



**Crescent Arts**  
Woodend Creative Centre  
The Crescent, Scarborough YO11 2PW  
Charity Number: 513099

## Application Pack

Head of Crescent Arts  
November 2023

Introduction to the role:

The Crescent Arts Board Trustees are looking to appoint a new Head of Crescent Arts to lead the organisation and the development and delivery of its programme from Crescent's home at Woodend Gallery and Studios, Scarborough. Ideally, you will have experience and knowledge of contemporary visual arts; however, we are interested in hearing from you if you have related experience and transferable skills. We require an innovative individual with an understanding of project management who can apply their creativity to developing the programme strategy and diversifying income for the organisation.

We believe Crescent Arts will be a stronger company with a leader who values and embodies difference, diversity of background and lived experience. We are committed to providing everyone equal opportunities, regardless of background. We acknowledge that people from specific backgrounds are underrepresented in the arts and are committed to addressing this. We are particularly keen to receive applications from those who identify as global ethnic majority, d/Deaf or disabled (including 'invisible' disabilities or neurodiversity such as autism and dyslexia), as being LGBTQ+, and people who identify as working class now or in the past.

Crescent Arts is based in Scarborough, and an important focus of the organisation's work is engaging with communities in the Borough. It is advantageous for you to be already knowledgeable of the local area or be keen to learn about our wonderful town.

Crescent Arts is also committed to developing work and relationships regionally, in the North, nationally and internationally.

## **The organisa0on**

Crescent Arts was founded in 1979 by and for visual artists in Scarborough to provide studios, production facilities and professional development opportunities while generating public and community participation through exhibitions and 'hands-on' creative activities. It

has initiated major partnerships and produced events with international impact, including The Art Party Conference 2013, with the renowned artist Bob and Roberta Smith R.A.; curating Helen Sear's work for Wales at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015; developing a partnership with Forestry England to develop its arts strategy and commission new work by Helen Sear as the first artist-in-residence at Dalby Forest in 2017/18.

At the beginning of 2020, Trustees initiated a comprehensive organisational review, examining our capacity to deliver contemporary visual arts of the highest standard, with an increasing focus on developing creative partnerships, applying a greater emphasis on equity and social justice issues, and addressing the climate and ecological crisis. This resulted in a revised vision and mission and an original statement of Crescent Arts' organisational values, which underpin the ongoing development of our organisational structure and artistic programme:

#### Vision

Crescent Arts is a vibrant creative hub rooted in Scarborough: responding to the need for equity and social justice by nurturing diverse artistic talent, connecting people to art and artists, making contemporary visual arts publicly accessible through meaningful participation and enjoyment, and working to address the climate crisis and support climate justice.

#### Mission

To advance understanding and engagement with contemporary visual art by establishing and maintaining a creative hub in Scarborough, providing exhibitions of art, workshops, professional development for artists, talks and events for the benefit of the public.

#### Values

- Striving to be anti-racist
- Working towards a social model of disability
- Committed to being a learning organisation
- Invested in the well-being of artists and our communities
- Prioritising the development of contemporary visual arts and artists
- Working towards addressing the climate and ecological crisis and supporting climate justice

Crescent Arts has relocated to Woodend Creative Workspace from our long-term home in the basement of Scarborough Art Gallery, and we are curating the exhibition programme in the galleries there. We have delivered a programme of new commissions, professional development for artists, and strategic networking between visual arts organisations on the East and West coasts in the North through an evolving partnership with Scarborough Museums and Galleries Trust (SMG). Also, in partnership with SMG, Crescent Arts has worked with Cross Lane Hospital to develop a resource rooted in creativity that can improve wellbeing. Both partnership programmes are about to start their second phases. New initiatives such as The Queer Infoshop, Sandbox trailing of new ideas, Warm Spaces, and collaborations with students from Scarborough Sixth Form College and Blueberry Academy have been shaped by working in a more community-focused and nimble way, responsive to nurturing creative artistic talent and supporting critical conversation and work.

In light of the significant changes the organisation has undergone and the new underpinning

for its work, Crescent Arts is reviewing its resourcing and organisational structure to support its vision and mission best. It is exciting to join the organisation and help shape the next phase of Crescent Arts' development.

### **Our Creative Team**

- (Vacant) – Head of Crescent Arts
- Curator/Workshop facilitator
- Operations Assistant

### **Trustees**

- Dr James Boaden – Co-Chair - lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of York, based in Scarborough
- Victoria Burns – Co-Chair - movement Coordinator for Culture Declares Climate and Ecological Emergency, director of Climate Museum UK and freelance consultant based in London
- Sam Metz – artist and curator based in Hull
- Dr Jade Montserrat – tutor on the MFA programme, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford and artist based in Scarborough
- Nii Obodai – photographer and founder of Nuku Studios, based in Ghana
- Becky Gee – curator at York Art Gallery (York Museums Trust) and 87 Gallery (Artlink Hull), based in Hull.

