

## Artist-Curator Traineeships 2023

Fixed term contracts for 18 months

Start Date: 26 September 2023

0.8 FTE - 30 hours per week usually across four days

Salary: Real Living Wage – currently £10.90p/h (£17,004 per annum)

**Closing Date for Applications:** Monday 5 June 2023, 10pm

**Interviews:** Week of 10 July

We are looking for two aspiring artist-curators to work with us for 18 months.

Artist-curators organise their own reality and arrange things and thoughts in space and time to make their ideas possible. Artist-curating is a self-taught profession which you learn through hands on experience. To gain the practical and creative knowledge and skills you require, you need to work with others, collaborate and be open to learning from everyone around you.

These roles are designed to support aspiring or emerging artist-curators - people who may, or may not, have the confidence to define themselves as an artist, artist-curator, artist-maker or artist-organiser at the moment, but know they want to use art to make their own projects, exhibitions or organisations as artworks in the future.

### WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- \* You will have an active creative practice
- \* You will probably be the person who organises things. These may be exhibitions or art projects but equally you might be organising in non-art settings - putting on events that bring people together or developing community projects (for example).
- \* You will be a creative thinker and a good problem solver who isn't afraid to suggest ideas, use their own initiative and think quickly to find solutions to creative and practical challenges.
- \* You will be a quick learner, who enjoys taking responsibility and feels comfortable working in a fast-paced, responsive and reactive environment. You'll be excited by situations where you are doing things you haven't done before or where you don't quite know what is coming next.
- \* You will enjoy being hands on – some of the time you will be responsible for core administration in the office at other times you will be involved in exhibition installation, supporting events, offsite projects with different communities and assisting artists.

- \* You will be interested in contemporary visual arts in particular, and culture in its broadest terms.
- \* You will be a confident communicator who enjoys meeting, talking to and working with and around all kinds of people.

Please note these roles cannot be combined with education so please do not apply if you are currently enrolled on a course.

You do not need a degree to apply but you will need to have comparable experience gained through an apprenticeship, work experience or by developing your own projects. You need to be over 18 years old.

Eastside Projects is committed to being a truly inclusive organisation. We treat all job applications equally, regardless of race, class, age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any other equality characteristic. We particularly encourage applications from groups who are underrepresented in the cultural sector including working class people, disabled people and people with global majority heritage.

## WHO WILL YOU WORK WITH

Eastside Projects does not have 'departments' and is run by a very small team so you will have the opportunity to work alongside and learn from a range of people with different approaches and experiences.

They will include Artist Curator Gavin Wade, Artist Maker Ruth Claxton, Offsite Curator Zoe Sawyer, Artist Caretaker Amelia Hawk, our current Artist Curator Trainees Jaz Morrison and Dinosaur Kilby, artists, artist-curators, freelance technicians, partner organisations, volunteers, EOP members, our advisory board, exhibition visitors and communities beyond the gallery.

## ONLINE PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

If you have any questions about the role please join us for an informal, online pre-application workshop on **Thursday 4 May, 6–7pm**. Ruth Claxton, Dinosaur Kilby and Jaz Morrison will lead the session, talk about the role, and Eastside Projects and answer questions you might have. Book your place [HERE](#).

So everyone can participate freely the pre application workshop **will not** be recorded. If you can't make it, or have any questions or difficulties with this process, please get in touch. You can email us on [info@eastsideprojects.org](mailto:info@eastsideprojects.org) or call on 0121 771 1778

## ABOUT EASTSIDE PROJECTS

Eastside Projects Makes Art Public

WE AIM TO SUSTAIN! COLLABORATE! BE OPEN! EMBED!

Eastside Projects is an artist-run multiverse based in a free public gallery in Digbeth. We say multiverse because 'organisation' or 'space' are not enough. We mean that we imagine Eastside Projects as a process, as a place where multiple narratives and experiences coexist, where we make visible an evolving set of possible realities.

Since 2008 we have been commissioning artists, making art, thinking-in-public, curating exhibitions, programming events, working alongside communities, building relationships, creating production facilities, supporting artists, producing public art projects, generating and applying research, developing talent, training artist-curators, imagining new realities and creating structures to support artists locally, nationally and internationally and testing what an Artist-Led space can be.

We recommend you familiarize yourself with our organisation and programme before making an application. For more information visit [www.eastsideprojects.org](http://www.eastsideprojects.org).

## WHAT WILL YOU DO? WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

As an artist-curator trainee you will need all the skills listed below, however at this stage we don't imagine any applicants will be able to demonstrate all of them. As we are recruiting a team of two trainee artist curators the list below outlines the areas you will cover between you, the kind of activity you will both be involved in and the skills you will need. We anticipate you will bring some of these skills and attributes to the role but that you will also want to develop some of them whilst working with us.

During the traineeship you will have the opportunity to develop your own project as part of our artistic programme. You will be supported by Gavin, Ruth and the rest of the team, and given a budget to realise your idea. Check out previous projects by [Yasmyn Nettle](#), [Candice Nembhard](#), [Dinosaur Kilby](#) and [Jaz Morrison](#).

