

They Eat Culture: Associate Artist Information & Application

What is the Associate Artists Scheme?

The Associate Artists scheme provides access for current creative practitioners to facilities, space, and development opportunities, and results in creative relationships which produce work of merit.

Associate Artists are given opportunities to develop and present work & projects in association with the Continental Arts Space / They Eat Culture as a creative agency, in order to help achieve the overall aims of They Eat Culture and the aims of the individual artist. They allow the creative practitioner space to develop skills in a new area related to their current practice, or scope for the production of work which needs further support from the venue and organisation. Practitioners are encouraged to develop useful relationship with other associate artists, the wider organisation, and outside public, private, and community organisations.

Associate Artists have access to creative, marketing, events, and administrative support, and IT and performance facilities at the Continental Arts Space / They Eat Culture. Associate Artist projects tend to be between 3 & 12 months, and the workload is determined by the creative practitioner. Intellectual Property is negotiated to support both the artists' and They Eat Culture's needs. Work done as an associate artist for They Eat Culture is branded as a They Eat Culture project with the lead artist/s named. Associate Artists are unpaid, and tend to work on a negotiated project or a loosely linked creative facilitation basis, and are encouraged and assisted to seek project funding. Projects are initiated to allow associate artists to develop work through discussion with the organisation's director or key project workers. We look to develop funding streams to support ongoing work outside the scope of the original Associate Artist project.

Current associate artists include Lisa Wigham & Kathryn Wheatley (Curating). Past associate artists include Jenn Ashworth (Literature).

To apply for the Associate Artist scheme, please review our material below, which includes information on what we are looking for, and general organisation information. Then complete the Associate Artist proposal document (the last page) & the equal opportunities form, and return with a copy of your current CV to Ruth Heritage ruth@theyeatculture.org // 01772 499207

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What are we looking for?

We want this document and this call for proposals to fire you up and give you space to create as practitioners. However, there are several areas of development and interest within the organisation which would be suitable for associate artists to consider:

- Social inclusion // working with specific groups at risk of social exclusion
- Working with 19-25s
- Family friendly work
- Digital environments and social media
- Literacy – written & media

While Associate Artist spaces are available for practitioners from all disciplines, please bear in mind that we do not currently hold studio space and practicality & shared interest should determine your proposal.

We are very interested in developing Associate Artist projects in:

Literature // Writing

Moving Image

Sound Art

Contemporary Theatre Practice

We are very keen on multi-discipline

We do not ask for a fully fleshed out Artist's Statement at this point, but proposals which get taken in for development will require this alongside a critical background.

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Associate Artist Case Study

Jenn Ashworth, a published author, worked alongside TEC between November 2008 & June 2009 to develop Preston Writing Network.

Preston Writing Network - <http://www.prestonwritingnetwork.blogspot.com/> - This project was set up to foster engagement by writers of all shapes and sizes – from creative writers to copywriters, from beginners to professionals – in a wider writing community for Preston and beyond. It exists as an on-line portal of information, a place to network and an arena for Preston's writing communities to come out of the woodwork and start talking to each other. It's a blog, a facebook group, a newsletter, a voice on twitter, and a community of individuals, writing circles, and agencies. PWN puts Preston's diverse and vibrant literary culture on the map. It also exists in the real world, hosting creative writing workshops, setting up a regular live literature night: administrating projects and working collaboratively with the other strands of They Eat Culture. Future plans for PWN include the development of a reading & writing festival and competition, and we have a group of core partners and sponsors willing to support this.

From this initial work we have developed a Lancashire wide creative and professional development project which is currently supported by LCC, PCC, and WLBC (local authorities). The overall project has already achieved funding / clients from a range of partners including UCLAN, Preston City Council, Lancashire Libraries / LCC, and West Lancashire Borough Council. We have been written into further funding bids through this partnership. You can see this ongoing work at www.lancashirewritinghub.co.uk

This has resulted in Jenn accepting an offer of project specific freelance work with They Eat Culture. Jenn has also finished her 'time to write' ACE grant for her own practice, which They Eat Culture match supported. <http://www.jennashworth.co.uk/>

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They Eat Culture: General Information

They Eat Culture is a North West based arts & culture development organisation. We aim to ensure access to quality arts experiences from the hyperlocal to the regional. We specialise in arts programming, discussion events and other inclusive and participatory learning events both online and offline. We develop project work in specific cultural areas and we match nationally recognised creative practitioners with communities to create project work of value and artistic merit. We create opportunities for individuals, groups and business to access quality arts and development opportunities.