### **About Scarborough**

Scarborough is a vibrant coastal town in North Yorkshire, boasting beautiful sandy beaches, attractive green spaces and a thriving art scene, which Crescent Arts is proud to be part of. It is also a town steeped in history, evidenced by its museums, impressive architecture and ancient monuments. Scarborough has also benefited from regeneration projects over recent years, including refurbishing the library's local studies centre and Scarborough Market Hall.

Crescent Arts is based at Woodend, a Grade II listed marine villa which was the former home of Edith Sitwell. The window of our gallery overlooks the beautiful Valley Gardens, and it is less than half a mile from the sea. We have many creative neighbours at Woodend, including Arcade and Scarborough Museums and Galleries, who contribute to Scarborough's artistic activity and opportunities.

We are within walking distance from exciting cities such as York and Hull and beautiful coastal and rural locations in North Yorkshire and the East Riding. Our proximity to such a diverse range of locations provides a wealth of opportunities for collaboration.

## Job Description

Job Title	Head of Crescent Arts
Salary	£35,000 - £40,000 per annum, full-time equivalent (dependent on experience) £24,500 - £28,000 per annum (actual)
Hours	Part-time, 26.25 hours per week
Responsible For	Freelance Staff

### Job Purpose

1. Lead and develop a vibrant, creative hub rooted in Scarborough, which makes contemporary and visual arts publicly accessible.
2. Build resilience into the organisation and contribute to the wider cultural ecology of Scarborough.

### Key Responsibilities

- Develop and lead the organisational strategy in line with 'Let's Create', Arts Council England's Strategy for 2020 – 2030.
- Promote and maintain an organisational culture which values inclusion, equity, innovation, and professional development.
- Develop partnerships that strengthen our approach to place-based working in Scarborough, prioritising collaboration, cooperation and co-creation.
- Work collaboratively with communities to better understand and respond to their needs and interests, resulting in increased access, cultural engagement and the wide range of social benefits it brings.
- Develop and deliver opportunities for children and young people to participate in creative and cultural activities inside and outside of schools, supporting them to develop their creative skills and potential.
- Continue to build and develop networks, establishing connections with key community stakeholders, artists and arts professionals.
- Plan and deliver creative and cultural activity, ensuring outcomes against current and future funding.
- Promote and market activities, programmes and events to create a wider reach into the community.

- Develop new approaches to creative practice and opportunities for sustainable careers in the creative industries.
- Report the organisational progress against strategies, plans and organisational targets to the Board of Trustees and other key stakeholders.
- Identify fundraising opportunities and write funding bid applications to successfully increase income with the support of a fundraising specialist.
- Line manage the current Crescent Arts team

Person Specifica\*on

Qualities	Specific Requirements	E	D
Experience	• Experience of working within the creative industry at a senior level	E	
	• An understanding of business management and administration	E	
	• Experience in strategic development and building partnerships	E	
	• Experience of developing and delivering programmes and activities linked to strategic and funded outcomes	E	
	• Experience in initiating, developing, curating and delivering exhibitions and workshops	E	
	• Experience in influencing and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders at all levels	E	
	• Experience in providing widening participation opportunities for children and young people		D
Knowledge and Skills	• Experience in identifying funding opportunities and successfully fundraising for projects and organisational overhead costs	E	
	• Knowledge and understanding of the local demographic to build audience participation and engagement	E	
	• Ability to build a creative vision and make it happen	E	
	• Ability to understand and engage with local communities	E	
	• Ability to work with commissioned freelance artists and	E	

	curators to ensure project outcomes are delivered and met		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level communication skills, including experience in communicating effectively across cultures and diverse audiences</li> </ul>	E	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to prioritise tasks and manage multiple responsibilities effectively</li> </ul>	E	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively as part of a team</li> </ul>	E	

Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act with diplomacy, confidence and integrity</li> </ul>	E	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in using Microsoft applications</li> </ul>	E	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enthusiasm and commitment to the aims and objectives of the organisation</li> </ul>	E	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of commitment to CPD for themselves and others</li> </ul>	E	

### How to apply

If you are interested in being the new Head of Crescent Arts, please submit an up-to-date CV, with a cover letter of no more than two sides of A4, outlining your relevant experience and interest in the role. Applications should be submitted via email to **director@crescentarts.co.uk by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (by Midnight)** You can also apply using a video or audio file. Please contact us if we can make any other adjustments to facilitate your application.

The first interview is expected to be held via video call on **7<sup>th</sup> December**; the second interview will be in person at Woodend, Scarborough **in the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> December**.