



**FREELANCE
ARTIST CURATOR**

JOB PACK

EAST ST ARTS

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Cover letter

Hello,

We are so pleased that you are interested in this post. If you don't already know us – East Street Arts is a creative social enterprise and charity. Our key focus is to support artists to develop their work and careers. Through creating space for making art, social events and learning opportunities we aim to make our neighbourhoods and cities better places to live and work.

Our work can be seen on buildings, as part of the high street and in neighbourhoods and you can find more information on our website: <https://www.eaststreetarts.org.uk/>

In collaboration with Leeds 2023 we are developing a programme of research and learning to further develop the work we do in the public realm through our programme, 'A City Less Grey' and are looking for an Artist-Curator with a keen interest and experience in Public Art.

Leeds 2023 is a year long celebration of culture across Leeds, managed by the newly set up Leeds Culture Trust the programme will include 12 signature events and a multitude of creative experiences happening all over the city. From dance to design, art to architecture, poetry to pop, sculpture to sport, grassroots community theatre to performances on world-class stages.

Since 2016 East Street Arts have been developing and delivering work within the street art programme 'A City Less Grey' as a response to artists feedback that there is a clear lack of paid opportunities to develop their work in the public realm, and exploration into how their art work can make our neighbourhoods, streets and city centres creative and unique.

'A City Less Grey' was developed as a programme title and an initial approach taking inspiration from the Mayor of Tirana, Albania, Edi Rama who decided to paint their houses bright colours to combat a dark grey landscape. We are not comparing Leeds with Tirana described by Rama as a 'grey and dingy city after the downfall of communism' but we were impressed by the result of

bringing colour into the capital.

"When hope is visual, there's a very strong engine there to work with it and live with it. That's why people reconnected with the city." he noted.

Our research, including benchmarking visits to other cities and regions in the UK and abroad, has illustrated to us the complexities and benefits of a vibrant street art programme.

This role will work closely with the Artist Support team and the Programme team at East Street Arts to research artists working in the public realm (locally, nationally and internationally), assess access needs to widen artists commissions and community involvement, develop potential partnerships, input into a new learning programme and develop the curatorial and strategic approach to programming 'A City Less Grey' going forward.

We encourage applications from everyone. Self-definition is at the sole discretion of the individual.

We are happy to make reasonable adjustments to the application process, the way we work and our working environment to adapt to the needs of artists experiencing access barriers.

If you would like to have a conversation about access, just get in touch – our contact details can be found at the end of this information pack.

We are developing a programme of research and learning to further develop the work we do in the public realm.

Context

Since 2016 East Street Arts has developed and delivered over ten significant pieces of work, supporting both Leeds based artists to develop work on a new scale or using new materials to expand their experiences and skills, whilst connecting with their city in a different way. And bringing artists into Leeds from Sheffield, Lisbon and other places to bring new voices and styles.

