



ATTENBOROUGH  
ARTS CENTRE

# UNLOCKING THE WORLD THROUGH ART: A SENSORY ATELIER

## 2 x Artist in Residence (SEND)

### Attenborough Arts Centre

Attenborough Arts Centre is a vibrant inclusive arts centre at the University of Leicester, with a theatre, 3 studios, 4 galleries and a performance, creative learning and outreach programme. Our exhibition programme brings together socially engaged practice, disability themes and politics from national and internationally significant artists.

We are seeking proposals from dynamic and experienced visual artists and musicians with experience and specialism of working with SEN schools and children with complex needs and disabilities to be part of our exciting Sensory Atelier project with 2 SEN Schools in Leicester/shire. The artists in residence will support and develop the schools as active cultural spaces to explore, learn and play.

### Background

Funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we are testing and exploring new ways to learn, discover and develop together. With the aim of creating sensory ateliers – new spaces and processes for children with a spectrum of learning difficulties, communication disorders and disabilities attending SEN schools in Leicester/shire. The project aligns directly with the visions and aims of The University of Leicester Attenborough Arts centre and gives us the capacity to create a dynamic enrichment programme with special educational need schools, with the potential to share learning and good practice with all schools. Drawing on the principles of Reggio Emilia we want to explore ways to cultivate imagination and a sense of the possible. Children and adults will be co-researching alongside each other to create their own teaching and learning practices -new to us all. To find out more what has been happening so far here: <https://unlockingtheworldblog.wordpress.com/>

### The Residencies

Art as a medium to unlock the world and promote creative development in children is at the heart of the residencies. The Attenborough Arts Centre, and Artist will work collaboratively with the schools to design and deliver imaginative residencies which support *Reggio* principles and uses art as a medium to promote self-expression, creativity, confidence and language development amongst SEND children and their teachers. The schools are particularly interested in the work of artists who use one or more of the following mediums; visual arts, sculpture, music or digital technology. The artists will, through a weekly programme of project activity, develop and deliver a series of workshops aimed at building on the fascinations and interests of the children. The artists will work alongside the teaching teams to develop the weekly





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offer and in doing so provide opportunity for peer learning, creative professional development and confidence in implementing more creative emergent curriculum across the whole school community. Students involved will be also working towards Arts Award qualifications so an understanding of implementing an Arts Award framework is desirable. The residency will culminate in an Exhibition of the work created over the residency at Attenborough Arts Centre gallery alongside a symposium and celebration event in **January 2018**.

We are looking for 2 Artists, one for each setting. The Artists will plan with their school in **July 2017** and be in resident in the school 2 days per week over a 10 week period 2 x 5 week blocks:

- **Block one – 11 Sept – 13 Oct 2017**
- **Block two – 23 Oct – 24 Nov 2017**

### A Profile of the Settings

The two schools involved in the project have different opportunities and restrictions so please read below to see if they are suitable for you:

#### Ashmount School, Loughborough

An Area Special School for children with severe and profound learning difficulties, with 156 students aged 4-19 years.

We are looking for an outstanding practitioner with considerable SEN experience who has the vision required to support our young people to create highly ambitious sculptural pieces possibly centred on synaesthesia.



The successful artist will have access to our art room and associated storage. We would encourage the artist in residence to set up a studio-like feel within the room but with an understanding that this space will be used by other groups when they are not in school. Full Wi-Fi and interactive

whiteboards are available in every room as are iPads. There is a considerable amount of lockable storage within the room and adjacent to it. We would like the artist to work with us between 8:45am until 3:45pm 2 days per week.



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## Ellesmere College, Leicester



Ellesmere College is a special school in Leicester City with 250 students aged 4-19. Students have a wide range of learning needs and we cater for students with severe and moderate learning difficulties, speech, language and communication difficulties, sensory difficulties (VI and HI) and those with autism and communication and interaction difficulties.

We are situated in a new building and have a variety of spaces available. In terms of our expressive and visual arts spaces, we are lucky enough to have a dedicated black out stage area, main hall, music room and music practice room, art room and design technology space as well as a range of outdoor facilities that could be used given the right weather conditions!



