**Artist Call out**

**Background**

Space to Explore is a neurodiversity project from High Peak Community Arts, a local charity that fosters a sense of community through a broad range of creative outreach projects, for personal development and improved mental health and wellbeing. This project runs on Tuesdays, 10.45am – 1.15pm in Hayfield, High Peak. Sessions are designed to allow neurodivergent adults to develop their understanding of neurodiversity through the medium of creative arts, and develop their skills, confidence and meaningful connections. An artist delivers creative activities and the project team lead discussions on different neurodivergent topics. In 2024, we produced a successful zine project, poetry sessions, printing, and shadow puppet storytelling sessions. This year so far we have been working on a ‘Cabinets of Curiosity’ theme.

**Steering group**

We use feedback questionnaires to gauge what participants want to do next, and forms to rate the sessions, artists and other aspects of the sessions. We also have steering group meetings where participants give verbal feedback and help plan the direction of the project. The steering group will be part of the recruitment process for artists, shortlisting and interviewing.

We found out that the participants generally value the social aspect of the sessions and usually like most artforms, but through discussion we realised the importance of choice in activities and the opportunity to pursue specialisms and share their skills with each other.

From the latest feedback we have created a suite of ‘units’ – artforms which could work well together. The principle of the units is for an artist to deliver one aspect or skill, and for other side activities to run alongside led by group members / staff / volunteers - but for the potential for the elements to work together.

We are now interested in creative projects ideas to link to these units below. We are especially interested in artists that have expertise working and teaching elements of the following:

    Unit 1

Textiles

Machine sewing

Embroidery / cross stitch

Felting - wet / dry

 Unit 2

Story

Film / Animation

Origami / paper flowers

Lumen prints

 Unit 3

Basket weaving

Macrame

Crochet

 Unit 4

Ceramics

Fused glass

Foam clay

EVA foam

Other 3-d modelling ideas

N.B. We don’t expect an artist who can deliver all the artforms in the unit – just an idea that links.

**What we are looking for**

We are looking for experienced community artists to lead creative activities on the Space to Explore project, possibly linking to the Cabinet of Curiosities theme. You will lead the project from inception, deliver the sessions, and see the project develop into high quality art pieces and meaningful experiences. As lead on the project, you will develop your project ideas with us and get support from trained mental health support staff and volunteers when delivering sessions. You will support neurodivergent adults in their creative abilities, as well as provide a safe space for them to be themselves and work towards their long-term goals.  We are especially interested in people who work and deliver sessions in the artforms detailed in the steering group section listed above. There are also opportunities for developing connections with leading arts organisations, artists, poets and creatives.

Pay is £110 per session + travel, with a separate budget for materials.

What we need from you:

A proposal, no longer than 2 sides of A4 or a 5 minute video or audio file, to include a description of the project idea, and a materials / production budget, covering the following:

·   Art form(s) / Project Idea

·   Final product – What it would be? Would it be individual or collective work? and where it might be shown / installed / distributed

·   How many sessions with the group will be needed (each one is two and a half hours contact time, plus setting up / clearing away) @ £110

·   Cost of materials / equipment needed

·   Cost of production / installation, or additional finishing time if needed

·   Your transport costs - 45p per mile / public transport costs to attend project, up to a maximum of £30 per session.

·   Brief outline of your relevant experience.

·    DBS – all artists need DBS certificate within 3 years (we can arrange)

Deadline for applications: 10th January

Shortlisting 14th January

Interviews, if needed, 21st January

Projects to begin early in 2025, running to at least summer 2026.

Send your proposal and any questions to elinor@highpeakarts.org