Project Work

They Eat Culture runs various project strands and look to extend their project portfolio through co-funded, public sector, and private sector work. We aim to take on projects that have local significance but also are valid and recognisable on a national level. Current project work includes event programming at the Continental, Writing Development (www.lancashirewritinghub.co.uk), social inclusion led media literacy projects (www.goinguptown.co.uk), and further work under development. We focus our project work around inclusion and development outcomes, and work both online through social and web media and offline through events and workshops. We are developing accreditation for project based learning work.

Artistic & Programming Policy:

The Continental Arts Space & *They Eat Culture* programmes across all artforms, including music, theatre, cabaret, live art, physical theatre, live documentary, multimedia experimentation, dance, comedy, and live literature. We emphasise experimentation, intellectual stimulation, and contemporary takes on classical work. We work with emergent and established local, national, and international artists, companies, producers, and promoters. We aim to make arts available to all communities across Lancashire.

Facilities:

They Eat Culture can provide space for workshops and performance / larger events, including PA & lighting setup, digital screen & projector. The venue is licensed for performance inside and out. We can support events off site with some technical equipment, and all events are supported by our staff (although we would expect associate artists to oversee technical direction of work). We also have zoom recorders and some audio visual equipment. We have Adobe creative suite (4) and final cut studio set up on our own system. We can provide hotdesk / IT support where needed. The office support includes marketing (print material through discussion) and some administration support. We promote creative engagement with colleagues and Associate Artists are a member of the wider TEC team.

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TEC has five main aims

- To extend audiences and ensure access to quality, significant arts and cultural experiences, from hyper-local personal engagement to regional events, providing peer-measurable work and strong evaluation practice
- To work primarily with non-city (MCR / Liverpool) communities and those at risk of social exclusion
- Extend the breadth and depth of arts and cultural engagement through practice, attendance, and participation
- Strengthen the arts infrastructure, through creative and professional development of organisations and individuals, extending reach of resources, facilities and buildings, by working in partnership across Lancashire
- To ensure sustainability through close partnership networks, and developing relevant products, services, and revenue streams

TEC will achieve these aims by developing work to deliver the following objectives

- Provision of quality arts programming in Lancashire, initially through the Continental Arts Space
- Programme of talks, discussion events and seminars
- Development of inclusive participatory learning events
- Development of project work in specific areas (ie. literature; media literacy; performance) that matches nationally recognisable artist practitioners with communities to create project work of value and artistic merit
- Development of products and services from each project to ensure sustainability
- Commitment to an associate artists programme and developing new work
- Commitment to a volunteering programme and access to new skills
- Commitment to inclusion work through all sectors of community
- Development of strong partnerships across private, public, and third sectors
- Consistent audience development work through strong project and audience evaluation

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Proposal

Please use this section to outline what you propose to work on over the Associate Artist project timescale.

Please ensure you include how you would develop the work, key milestones for the project (ie initial workshops, final performance), who you will be working with (self, specific groups, etc) and what outcomes there would be from the project (ie how many people you think would benefit and how, performance, workshops, exhibition, development opportunity etc). What do you need (other than money) to make it happen (ie space for workshops, space for rehearsing, marketing support, access to a specific TEC project) How would it benefit you? Why should They Eat Culture / The Continental support the project, why is it needed in the wider community?

Project Title

Brief outline of work

Who you will be working with

Project milestones

Overall outcomes of work

What facilities / assistance will you need?

Why will this project benefit you, and why should we support it?

Please continue if needed – the text box will expand as you type

Please return this last page saved out as 'Your Name Associate Artist Proposal' together with your current CV and the Equal Opportunities monitoring form to Ruth Heritage, Director, They Eat Culture ruth@theyeatculture.org – Thanks for your interest!