

Artist Recruitment Pack Our Home Our Stories Project January 2025

a) Introduction

Our Home Our Stories is a project funded by Historic England and is in partnership with Staffordshire County Council. The project aims to use the heritage and historical significance of the Staffordshire Moorlands and other surrounding areas of Staffordshire, to support young people aged 16-20 who are Separated Children and Young People (also known as Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) to build a sense of connection to their new surroundings and the new homes they find themselves in.

We are looking for an artist to work with us on this project over 2025. Please see below for further information.

This is a fantastic opportunity commissioned on a freelance basis between February and December 2025.

If you are interested in this work, please submit your completed application form to recruitment@themightycreatives.com by **9am Monday 3rd February 2025**.

More information on the opportunity and how to apply can be found below.

a) The Context

This project is kindly funded by Historic England through their History in the Making fund.

What is the project?

Our Home, Our Stories aims to connect Staffordshire's cohort of Separated Children and Young People to the history and heritage of their new home and surroundings, reflecting on the historical significance of their refugee communities dating back to pre-WW2 but also rebuilding some of this narrative to shine a light on the strengths, interests and resilience of the cohort of Separated Children and Young People.

Separated Children (or Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) are Children and Young People who arrive at a country without a responsible adult, or who are left unaccompanied after entering the country. Because of their journeys, they may experience a sense of fear, panic, grief, depression, helplessness, hopelessness, a lack of sense of self and belonging. There are currently 149 Separated Children housed in East Staffordshire, Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke on Trent.

We aim to work with a cohort of Separated Children (a group up to 25 participants per workshop), over weekly 2-hour sessions through a 6-month period (April – September 2025).

Through their sessions, we aim for the artist to use their creative practice to safely and sensitively explore the history of the Staffordshire Moorlands and surrounding areas, whilst also encouraging exploration of their own connections and stories to the local area.

The group will have co-created and co-produced a collective placemaker art piece that will be permanently exhibited within the local area. Whilst this will be co-designed with the young people, this could take the form of a sculpture, a mural, a performance (that is captured and made viewable online), another visual art piece or otherwise). They may also have created individual pieces as part of their journey. All art works will be self-led by the group and will be exhibited/unveiled as part of the outcome of the work, alongside a celebration, where young people, their carers, the community and supporting adults will be invited.

What does the timeline of work look like?

We anticipate the timeline to be as follows:

- January-March 2025 – Recruitment of artist, project planning, project research and mobilisation and recruitment of children and young people. **We hope for the artist to be contracted by the end of February to enable planning through March.**
- April-September 2025 – Delivery of weekly 2-hour sessions with the young people in a community venue within the Staffordshire location.
- October 2025 – Review and evaluation.
- November 2025-December 2025 – Exhibition/unveiling and archiving, working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council's Virtual School and the library service.

b) The Brief

We are looking for an artist to:

- **Complete an in house Training as Induction** – This training will take place online and cover the different aspects of working with Separated Children.
- **Deliver weekly 2-hour workshops** – exploring the theme of local heritage and co-creating artworks with a group of children and young people, over a 6 month period, in the Staffordshire area.
- **Co-create a final exhibition of artworks**– Alongside the children and young people deciding on a local and suitable venue, curating the artworks and organising any installation and taking down of the exhibition.
- **Take part in the Evaluation of the project.** Including collecting relevant evaluation from the project participants.

c) Criteria for Artist

Due to the sensitive nature of the project, there are a number of criteria areas we would expect from a potential Artist. **Please refer to these in your application form.**

| Essential Criteria (Artist must be able to evidence previous experience) | Desirable Criteria (This criteria is not essential to do the role, but will be beneficial) |
|--|---|
| <p>Experience Working with Care Experienced Children and Young People. This includes previously Looked After Children, Children living in Foster Care, Care Leavers, Adopted Children or Children living under special guardianship/kinship care.</p> | <p>Experience of working with Separated Children and Young People or children and young people with English as an Additional Language.</p> |
| <p>Empathy and Understanding. Artist must be empathetic and sensitive to children and young people's lived experiences, values and beliefs.</p> | <p>Knowledge and Understanding of Staffordshire. It would be beneficial for the artist to have knowledge and understanding of the heritage of Staffordshire and the surrounding areas.</p> |
| <p>Experience of Co-Producing Work with Children and Young People. Artist must have experience of taking leadership from children and young people and listening and acting upon their ideas.</p> | <p>Previous Experience of Budget Management. The artist will be given budget for resources, and this must be carefully budgeted for to suit the needs of the project.</p> |
| <p>Safeguarding and Health and Safety Knowledge. Artist must be able to demonstrate a strong and developed understanding of Safeguarding and Health and Safety measures.</p> | |
| <p>Previous Experience of Exhibiting Work. Artist must have experience of previously organising an exhibition of art work.</p> | |

d) Budgets

The total payment available for the artist who undertakes this work is **£4,085 inclusive of VAT**. This is for a total of:

- **Pre-Project Planning:** 3 days planning time (equivalent of 21 hours),
- **Direct Delivery:** 3 hours a week over 6 months (2 hours delivery and 1 hour planning per week),
- **Exhibition:** 4 days of work (equivalent of 28 hours).

Additional Budgets

The above payment is solely for the artists time. There are additional budgets available for the following:

- Resources and Materials,
- Travel Reimbursements for Artist,
- Exhibition and Sharing Costs (including Venue Hire and Refreshments).

Any expenditure from the above budgets must be approved by the contract manager at The Mighty Creatives.

e) Responding to this Brief

If you are interested in this work, please complete the application form and refer to the essential and desirable criteria. You must submit an application form to recruitment@themightycreatives.com by 9am **Monday 3rd February 2025**. We will aim to let people know as soon as possible after the deadline.

Shortlisted applicants will be informed by **13th February 2025** and invited to deliver a taster 30-minute in-person workshop in your chosen art form, and to meet some of the young people who are a part of the project on **Monday 24th February 2025 between 1 – 3:30pm**. If you are invited to this, we will be able to reimburse you for your time at our standard hourly rate.

If you have any questions, please email: recruitment@themightycreatives.com.