BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS LIGHTPOOL PROGRAMME

Community Engagement Producer Role

Introduction

Blackpool Illuminations is a cultural phenomenon delivering a remarkable annual lightshow that is internationally recognised. Our autumn 4-month event stretches over 6 miles of the famous promenade. Central to our ambitious creative vision is the commissioning of high quality innovative light artwork from nationally and international light artists.

The Illuminations are fundamental to place making and tourism in the North West, significantly contributing to economic growth in Blackpool and Lancashire

In the past 6 years the Illuminations has developed the Lightpool Festival, a light art showcase for contemporary light art works, many of which are commissioned or co commissioned with a wide range of partners.

Blackpool Illuminations' and Lightpool has a continually developing programme of artists' talent support and creative community engagement.

The illuminations also contribute to social community cohesion through public participation and engagement activity integral to the Lightpool festival.

Our Purpose

- Develop Blackpool Illuminations and Lightworks as a creative centre where artists, light technology companies, university innovation teams and inter/national partners come together to experiment, share expertise, & create new experiences for audiences and touring.
- Deliver meaningful opportunities for our communities to creatively engage with the Illuminations and Lightpool Festival by collaborating with the community, co-curating and co-producing work with local and visiting artists.
- Creating employment opportunities for local and regional creatives
- Deliver world class light art installations reaching local people and millions of visitors (presently 3M with the majority being low and non-art engagers).
- Develop strategic cultural tourism offer working with Blackpool's cultural venues, independents, and the wider creative industries.
- Reframe negative perceptions of Blackpool through positive national media coverage of our unique offer and through the export of our expertise and works inter/nationally.
- Play a key role as a lead partner in the Light Up the North Network.
- Raise the level of investment in Blackpool Illuminations to secure future sustainability.
- Share our industry expertise and technology in the wider sector to improve sustainable environmental practice in creation and production of light works.

National Portfolio Organisation

Blackpool Illuminations was successful in becoming a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England for the investment period 2023-2026. We are the only light sector organisation in the Arts Council portfolio. The NPO funding is to enable:

- Commissioning of new light art for the Blackpool Illuminations display and Lightpool Festival collaborating with national and international artists who have an interest in innovative, experimental light work that incorporates new technology

- Delivery of an extensive talent development programme for light and digital artists and other light-based practitioners e.g artists in residence opportunities. Support in creating new work using the expertise of the Illuminations team and the amazing facilities at Lightworks, the Illuminations manufacturing facility at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone;
- Expansion of cocreation activity within the Illuminations and Lightpool offer by work with the communities of Blackpool in partnership with local cultural partners such as LeftCoast, Old Electric, and the Grand Theatre to provide year-round activity. Working with children, young people, and local communities and prioritising individuals and communities with protected characteristics to creatively take part and present work to a wider audience during the Illuminations season and as part of Lightpool Festival.

Lightpool Festival

Lightpool Festival is staged over October half-term, established in 2016, is a key event in Blackpool Illuminations annual light programme. The 2022 event featured 16 nights of free entertainment including a spectacular mix of light-based art installations, stunning live performances, family-friendly activities, and 3D projection shows. It showcased new installations and artwork never seen before in the UK, with international works from France and the Netherlands, and Odyssey, the largest 3D light installation every created by the Illuminations team.

Blackpool Illuminations with Lightpool is a key partner of Light Up The North, a network of nine northern light festivals which have come together to share their collective expertise to support both the development of the partner festivals and the wider sector. Through regional, national, and international networking and collaboration LUTN nurtures artistic ambition through artist and producer development, co-commissioning, and joint fundraising. Arts Council England has invested in the work of LUTN since 2015 enabling the network to grow considerably in membership, in sharing its sector knowledge and expertise with a wide range of peers nationally and in connecting with international light festivals.

Lightpool Festival 2024

18-26 October

Community Engagement Producer Role

Title: Community Engagement Producer for the Lightpool Programme

Reports to: Artistic Director for Lightpool

Responsible for: Community projects, volunteers

Located at: Peripatetic across Blackpool so some travel; access to hot desk facilities at Lightworks, Shorebury Point, Amy Johnson Way, South Shore FY4 2RL (home of Blackpool Illuminations Team)

The Community Engagement Producer will lead, develop and deliver a new innovative creative community programme of workshops, events and projects, engaging with our local community, third sector organisations and business partners and developing projects with our local creatives and cultural sector organisations. The Community Engagement Producer will target groups who do not usually engage with the Lightpool Festival and break down barriers to increase cultural participation and create long term relationships.