Take a look at the following list and then in your application tell us about what skills you already have, your relevant experience, what you think your strengths are, and also what areas or skills you would like to develop during the 18 months with us.

Area	Skills and Attributes
Supporting Communities	<p><b>Hosting Skills. Communication skills. Creative skills. Organisational skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Able to make everyone feel welcome and included.</li> <li>* Interested in people, and happy to meet and talk to visitors.</li> <li>* Comfortable discussing art, culture and ideas with people with different backgrounds and experiences.</li> <li>* Comfortable speaking to groups and introducing Eastside Projects and the projects we make in formal and informal settings.</li> <li>* Able to respond creatively to ideas, artworks, exhibitions and projects to help devise, plan and deliver hands on sessions and community workshops.</li> </ul>
Supporting Artists	<p><b>People skills. Organisational skills. Communication skills. Research skills. Practical skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Excited by working directly with artists to help them make artworks, exhibitions and projects.</li> <li>* Able to build good relationships, communicate clearly, solve problems and work to deadlines.</li> <li>* Able to find solutions - source and order equipment and materials, organise travel and accommodation, anticipate issues and communicate them to others.</li> <li>* Emotionally intelligent and sensitive to different working styles.</li> <li>* Comfortable working in a responsive, process-led environments.</li> <li>* Interested in sharing knowledge, introducing people and connecting them to each other.</li> </ul>
Supporting Eastside Projects	<p><b>Organisational Skills. Communication skills. Administrative skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Self-starting – proactive, bold and able to come up with your own ideas and solutions.</li> <li>* Able to be flexible and adaptable.</li> <li>* Methodical - able to follow processes and instructions and prioritise to complete tasks on time.</li> <li>* Confident computer user who is happy to do the boring stuff (sometimes) to support the administrative and operational functions of the organisation.</li> </ul>
Supporting Events	<p><b>Organisational skills. Technical skills. Creative skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Interested in the way events can expand exhibitions and projects, explore ideas and create deep experiences for audiences.</li> <li>* Interested in putting forward ideas for events and contributors.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Able to anticipate requirements and issues and liaise with other staff leading events.</li> <li>* Able to set up projectors and sound equipment.</li> <li>* Able to use photography, film and/or audio to document events.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Projects</b>	<p><b>Practical skills. People skills. Organisational skills. Communication skills. Research skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Invested in contemporary art and keen to introduce new artists and ideas to Eastside Projects.</li> <li>* Interested in Eastside Projects curatorial approach.</li> <li>* Happy to get your hands dirty.</li> <li>* Able to provide practical support during installation and work with freelance technicians, the EP team and artists to prepare the gallery and produce new exhibitions and artworks.</li> <li>* Interested in working beyond the gallery with different communities, sites and contexts.</li> <li>* Empathetic and approachable. Able to work with a wide range of people from different backgrounds.</li> <li>* Good negotiation skills.</li> <li>* Good verbal communication skills.</li> </ul>
<b>Sending Messages</b>	<p><b>Digital Skills. Communication skills. Networking skills. Research skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Happy creating content for websites, eflyers and other platforms to communicate what we do.</li> <li>* Able to use Wordpress to manage websites.</li> <li>* Confident user of social media.</li> <li>* Good research skills.</li> <li>* Good written English - able to write confidently about events, exhibitions, artists and art and communicate ideas to different audiences.</li> <li>* Happy being the point of contact for enquiries.</li> </ul>
<b>Taking Care</b>	<p><b>People skills. Organisational Skills. Communication skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Good collaborator who thrives when working with others.</li> <li>* Good attention to detail - able to spot when something needs tidying, sorting out or mending.</li> <li>* Able to deliver inductions and support placement students to develop useful experience, skills and networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Artist-Curating</b>	<p><b>People skills. Organisational Skills. Communication skills. Digital Skills. Networking skills. Research skills. Practical skills. Administrative skills. Hosting Skills.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Full of ideas for projects you want to realise</li><li>* Good intuition and anticipation.</li><li>* Good at maintaining relationships and following through on communication, collaboration, ideas and contacts – seeing a job through to the end or next stage.</li><li>* Not afraid to take risks.</li><li>* Action focused, not a procrastinator.</li><li>* Able to cope with unfamiliar situations.</li><li>* Keen to develop.</li><li>* Not afraid to fail.</li></ul>
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## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Pre-application Workshop:** Thursday 4 May, 6–7pm

**Closing Date for Applications:** Monday 5 June 2023, 10pm

**Shortlisted Candidates contacted:** Week of 26 June

**Interviews:** Week of 10 July. Shortlisted candidates will be able to meet us at Eastside Projects or on Zoom. If opting for a face-to-face interview we can offer up to £40 towards travel expenses.

To apply please complete and return an Application Form to [info@eastsideprojects.org](mailto:info@eastsideprojects.org) writing 'Artist Curator Traineeship' in the subject line of your email. Find the form [HERE](#). We aim to acknowledge receipt of your application within a week.

We anticipate the application process will be competitive. Unfortunately, as a very small team with limited capacity we are not able to offer individual feedback to applicants who are not shortlisted for interview.