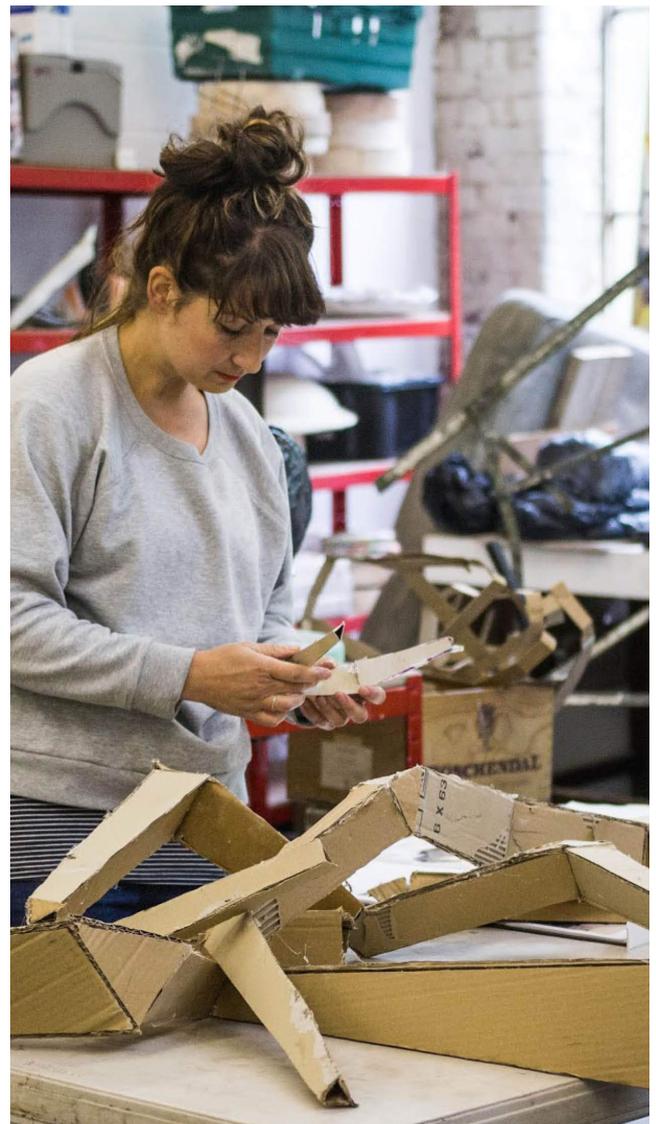
Notable pieces like the Hare of Harehills, by East Street Arts studio holder Ian Kirkpatrick, have been embedded within a community and have been developed through interaction and engagement with schools, community groups, businesses and individuals in Harehills. Other pieces have recognised and developed emerging artists such as Nomad Clan from Huddersfield who has developed an iconic piece, Athena Rising on the side of the Platform building in the centre of Leeds.

All projects in their different ways raised the profile, opened up conversations and engaged new people in what we think of when we talk about Street Art. For example we received feedback from a range of businesses in the city centre including Network Rail who had a positive response to the art work and were interested in partnering to develop further work. We worked with schools and children in Kirkstall and Harehills who engaged for the first time with issues around public space.

'A City Less Grey' has had proven impact on Leeds city centre and neighbourhoods:

- From feedback through Leeds BID businesses have increasingly become more engaged in conversations about supporting projects in the public realm to make Leeds stand out, and have opened up new relationships and partners.
- From our engagement activities in the neighbourhoods we work in such as the dedicated stall we had as part of the Harehills gala, participants new to art have contributed to the work and discussions about their public spaces.
- The project has won regional and national planning and architectural awards raising the profile of the artists and Leeds.

East Street Arts needs to further develop the work it does in the public realm through our programme, 'A City Less Grey', moving from a purely responsive programme to one that has a curatorial and strategic approach. This will open up access for a wider range of artists and develop a model of community co-creation, whilst consolidating the infrastructure needed to evaluate, monitor and maintain the work delivered.



Context

The Role

Duties

Curatorial

- Research artists currently working in the public realm (locally, nationally and internationally) and develop approaches to practice, including socially engaged, community co-creation and process-based.
 - Research access issues and barriers to artists with protected characteristics developing work and careers within this area of practice.
 - Develop partnerships with curators, commissioners, festivals, and stakeholders leading on new work and opening possibilities to a wide range of artists.
 - Explore the history and heritage in Leeds of art in the public realm including links to existing studies and evaluations of historic pieces.
 - Explore the context and current projects delivered through 'A City Less Grey' to inform future curatorial decisions.
 - Working closely with senior staff to develop a curatorial approach and to suggest artists for the programme going forward.
 - Working closely with senior staff at East Street Arts and Leeds 2023 to explore a commission or series of commissions for the 2023 festival.
- Commission new writing/podcasts/films on relevant topics around art in the public realm that reflects the learning of this project, Leeds 2023 developments and supporting the new Leeds Public Art network.
 - Archive and make accessible the A City Less Grey programme
 - Research University modules focused on this area and an outline of student experience
 - Work to demystify to communities the process of Public Art, ensuring they feel involved and knowledgeable about how decisions are made and pieces are realised.
 - Research and open discussions with a range of artists in partnership with Leeds 2023 and new commissions.

We actively encourage applications from people who identify as being from a marginalised community and have a strong track record of working with artists who don't usually get opportunities through public art commissions.