The key responsibilities of the role are as follows:

- Develop and Implement a Community Engagement plan, which creates and nurtures a positive relationship between Blackpool Illuminations, the Lightpool Festival and wider stakeholders.
- Ensure appropriate and effective evaluation of sessions and projects, monitoring and reporting outcomes to share with funders and other partners.
- Manage and develop partnerships with a range of organisations and individuals.
- Developing relationships with community leaders to build support for community initiatives.
- Manage all Community programme budgets and schedules.
- Work with the Artistic Director to define target audiences for Community programmes and develop marketing plans and content to reach them.
- Develop new initiatives for Community Programming in line with Blackpool Illumination's strategy for the Lightpool programme.
- Devise and deliver programming which diversifies the Lightpool audience and extends its reach, particularly to individuals or groups with barriers to access.
- Identify the needs and interests of the local community to reduce barriers to participation.

General

- Be a champion for the Creative Case for Diversity of Arts Council England to ensure best practice through a proactive approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Work openly with the whole team to enable communication, transparency and efficiency.
- Day-to-day management of events, ensuring smooth delivery and an exemplary experience for participants.
- Represent the Blackpool Illuminations Lightpool Programme in local and regional networks as required and substitute for Artistic Director when necessary.
- Contribute to sub groups in Lightpool team, as reasonably requested
- Undertake any professional development or other duties as reasonably requested by the Director/ Senior Leadership Team
- Willingness to undertake out of hours work during weekends and evenings
- Implement the Leave No Trace plan so all sites are restored to be as good or better as how we found them
- Assist with the preparation of an impact report to bring together insights and learning from the work, to present to funders and other stakeholders.
- Build positive relationships and maintain sustainable partnerships with participants and staff onsite and offsite.
- Deliver presentations to various audiences including volunteers, patrons, senior management, artists and practitioners, Trustees, and conference attendees.
- Ensure that the Community programme contributes to and complies with best practice, including legal compliance, data management, safe-guarding, volunteer support and risk management.

REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES

What we require:

Practical:

- To have capacity and flexibility to deliver activity at key times during the year in Blackpool (Lightpool is usually the last week in October)
- In-date documentation to demonstrate you are eligible and qualified to undertake the work (eg, work-permit, insurances etc.)
- Ability to work outside of regular working hours in response to the needs of the project.
- A drivers' license and access to your own vehicle is desirable.

Experience:

- Experience of working with a variety of communities on creative projects
- Experience of commissioning artists to work with communities.
- Experience of planning, organising and hosting community workshops, events etc. and leading on the organising and management of all health and safety aspects of delivering projects with participants from the community.
- Experience of monitoring and evaluation, writing reports and managing a modest project budget (up to 20k)
- Experience of developing (strategic) programmes of work working with a range of key stakeholders.

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of Blackpool, Wyre and the North West of England is desirable.
- Knowledge of the light art festival sector is desirable.
- An awareness of socially engaged arts practice and how that can be accessed by communities to create high quality and transformational creative projects.
- An understanding of how local public sector bodies work (e.g., how they are funded, what outcomes they serve etc.)
- Good understanding of partnership work with art and non-art agencies for more joined up working.
- Knowledge of monitoring and evaluation tools and techniques for projects.
- Knowledge of social media platforms and how to utilise them to support community engagement.

Skills and Personal characteristics

- A strong and positive communicator including very good listening and negotiating skills
- A dynamic, creative thinker and problem-solver
- Passionate about breaking down the barriers to the enjoyment of, and participation in, the arts
- A self-starter able to priorities workload and ask for help when needed.
- Ability to work flexibly, innovatively and creatively.
- Understands the needs and aspirations of both diverse communities and creative people.
- Entrepreneurial, with great initiative and drive

Terms of Freelance Contract

- Initial contract term January 2024 to March 2025
- The Fee is £18,600; daily rate £220 per day for 80 days
- Travel and subsistence allowance of up to £800
- Fixed Term to end March 2025 with opportunity to extend for further 12 months
- You will be required to enter into a formal freelance services contract with Blackpool Council
- You must have a Unique Tax Reference Number
- You must have your own public liability to the value of £10 million and professional indemnity insurance to the value of £5million

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to speak informally about this role, please contact Phil Holmes, Artistic Director for Lightpool on 07713 554905 or email phil@lightpool.org.uk

TO APPLY PLEASE PROVIDE

2 relevant referees, current cv and letter of application setting out how you meet the person specification – qualifications, knowledge, experience, skills and personal characteristics.

Blackpool Illuminations NPO wants to meet the aims and commitments set out in its equality policy. This includes not discriminating under the Equality Act 2010, and building an accurate picture of the make-up of the workforce in encouraging equality and diversity.

We need your help and co-operation to enable us to do this, by completing our Equality and Diversity form. The form is voluntary, and the information provided is kept confidential and used for monitoring purposes only and is not connected to your application.

Closing date for applications is: 5pm 2 January 2024

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview: 10 January 2024 AM, 12 January 2024 PM