

## Coastal North Collective Research Facilitator (Freelance)

### ABOUT THE ROLE

Fee: £4,000

Terms: Approximately 16 days between now and 31 March 2022, immediate start date

Location: Remote working, with occasional onsite visits

Crescent Arts & Scarborough Museums Trust is searching for a Research Facilitator with experience in working with museums and galleries to join our team committed to developing the visual arts in Scarborough. This opportunity would suit a freelance facilitator with relevant experience working at a strategic level across cultural development.

To support the delivery of the programme we are seeking a group or individual who can provide comprehensive support, this includes:

- Programming, developing and delivery of Coastal North Collective in dialogue with the creative team at Crescent Arts, Scarborough Museums Trust and Arts Council England
- Developing and managing relationships with partner organisations and co-producers
- Facilitating Coastal North Collective Sessions
- Evaluating the Coastal North Collective 'journey' using iterative processes to record the learning and map challenges, differences, and commonalities within our collective thinking
- Produce and edit content to support Coastal North Collective's programme, including the preparation of an outcome publication for wider dissemination
- Work to implement equality, diversity, and inclusion initiative across all outputs
- Representing the partnership to external bodies, networks and organisations as required and to establish good working relationships with all external partner organisations
- Monitor and evaluate impact of workflow

### ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

Crescent Arts and Scarborough Museums Trust share the aim of developing Scarborough as a centre for excellence for the visual arts with a partnership between both setting the stage for this phase of development. Having recently undergone a merger Scarborough Museums Trust now counts Woodend Creative Workspace within its service along with Scarborough Art Gallery and The Rotunda Museum. The trust has outlined several new strategic priorities with supporting the creative industries in Scarborough amongst them. Crescent Arts similarly has experienced change having recently revised its mission and vision, governance, and management as well as a physical move to join the 120 creative tenants at Woodend.

The partnership is rooted in Woodend Gallery, the historic heart of literature in Scarborough and home to the Sitwell Library. Built in 1835 the marine villa was once the home of British Poet, Edith Sitwell and between 1934 – 2006 housed the boroughs collection of Natural History. Woodend houses Scarborough Museum Trust archive as well as a café space overlooking the Valley Gardens and South Bay and a two-story Victorian glasshouse, the site for the new programme of exhibitions.

### ABOUT COASTAL NORTH COLLECTIVE

Along with Arts Council England, Crescent Arts & Scarborough Museums Trust have developed Coastal North Collective, a series of conversations that aim to unearth shared challenges in the visual arts and for discussion around advocacy, communication, commissioning, and production in the northern coastal context.

The collective is a chance to consider how the visual arts are profiled at a local strategic level, as well as how it is placed in the realm of town investment. Throughout the duration of the initial project phase, we hope to gather a sense of peer-to-peer growth and outline modes of support that allow for ease of collaboration that might lead to joint commissioning, exhibition touring, facilitation of new residencies and wider access to production facilities. With institutional relationships so often forged via London and the south, how can we enable ease of working in the greater coastal north? What are the specific issues that northern coastal areas present?

The series will include conversations specifically evidencing issues that arrives from the coastal context. As well as including practical discussions on how we can explore destination marketing, how we can gather, not as a network but as a group to support shared programming as well as considering a shared identity and how this can support audience engagement. As an initial project, this will span over several months however we hope, as a collective we can develop ongoing collaboration. We hope to gather the following places and participants with a view to expanding as the project develops:



Blackpool (The Grundy, Abingdon Studios)  
Cumbria (Art Gene)  
Sunderland (Sunderland Culture)  
Hartlepool (Hartlepool Art Gallery)  
Middlesbrough (Mima)

Redcar (Redcar & Cleveland Council)  
Whitby (Pannett Art Gallery)  
Hull (Humber Street Gallery)  
Grimsby (Our Big Picture)

Through a series of around 5 facilitated sessions we will collectively explore the below points of discussion and generate a coherent conversation to connect the visual arts sector across the coastal north. This will include:

- How do we need to communicate about the visual arts post covid?
- How can we advocate for the visual arts as a collective coastal north?
- Can we explore what's different about the northern coastal context for artists?
- What are the shared challenges for visual arts in coastal towns e.g., building narrative around resource, audiences for artists, artists retention, access to production facilities, progression and/or absence of access to FE/HE?
- What challenges do we face around residencies, time, and space for R&D?
- Can we learn from other places who have undertaken collective action to support local visual art sector development e.g., <https://www.englandscreativecoast.com/>?

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Exploring Our Coastal Collective</b>
November 2021	Discussion surrounding the challenges of visual arts practice in the coastal north context.
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>National Peer Circle</b>
December 2021	Conversations and presentation with colleagues from our national peer circle.
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Artists in the Coastal Context</b>
January 2022	This session will focus on projects by artists who have considered the context of the coast in their work, with themes exploring migration, trade, and connection.
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Coastal Audit</b>
February 2022	Can we consider how best to use this forum looking forward? What are our immediate needs and how do we address them?
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Commitment planning</b>
March 2022	A session focused on what collective commitments we can make to support the visual arts in the context of the coastal north.

Each of the sessions will build towards the outcome and development of a position paper or publication that gathers the research and creates a tool kit that helps build the importance of storytelling of the coastal north through visual art.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline 5PM, 20 August 2021. Interviews will be held w/c 31 August

Please email a single PDF file to [info@crescentarts.co.uk](mailto:info@crescentarts.co.uk) Which includes the following information:

- Summarise your experience of being able to deliver clear, objective, and creative approaches to the project (no more than 500 words)
- Summarise your interest in working with Crescent Arts & Scarborough Museums Trust
- Draft a budget and outline your approach to this work

If you have any further questions, please send via email to [info@crescentarts.co.uk](mailto:info@crescentarts.co.uk)