities and diversity of our workforce, we would request that you complete and return the **Equal Opportunities Form** provided with the application form.

**If you have any questions about this brief or network please contact Hazel Townsend -** **hazel@themightycreatives.com** **or 07725 660525.**

**END**