

Finding a community artist/cultural practitioner

This worksheet provides information on how and where to search for a community artist/cultural animator when you are planning a residency.

(This might be described as community, socially engaged or arts with a social impact).

Start by finding a community arts/cultural animation organisation that works in or near the area where your project is planned.

Talk with them about how they can help. This might be:

If you cannot find an organisation involved in community arts or cultural facilitation. Look for a cultural centre, museum, theatre, gallery or other arts organisation nearby and approach them for this kind of support.

You might also find a university or college that provides community arts/cultural animation courses and who can support you in this process.

Prepare a brief and a person specification with input from the community.

Circulate details of the opportunity as widely as you can.

Allow at least 2 weeks and up to 6 weeks between advertising the opportunity and the deadline for responses.

Provide contact details so that an artist/cultural practitioner can approach you for further information.

Think about...

... how the artist will demonstrate their suitability and skills in the selection process. Rather than an interview, try to provide an opportunity for the artist to provide illustrations of their work or their experience of working with communities.

Top tips

When writing a brief for your residency:

Provide background information about the residency and the community. This can be a film or written document.

Describe what you want to achieve in a set of clear objectives.

Consider all the practical issues and describe these clearly. Include all the essential requirements that the artist/cultural practitioner must meet (for example insurance or permission to work with children).

Keep an open mind on artform – you might be surprised by the creative ideas that artists provide in response to your brief.



Selection process checklist

- Project managing the residency for you.
- Using an artist/cultural practitioner that they know or employ who has suitable skills and experience.
- Recruiting an artist/cultural practitioner on your behalf.
- Supporting you in the advertising and selection process.
- Providing advice and guidance.

Including

- Job listings websites for artists/cultural practitioners and community work.
- Send details to members of the community and ask them to publicise it.
- Post the opportunity on community websites, social media sites and notice boards.
- Send details of the opportunity to local arts organisations, community organisations and local service providers.

(See the worksheet on How to design a participatory Selection Process).