**HIGH PEAK COMMUNITY ARTS - INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**The organisation**

High Peak Community Arts (HPCA) is a much-loved local charity with a 45 year history. We are in a period of review and renewal, but remaining true to our initial ethos and mission – *to focus on people with little opportunity to access the arts, and through innovative projects to help empower individuals and communities.* In the last year HPCA worked with over 35 freelance artists to deliver innovative participatory arts work in 247 workshops, delivering more than 4,500 participant sessions.

We are now looking for a passionate, focused and principled person to join the senior staff team and continue this journey of renewal.

High Peak Community Arts operates as a limited company and a charity. It is a membership organisation, established in 1979. It is governed by the Board of Trustees, a voluntary management committee whose members are directors of the company and trustees of the charity. A staff team is employed by the Board of Trustees, in a simple structure of senior management, assistants and freelance contractors. The senior team is responsible for the implementation of the organisation’s arts programme, the management of its infrastructure and its co-leadership.

**Overview of current operating situation**

Over the last 5 years the organisation has faced several challenges, as the pandemic was joined by two evictions from premises in 2021 and 2023. This year our longest serving member of the senior team has retired after 34 years, and the holder of this operational position is moving on to a full-time job elsewhere. This and ongoing uncertainty in future funding has prompted a review of our structure, transferring from a flat structure to a simple hierarchy of senior management and assistant roles. Our funding is currently secure for nearly 2 years.

Our current funding is heavily weighted towards youth activity, but retains one adult project and a commitment to look for further adult funds. New opportunities are opening up through our involvement in the Derbyshire Makes programme – allowing us to develop our practical partnerships and networks across the county, and replenish some in the High Peak.

The Senior Staff Team currently comprises:

Creative Programme Manager – 0.8 FTE

Operations, Communications & Fundraising Manager – 0.5 FTE

They are assisted by:

2 x Creative Project Assistants – 0.4 FTE each

A freelance bookkeeping / business consultant; a payroll organisation; and a web manager.

Many and varied freelance and sessional workers.

The Senior Staff Team is responsible for preparing strategy for approval by the Board of Trustees of the organisation and for its subsequent implementation, liaise with other members of the Team in order to fulfil all the responsibilities of their posts and the organisation as a whole.

**The funding**

Core funding from Arts Council England ceased in 2015, and from Derbyshire County Council ceased in 2023. High Peak Borough Council provides £1,000 per year, and all other funds are raised through project funds and one-off core funding grants.

Major project funding contributing to the core costs of the organisation includes The National Lottery, the National Foundation for Youth Music, Arts Council England and BBC Children in Need.

**The High Peak**

The High Peak is a rural district in Derbyshire, encompassing four towns (Glossop, population 35,000; New Mills, pop. 12,000; Chapel-en-le-Frith, pop. 6,500; and Buxton, pop. 25,000) and many villages and hamlets. Quarrying, farming and tourism provide local employment, along with other industries in the towns and service industries. In addition, many people commute from the High Peak to Greater Manchester and Sheffield. It is a beautiful environment, but the vision of a rural idyll also masks considerable isolation and poverty, with a lack of access to resources for most of the community. Public transport is poor in much of the High Peak.

**The Arts Programme**

HPCA is based in Whaley Bridge, and works across the High Peak and into neighbouring areas.

HPCA initiates projects and through the creative process, we provide the opportunity to work both collectively and individually, and explore new skills, issues and concerns, all of which enable people to increase their confidence, understanding, wellbeing and social awareness.

HPCA aims to create access to the arts for all the community and so takes positive steps towards involving people with physical and learning disabilities; neurodivergent people; people with mental health issues; women and girls; older people; people living in economic disadvantage; young people; and people in small rural communities.

**And finally …**

Applicants are advised to view the HPCA website [www.highpeakarts.org](http://www.highpeakarts.org)

Annual Reports for the period 2008-2024 can be downloaded from the “About” section.