

highlights

rural touring scheme

Highlights Rural Touring are seeking a Community Programmer.

We are looking for a Community Programmer to work alongside our Artistic Director and small staff team.

The successful candidate will work with schools and community venues to plan workshops and live events, sourcing and supporting professional artists to work within rural schools and communities. The role will support our valuable participation work with children and young people, as well as managing creative workshops in community spaces for people all ages.

About Highlights

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme connects over 85 rural communities, volunteer promoters and an ever-growing list of artists. Together we bring great arts and unmissable culture to rural areas, lighting up village halls, schools and community centres with music, dance, theatre, storytelling, arts and crafts.

Set up originally to work with isolated communities in the North Pennines, we now work across Cumbria (Westmorland & Furness), County Durham and Northumberland. Across the three counties, many communities have suffered from long term economic decline, resulting in pockets of high unemployment, poor transport links, declining local services and social isolation.

Our events bring people together in their local communities. Some of the venues are small and intimate, others are large and luxurious. We work with regional artists, as well as national and international artists to curate a vibrant programme of events. Alongside our live events programme, we work with schools and community providers across the three counties to programme a range of artist workshops.

We are one of 30 similar schemes which support professional arts in over 1,000 small, community venues throughout the UK, playing an important part in the social life and sustainability of their community and supported by the National Rural Touring Forum.

Highlights acknowledge that our work has an effect on the environment and has identified key aspects that could contribute to our carbon footprint and other negative impacts. As a staff, we have committed to the Investors in the Environment (IIE) accreditation process, achieving bronze in Autumn 2023 and working towards our silver.

More information is available on our website, including our [vision, mission and values](#).

Job description: Community Programmer

Salary: £15,842 (£13.54/hr) to £16,474.50 (£14.08/hr). Dependent on experience.

Pension: Highlights offers a workplace pension scheme via The National Employment Savings Trust [NEST] contributing 5%, whilst employees contribute a minimum of 5%.

Hours of Work: 22.5hrs per week. There is flexibility in how these hours can be worked.

Responsible to: Artistic Director

Base: Brough, Cumbria CA17 4AS. Highlights supports hybrid working, but there is an expectation for staff to be in the office each week.

Key tasks:

- Maintain and expand the network of schools we work with, scheduling an annual programme of artist workshops delivered in schools.
- Develop a portfolio of regional artists from a diverse background to deliver workshops to schools and community groups.
- Maintain and expand the Creative Highlights strand of work, curating a season of arts and crafts workshops each year (October to March).
- Support the Artistic Director to develop the main performance programme, with two seasons each year (Spring and Autumn).
- Maintain and develop relationships with venue promoters, where they have connections with local schools/youth groups.
- Work with the team to promote Participate activities through website and social media; promote Young Promoters Scheme to schools, partner organisations and Higher Education / Further Education networks, where suitable.
- Work with the Creative Administrator to contract artists, schools and venues.
- Manage a delegated budget to deliver the Participate Programme
- Work with Artistic Director and/or General Manager to develop funding applications in support of the programmes.

We are looking for someone with the following skills and experience:

- Creative thinker with enthusiasm for the arts in rural areas.
- Experience of organising creative learning activities.
- Ability to work collaboratively with a range of different groups and individuals.
- Working knowledge of current safeguarding good practice.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Good administrative skills.
- Ability to be self-motivated and work unsupervised.
- Willing to learn and enjoy new challenges.
- Willing to undertake an enhanced DBS check.
- Current driving licence and access to a vehicle.

Experience and/or an interest in the arts education sector is helpful but we are also interested in hearing from people from other industry backgrounds.

For an informal chat about the role please get in touch with Kate Lynch, Artistic Director at kate@highlightsnorth.co.uk / 017683 53954.

How to apply:

Please return the application form to jo@highlightsnorth.co.uk and complete the [online equal opportunities form](#) by midday on Wednesday 22 April.

Please let us know if you have any access requirements and would like to submit this information in another format by contacting jo@highlightsnorth.co.uk / 017683 53954.

Interviews will be held week commencing 27 April. Interview questions will be provided in advance.