For the duration of the residency we would like the artist in residence to become part of our team of staff and work in a flexible way with us to ensure that the best possible experiences are planned for the young people. We are a very welcoming staff group and we love working with partner organisations. As an artist in residency for a significant block of time we will ensure that we find you appropriate storage space

and that you have relevant access to our ICT infrastructure. We will also provide you with a link person at school to ensure things go as smoothly as possible.

We are looking to target 14 – 19 year olds and are particularly interested in artists who are keen to work with young people with a range of speech, language and communication needs, including hearing impairment.



We would like the successful artist to work with small groups, supported by teaching assistants where appropriate. It is important to us that the work you bring into Ellesmere is something different from our usual curriculum offer.

Our school day runs from 9.10 am – 3.15 pm.



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## The Opportunity

As an Artist in Residence, the following potential benefits have been identified:

- Be part of pioneering approach to applying Reggio Emilia Principles to SEND education settings.
- Influence the lives of SEND Young People through the arts
- Gain applied knowledge on how to develop an emergent creative curriculum
- Network with partners, teachers for potential schools work & commissions
- Develop a portfolio of SEND education delivery and
- Evidence to Young People the value of a career in the arts

## Creative Remit

Visual art, music, and sensory exploration as mediums to unlock the world and promote creative development in children is at the heart of the residency. The artists will, through a weekly programme of project activity, develop and deliver a series of interventions/workshops aimed at building on the fascinations and interests of the children.

The artist(s) will work alongside the teaching teams to develop the weekly offer and in doing so provide opportunity for peer learning, creative professional development and confidence in implementing more creative emergent curriculum across the whole school community.

The Attenborough Arts Centre, and the Artist will work collaboratively with both schools to design and deliver an imaginative residency which supports *Reggio* principles and uses visual art and or music, as mediums to promote self-expression, creativity, confidence and language development amongst SEND children and Teachers.

The residency will culminate in an Exhibition of the work created across the residency at Attenborough Arts Centre gallery and celebration event.

## Artist Residency Brief

### 1. Purpose of Residency:

Through a programme of creative inventions and workshops, the artist(s) in residence will support and develop the schools as active cultural spaces to explore, learn and play.

### Responsible to:

The Schools Project Co-ordinator, Attenborough Arts centre

### 3. Key relationships:

Will work closely with the Attenborough Arts centre (Education and Outreach team) and Ashmount and Ellesmere Teaching teams.





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## 4. Principle objectives:

To lead in the development and delivery of a range of creative experiences in partnership with both schools.

## 5. Key Duties and Responsibilities:

a) Design and deliver creative workshops - a range of multi-sensory workshops using Reggio principles.

b) Partnership working

- Develop new lessons plans, toolkits and approaches to curriculum delivery in consultation with the teaching teams in both schools.
- Support teachers with the delivery of Arts Award Criteria alongside the workshops.
- Support Teachers through providing Continued Professional Development opportunities
- Attend project feedback meetings
- Maintain positive relationships with all project staff

c) Marketing & Promotion

- Develop relationships with both schools.
- Disseminate to the wider school community, particularly in relation to the website, social media and school displays.
- Work with Attenborough Arts Centre to identify opportunities to market and promote the activity with a wider community.
- Identify Children & Young People who can take on a peer mentor or advisory roles work experience placements and internships within the residency

d) Documentation and Evaluation

- Effectively Document key qualitative moments in each workshop/intervention: Eg: case studies, quotes, video blogs, teacher responses.
- Effectively document participant learning journeys.
- Contribute to the evaluation of the project and feeding back key findings.

## Terms

Artists will have an Enhanced DBS, which can be applied for by the school. Artists are expected to be able to work with learners of all abilities, including those who require additional assistance.

Artists will be paid an hourly rate for the residency which is based on a pro rata fee at Grade 9 SP47 (£34.60 per hour), Calculated as 6 hours each day, paid via Unitemps. Working hours will be determined by the programming of the workshops with the schools. There is also a materials budget for each school.



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## How to Apply:

Please submit:

1. Three images of your work
2. A personal statement about your work, relevant experience and approach (no more than 1 A4 page)
3. An outline of about how you would approach the residency, you may want to identify which school you wish to apply and why you think you're the right artist for the school to (no more than 1 A4 page)
4. Your CV
5. Contacts of 2 referees

**Deadline: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Interview date: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Applications and all enquiries to Manya Benenson, [mlb42@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:mlb42@leicester.ac.uk)  
0116 2522455