Learning and infrastructure

- Support East Street Arts to manage and develop a new active network in Leeds focused on Public Art.
- Support East Street Arts and Leeds 2023 to develop and deliver a range of workshops and artists/curator talks (outlined in this brief)
- Develop a good practice guide on commissioning/decommissioning, evaluating and maintaining works in the public realm that can also fill a vital gap for a national resource for commissioners on how to approach Public Art.
- Develop a resource aimed at practitioners that includes and signposts to good think pieces, toolkits, key organisations/networks and opportunities.



Commission

Fee: £10,800

Length of post: 9 months 2 days a week @
£150 per day

This post will line-managed by East Street Arts
Engagement Lead.

The exact nature of this post, including time
commitments, can be determined with the
artist-curator. Ideally we are looking for people
who are committed to social change, have
demonstrable experience in research, and an
active interest in public art.

East Street Arts will offer a large volume of
in-kind support spanning workspace, research
support, producing capacity and guidance
where needed.

How to Apply

Please submit:

- A proposal of no more than 2 pages that
outlines your approach to the project and role
- A breakdown of your previous experience in
research and/or delivering associated learning
programmes
- A reference

If you would prefer to make a proposal by video
or voice recording, it should be no longer than
5 minutes and be provided as a google link.

Proposals are due for submission by 5pm
Friday 31st December

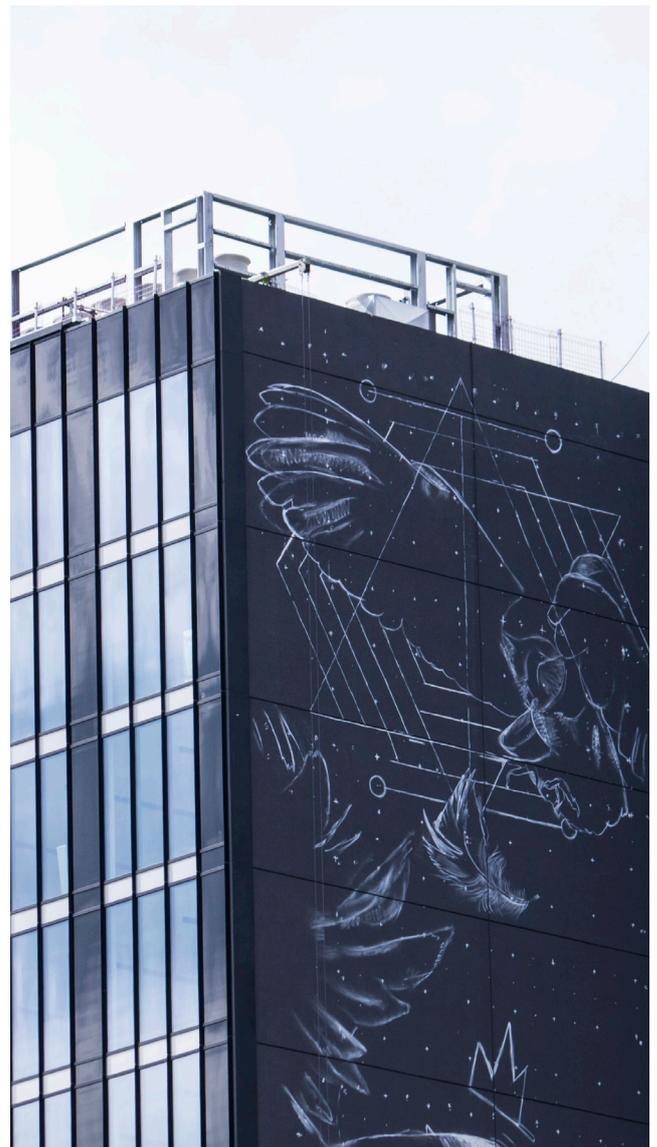
Please submit to: helen.moore@esamail.org.uk

We will aim to get back to you within four
weeks.

**If selected you will be invited to an informal
interview w/c 17 January**

We are happy to accommodate this as a virtual
or in-person meeting.

If you are interested but need more information
before applying, we would love to hear from
you. Please contact: Helen Moore, Engagement
Lead on helen.moore@esamail.org.uk





EAST ST ARTS

making space for artists

registered charity 1077401

eaststreetarts.org.uk

[@eaststreetarts](https://www.instagram.com/eaststreetarts)



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