



Arts and Health: Artist Professional Development Programme

Are you an artist, arts development worker or health worker interested in using the arts to develop health-based work?

Would you like to learn more about developing practical arts for health projects?

The Artist Professional Development Programme supports people to gain a practical experience of arts and health work.

The Programme will include:

- Professional development through a workshop programme
- Practical work in a health themed project
- Support from the region's most experienced health and development workers.

Background Information

Workshop Programme

As part of the Programme students attend a structured workshop programme. The series of workshops will include sessions on the health service and current health policies, as well as about the national and regional contexts of arts and health practice. People will have time to explore the role of arts and health workers as well as an opportunity to gain skills in negotiating at different levels within the health sector and providing evidence of the success of their projects.

Each session will also include time for students to reflect on their practical work and to develop their skills in reflection and problem solving.

Students will receive a comprehensive resource pack as part of the workshops.

The workshops will start in February 2010 and take place on five days at Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent.

Day 1: Thursday 4 February 2010	10.00am – 4.00pm
Day 2: Thursday 4 March 2010	10.00am – 4.00pm
Day 3: Thursday 18 March 2010	10.00am – 4.00pm
Day 4: Thursday 15 April 2010	10.00am – 4.00pm
Day 5: Thursday 29 th April 2010	10.00am – 4.00pm

Practical Work

As part of the programme, students will be expected to undertake a health themed participatory arts project.

We expect students to organise their own practical project, in collaboration with an arts or health sector partner. This may be a piece of work they are already working on either as part of their employment or as a commission. In addition we are identifying partner organisations who are interested in hosting paid and volunteer placements. At a minimum, placement agencies will be expected to pay the student's course fees and a contribution towards expenses and time.

Commissions are expected to take place across the West Midlands. Details of agencies that we know are interested in hosting placements will be available to people who have been offered a place on the Programme.

Accreditation

The **Artist Professional Development Programme** is accredited at Masters level through Staffordshire University and is one of the first fully accredited arts and health professional development programmes for artists in the UK.

To gain the accreditation each artist will be expected to make an individual presentation to a small group of students about their practical experience and present a portfolio (2000 words) containing:

- A reflective diary demonstrating the participatory nature of the process.
- A reflective essay containing a critical review of theoretical issues and practical work.

What are the entry requirements?

We welcome applications from people with a wide variety of qualifications, skills and experience. The usual requirement for this course is a B.A. Fine Art or equivalent, and experience of using the arts in working with communities. However, all applicants are considered individually, and experience may be considered in place of formal qualifications.

Costs

We have secured funding from Staffordshire University Futures Programme to offer bursaries to all applicants applying for a place on the APDP. This means the price has been reduced from £500 down to £250 for everyone who is offered a place on the course.

Application Process

People need to complete the enclosed application form and return to the Creative Communities Unit, Staffordshire University by October 31st 2009.

Please include in section seven of the form information about your experience and outline the reasons why you would like a place on the course. Please say if you are planning to organise your own practical project or want the details of organisation whom have expressed an interest in hosting a placement.

If you would like to talk to someone about your application:

please contact **Mark Webster, Janet Hetherington** or **Barbara Emadi-Coffin**

telephone: 01782 294793/92

e-mail: creativecommunities@staffs.ac.uk

or:

Kate Gant

Telephone: 0121 778 5695

Email kate@creativityteam.co.uk

Or visit our website:

web: www.staffs.ac.uk/community

Background Information

The arts have a long history in the act of healing. Healing, not only of the body but of the heart and mind is part of our whole lives, the arts are a crucial part of this process.

Arts and Health work has grown tremendously in recent years, with sophisticated delivery of projects having a marked impact on both communities and health services alike. There are many examples all over the UK (and beyond) of innovative and creative partnership working with Strategic Health Authorities, NHS Hospital, Primary Care and Mental Health Trusts, as well as statutory and voluntary arts and health organisations. More information about Arts and Health projects across the West Midlands is available at <http://www.creative-remedies.org.uk> and <http://www.praxisartsandhealth.org.uk/>

The Artist Professional Development Programme aims to support people committed to participatory work and interested in developing their practice in a health context. This includes a range of work for example promoting individual choice around a health issue; supporting people to be involved in local decision making through public involvement projects; design projects within healthcare buildings; de-stigmatising mental health issues; professional development of healthcare staff; training of medical students; and so on.

The West Midlands has a strong reputation in developing and delivering Arts and Health work within local communities, in partnership with key health organisations. It is a key area of focus for many Local Authorities and Arts Council England, West Midlands. Work in the West Midlands has gained both national and regional recognition, which in turn has led to a confidence in this type of work.

Professional Development is perhaps the single most important issue within a currently growing arts and health infrastructure. It is crucial to develop high quality opportunities for artists working with the health and community sectors in order to stimulate growth in their employment, develop new skills and ensure they feel supported in what can be stressful and isolating environments.

As links with health partners get stronger so does the demand for Arts and Health initiatives and programmes. Many Arts Development Officers share a common issue, the need for more, locally based, specialist artists to deliver quality Arts for Health work .

Glossary of Key Terms

The Programme	Arts and Health: Artist Professional Development Programme
Commission	A health-based project. People will receive expenses to deliver the Commission
creativityteam.org	The team of independent arts and health workers, Karen Bell and Kate Gant, who were commissioned to undertake the initial research to develop the pilot Programme. They are developing and facilitating this Programme.
Workshop Programme	A series of workshops for artists.
University Certificate	A short course accredited at Staffordshire University level three (third year degree equivalent) and at Masters Level (15 credits). The University is responsible for ensuring academic standards are met.