

Freelance Lead Artist/Writer

REFRAME: Inspire Schools 2024-25

In partnership with Southbank Centre and Apple

- Fee of £10,000 (40 days)
- Birmingham-based contract

About the opportunity:

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) is looking to recruit an experienced freelance Artist/Writer-Facilitator to lead on a creative programme for five secondary schools in Birmingham. This person will be responsible for the planning and delivery of creative workshops in schools and will be supported by a variety of additional Artist-Educators throughout.

About the project:

The REFRAME: Inspire Schools Project gets students working collaboratively with Artist-Educators to produce a series of digital 'zines', weaving poetry, visual art and digital skills to create their own online material, supported by Apple technology. This project aims to inspire young people to take a creative subject for GCSE.

This project is part of a bigger partnership between Midlands Arts Centre (Birmingham), Southbank Centre (London) and Factory International (Manchester) that develops a new creative digital programme for secondary school students.

Creative brief:

This post is for a lead Artist/Writer-Facilitator to take their creative brief from an exhibition by the artist Tavares Strachan called *There is Light Somewhere* currently on at the Hayward Gallery in London.

Tavares Strachan: There is Light Somewhere is the first mid-career survey of the New York-based, Bahamian artist. Strachan imaginatively expands the boundaries of contemporary art with this multimedia exhibition, celebrating unsung explorers and cultural trailblazers, inviting audiences to engage with overlooked characters whose stories represent and illuminate histories hidden by bias, centred around Strachan's *Encyclopaedia of Invisibility*.

This project aims to inspire students to explore their own histories and communities for new role models and champions.

Your role is to:

- Visit the exhibition - *There Is Light Somewhere* at Hayward Gallery with the students on 8th July and to be inspired and research ideas.
- Organise a schedule of workshops at schools in the autumn term with one class of young people from each school. Each class will have five days of workshops to make the zines delivered by professional artist-facilitators.
- Ensure that the students create a collaborative class zine, exploring themes of invisible histories, using digital technology, consisting of poetry and digital art.
- Ensure that all zines will be collated together to form an online exhibition and contribute to Tavares Strachan's *Encyclopaedia of Invisibility* public project.
- Deliver a celebration event at MAC for the students to attend in spring 2025.

About you:

Essential

- Excellent delivery skills – specifically creative writing, poetry and story-telling with an ability to teach interdisciplinary creative sessions.
- Ability to connect with young people and facilitate space within a school or learning context.
- Experience of using digital technology to enhance creativity.
- Reliable, collaborative, and able to work as part of a team.
- Excellent planning and organisational skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding young people.
- Enhanced DBS certification.
- Based in the West Midlands/Birmingham.

Desirable

- Experience of delivering workshops with young people using technology.
- Experience delivering projects with young people with Special Educational Needs.
- A car user with access to a vehicle.

Budgets and timeline:

The fee available is £250 per day, inclusive of travel, and is anticipated to include 35-40 days. This is broken down into workshop delivery, planning days, training days and event launch participation.

Mon 20 May 2024	Applications close
Fri 23 May 2024	Interview at MAC
Tue 2 June 2024	Project devising day in London, travel provided
Mon 8 July 2024	Schools visit to Southbank Centre, project starts
Aug 2024	Project training
Sep/Oct 2024	Teacher CPD (1-2 dates)
Oct to Dec 2024	Project delivered in schools, 5 delivery days in each school
Mar 2024	Local celebration event

How to apply

If you are interested in working with us, please express your interest by providing:

- Your CV & a short covering letter, highlighting how you meet the person criteria and why you're interested in the project (max 300 words)

OR

- A video (no longer than 3 minutes) detailing your experience and how you meet the person criteria and why you're interested in the project.

We want the diversity of our team to reflect the diversity of our communities and we are particularly keen to hear from artist-facilitators from global majority backgrounds.

If you require any of this information in another format or have any access requirements to complete your expression of interest please get in touch on administrationteam@macbirmingham.co.uk or 0121 446 3200.

Expressions of interest should be submitted for the attention of Alison Litherland to administrationteam@macbirmingham.co.uk by the application deadline, **Monday 20 May 2024, 12 midday**.

About Midlands Arts Centre

First opened in 1962, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) is a pioneering arts centre and charity, with a mission to make art an important part of people's lives. Set in the magnificent surroundings of Cannon Hill Park, MAC specialises in contemporary work, providing arts opportunities for all.

MAC is a 'seeing, doing and making' venue and we are proud to offer a busy programme of theatre, independent cinema, visual arts exhibitions, creative courses and special events. MAC is a national leader in developing work with children, young people, and families. We work extensively to support international and local artists, and develop programmes for and with the local community.