

## **Associate Artist-Facilitator Brief - Skimstone Arts' Reaching Out**

We are seeking dynamic, passionate and innovative artists to collaborate with young people in their creation of new artwork to be showcased at the Reaching Out Festival in July 2019.

We are seeking artists with practice in various artforms, including:

- Visual Arts
- Animation
- Photography
- Film
- Drama & Theatre
- Spoken Word
- Music & Songwriting
- Other suggestions

### **About Reaching Out**

- Reaching Out is a brand-new project to establish young artist collectives & cultural activity in areas of Newcastle where young people face socio-economic disadvantage, isolation, and disengagement. We are working with groups in the areas of Walker, Byker, Blakelaw, and outer West Newcastle.
- Community partners, professional artists, producers and young people will collaborate to undertake studio workshop sessions in multiple artforms.
- These sessions will lead to original collections of new work produced by and with the young people; a Reaching Out Festival of events in community hubs; and a takeover event in a professional cultural venue in Summer 2019.
- Reaching Out is a result of long-term collaboration between Skimstone Arts, former Juice Festival & Newcastle City Council. The current staff team is made up of Skimstone Arts staff, former Juice Festival staff, and early career artists and producers from Team Juice and Skimstone's young leadership team.

### **About Skimstone Arts**

Skimstone Arts collaborates with diverse artists, researchers, individuals and communities, nationally and internationally. We produce multi-disciplinary touring work which reflects challenges, inspirations & personal stories in today's society.

We are trailblazers in youth arts leadership. Our Young Artist Collective encompasses under-represented and severely marginalised young people, who produce acclaimed new work and events that have been platformed at cultural venues and conferences across the region and beyond. Reaching Out aims to replicate and develop this model in new settings.

We deliver training for artists and cultural venues working with diverse communities and young people.

Our long-term collaboration with former long-term partner Juice Festival culminated with 'Our Time', a museum takeover designed by Team Juice which won the 2017 Journal Culture Award for Youth Achievement.

Following the end of Juice Festival, we merged the former freelance team into Skimstone to co-design and co-lead this project.

## **Who we would like to work with us**

We are recruiting a pool of associate artist-facilitators to work with us to deliver the Reaching Out programme. Artists will have the opportunity to work with one or more small groups of young people aged 14-25 in different community settings to establish young artist studios and deliver collaborative studio sessions supporting them to explore themes, learn new arts skills, and create new art work together to be showcased at a mini festival in July 2019.

### **Essential Requirements**

- Relevant experience as an artist
- A proven commitment to and interest in working collaboratively with young people
- Experience of working with young people
- Experience of facilitating sessions, especially in community and/or school settings
- Regular availability for afternoon/evening sessions
- Based in the North East

### **Personal Qualities**

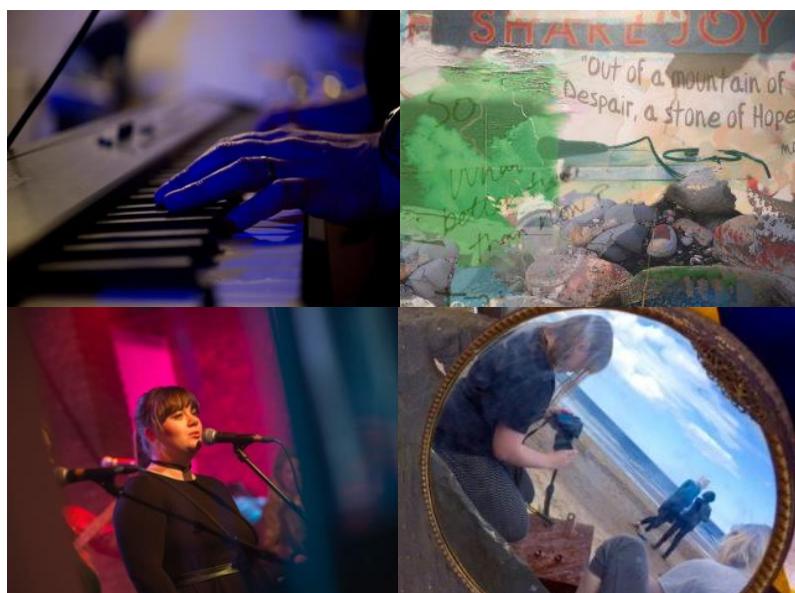
- Excited and inspired about collaborating with young people
- Hardworking and committed
- Able and willing to respond to the needs and ideas of different young people and different settings
- Confident in your artistic practice and keen to develop your practice
- Able and willing to develop positive relationships with other artists and staff

### **What we offer you**

- Targeted support to help with planning and delivery to fulfil the needs and aims the project and of our partners
- Support to value existing skills and nurture artistic participatory practice
- Being part of a company that believes in sharing and reflecting on journeys, embracing risk and challenges, and celebrating achievements.
- A platform to showcase the quality of the process and products at the Reaching Out Festival

*"Skimstone Arts have helped me develop myself as a human by challenging me, helping and encouraging me through my darkest times."*

Skimstone Leadership Team member and young artist



*"[working with] Skimstone Arts was a rewarding and exciting experience with the freedom to experiment and collaborate with the young people"*

Previous Skimstone Arts Artist in residence

## **How to express interest and practical details**

To express your interest please send the following documents to [rachel@skimstone.org.uk](mailto:rachel@skimstone.org.uk) no later than **Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Feb**:

- A CV outlining your work including any links to your work.
- A 1-2 page cover letter (no more than 2 sides of A4) or a 3 minute video outlining why you are interested in working with us, and what skills and experience you would like to bring to the project.

## **Interview discussions**

We will hold interview discussions with shortlisted artists on **Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** afternoon/evening at our studio in Newcastle, please indicate the time you are available for this date in your application, you will be notified no later than end of day Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## **Training Session**

If successful, you are required to attend a 3-hour training session exploring company practice and procedures with Artistic Director Claire Webster Saaremets. You will be paid a fee of £90 to attend.

We are running a training session on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am-1pm. We understand this is short notice therefore please indicate in your expression of interest if you are able to attend this slot.

## **Fees**

Lead artist fees for this project include planning/prep and travel. There is a small budget for materials. Artists will be paid:

- £90 per 2-hour session
- £250 per day long session

## **Project Duration**

Reaching Out is a 3-year project currently entering its second year. This upcoming phase of the project is planned until end of Summer 2019, with activity expected to continue in September 2019 onwards.

We are seeking artists who can make a commitment to working with weekly groups, over a longer period of time. We are recruiting for a pool of associates, we will allocate sessions and artists following consultation/taster sessions with the young people based on their interests.

## **Practical needs**

To commence work with us you will need:

- Public Liability Insurance with cover of up to £5 million
- A DBS check dated within the last 24 months, or details of your update service (we are able to process a DBS check for you if required, however this will limit when you are able to start delivering sessions)
- To attend a training session with our Artistic Director
- Details of two references who you have worked with recently.

If you have any questions, please contact [rachel@skimstone.org.uk](mailto:rachel@skimstone.org.uk)