

Cultural Liaison Attaché - Job Description:

Supported volunteering positions: 1.5 cultural liaison attachés based between Govan (Scotland) and Gdansk (Poland).

Memory of Water is looking for 2 individuals aged between 18 and 30 years who are bilingual in Polish and English, who could base themselves for a minimum of six months between Gdansk and Glasgow. The role is the co-ordination and advance project liaison for Memory of Water. We wish to appoint one volunteer for 12 months and the other for a minimum of six months duration.

Background

Funded by Creative Europe and partner cities, Memory of Water, a six-city artist-led collaboration focussed on post-industrial waterfront heritage zones started in July 2018 and will run for two years. The purpose is to engage local communities in post-industrial cities - Gdansk, Gothenburg, Govan, Levadia, Limerick and Ostend - sharing and informing the regeneration process. What does it mean to be a 'post-industrial' location? How can the reclamation of lost, ignored or disregarded histories empower local people to imagine and create a different future for themselves?

The project is a counterpoint to the prevailing orthodoxy which is characterised by top-down redevelopment - politically or economically - where popular, local engagement, is frequently tokenistic or non-existent.

The title of the project -- is both a metaphor and a physical reality: all of the participating locations have water in common but are no longer engaged, to any significant degree, in the industry or activities on which they used to depend. What replaces industry in a post-industrial location and what sort of future can be constructed from such a base?

Artists from the six partner cities started the process in Levadia, Greece, in January 2019: on a mission to find out what the communities themselves see as being crucial to their regeneration. The process is to facilitate ownership and empowerment.

A community with no power and no investment cannot change or shape its own future, so the purpose of this artist-led process is to inform policy makers and planners - finding new ways forward together. Memory of Water is three a City Labs, three artist residency programmes, a digital exhibition hosted online, networking, public events, and a filmed documentary analysing the histories of water, engineering, and inspiring a international debate on heritage issues.

The first artist-led community engagement had a week of research and then a week of production from 15-20th April in Levadia, Greece, which built on the work of the first, exploring issues confronting the community. During this time the artists started a dialogue with the respective communities.

The cultural liaison attaches will act as facilitators between the artists and the host cities: individuals who are looking for experience in cultural production/planning; who speak Polish as well as English and have an understanding of what artists might need in residency situations.

We anticipate that our link persons will accompany the artists on their visits to the host cities Gdansk in Poland and Govan in Scotland), will find out what the artists need that they can help with: perhaps securing permissions, ensuring and logistics are in place .

These projects are all ambitious and need a lot of organisation to have things in place for delivery.

Cultural Liaison Attaché: Roles and Job Description

Between September 2019 and June 2020 (or longer if possible) our cultural liaison attachés will base themselves between Govan (Scotland) and Gdansk (Poland) acting on behalf of six artists from our participating cities (Govan, Gdansk, Ostend, Limerick, Levadia and Gothenburg).

Our cultural liaison attachés will work on behalf of their assigned artists. They will shadow those artists as they carry out their reconnaissance visit in Govan.

Between the reconnaissance week and the production week our cultural liaison attachés will work in Gdansk (October 2019) and in Govan, , being the linking person between the city and the artists in Govan ensuring that everything is prepared and in place ready for the artists to hit the ground running on their return. They will also assist with associated exhibitions/conference/seminar event set up.

During the production week in Govan, our cultural liaison attachés will be the "right hand" of the artists - ensuring everything runs smoothly and the residency outcomes as well as the associated exhibitions/conference/seminar events are delivered as planned. A key role will be assistance with translation.

Person Specification:

- Fluent in two languages (English and Polish)
- Having knowledge of/enthusiasm for the cultural sector (essential)
- Having knowledge of/enthusiasm for the work artists who use participatory interventionist methods within communities. (essential)
- Ability to work using his/her own initiative. (essential)
- Ability to work in an unfamiliar environment, make friends, links, networks and liaise easily with local groups/individuals (essential)
- Have an excellent grasp of I.T and digital technology (highly desirable)

This is a volunteering role which is fully funded in terms of travel, accommodation and subsistence. The cultural attaches will be based in Govan and will travel to and from Gdansk, Poland supported by ProjectScotland and reporting to Fablevision (the Scottish member of the Memory of Water team) For further information and to make application please contact info@fablevision.org with your full cv and a covering note telling us why you think you are the right person for the job.