

Creative Freelancer

Brief

A New Direction is looking for a Creative Freelancer to support a team of 10 disabled young adults through our Cultural Ambassadors work placement programme. The Ambassadors will be producing creative activities for this year's I Am Festival in collaboration with A New Direction, artists, cultural organisations, and a network of teachers from special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) education settings.

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals who identify as disabled.

Dates: 01 March 2022 – 01 July 2022 (not including school holidays)

Fee: £7,500 (separate budget available for access requirements)

Deadline: 5pm on Wednesday 16 February

Please note: this role is for two days a week. Days are likely to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Thursdays depending on the young people who are recruited to take part. We plan to deliver this programme in person where possible.

If you have any questions about this brief, please get in touch by emailing schools@anewdirection.org.uk before applying.

About A New Direction

A New Direction is a London-based non-profit, generating opportunities for children and young people to unlock their creativity.

Our vision is for a world where all children and young people achieve their creative potential.

Our mission is to enhance the capacity of children and young people to own their creativity, shape culture and achieve their creative potential.

We do this by working with a diverse range of partners (including schools, local authorities, and cultural organisations), making connections, sharing practice, influencing change, improving the ecology that surrounds children and young people, and by providing real and transformative opportunities – from childhood, through school years into employment.

Our values:

- Equity
- Connectivity
- Trust and Respect
- Creative Culture
- Kindness

About the Role

Working closely with the Programmes Manager and Festival Producer, the Creative Freelancer will play a key role in supporting 10 disabled young people throughout their work placement as Cultural Ambassadors.

The Creative Freelancer will:

- » Hold the group throughout the work experience programme, with support from my AFK Life and Work Coaches and A New Direction
- » Create a positive and collaborative environment for the group to work in
- » Facilitate creative sessions – e.g. icebreakers, exploring the festival theme
- » Organise and accompany the Cultural Ambassadors on school and venue visits (dependent on Covid restrictions)
- » Support the Cultural Ambassadors to plan, budget, and deliver a creative project for schools
- » Help coordinate and support Cultural Ambassadors to plan workshops in collaboration with artists and organisations
- » Coordinate and support the Cultural Ambassadors during the festival
- » Supporting conversations around creative progression routes with cultural organisations, A New Direction, and my AFK
- » Support the Cultural Ambassadors to develop skills in communication, team working, and problem solving
- » Support the Cultural Ambassadors to develop knowledge of the cultural sector and confidence in advocating for disabled young people
- » Support the planning and shaping of the work experience programme

We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and hands-on individual, who is willing to get stuck in and demonstrate initiative. The content of the programme is flexible and we welcome suggestions of workshops and/or facilitators to enrich the programme.

About the Cultural Ambassadors Programme

Over 16 weeks, a group of 10 young adults with disabilities will take part in a Cultural Ambassador work experience programme. During this programme, they will work with A New Direction, cultural organisations, and freelance artists to plan and deliver creative workshops for students in SEND schools.

Throughout the Cultural Ambassadors programme, participants will be supported by Life and Work Coaches from my AFK – a charity providing education, training and work experience programmes for young people with disabilities. During the programme they will:

- Explore how organisations and artists work with SEND schools

- Discuss how the organisation’s programmes and spaces can be more accessible to D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people
- Meet teachers and students from SEND schools to inform their planning for workshops
- Take the lead on a creative project, managing all the aspects of the project from start to finish

Participants will work with teachers and students from schools in A New Direction’s SEND Network. The SEND Network is a free professional development programme for educators working with D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in London’s schools and specialist settings. The Network meets twice a term over the academic year, working together to improve creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people who are D/deaf, disabled, and neurodiverse.

The workshops and projects delivered by the Cultural Ambassadors will form part of I Am Festival 2022. I Am Festival is our yearly celebration empowering D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent young people to explore their creativity. Over the past five years, the festival has provided a platform for hundreds of young people to showcase their talents, leadership, ideas, and opinions.

From 14–18 June 2021 we held a week of interactive celebration, creativity, and learning online. This included the sharing of outcomes of artist workshops in schools, CPD for teachers and live sessions for students. You can watch the highlights film from the 2021 festival here: <https://bit.ly/iam2021highlights>

Throughout this work experience programme, the participants will develop their communication, team working, and problem-solving skills, knowledge of the cultural sector, and confidence in advocating for disabled young people.

Key Dates

Planning and meeting with A New Direction	w/c 28 February
Cultural Ambassadors work experience programme	w/c 07 March – w/c 13 June (not including school holidays) 1.5 days a week contact time with Cultural Ambassadors
I Am Festival	w/c 20 June
Evaluation and celebration	w/c 27 June

Stakeholders involved in the programme:

- 10 young participants on the Cultural Ambassadors programme
- A New Direction and my AFK
- 5 individuals or organisations from the cultural sector
- SEND Network schools and their students
- Attendees at festival events (cultural sector representatives, parents and carers, and the general public)

Person Specification

Skills

- » Ability to communicate and support disabled young adults (disabilities may include Asperger's, Autism, and learning disabilities)
- » Ability to work with and gain trust from young people from a wide range of backgrounds
- » Ability to be flexible and adaptable to different working environments
- » Ability to work under own initiative and prioritise a range of tasks with minimal supervision
- » Ability to meet deadlines and work with accuracy and attention to detail

Approach

- » Displays a strong empathy with the values and vision of A New Direction
- » Is tactful, calm, and sensitive
- » Is focused on outcomes and proactive in problem-solving
- » Has a high degree of integrity – trust, honesty, and dependability
- » Committed to working in an environment which values and celebrates diversity
- » Has an interest in the arts, creative, digital and cultural sectors

Desirable Experience

- » Experience of working with disabled young people
- » Experience supporting content production for events

How to Apply

To express an interest in this role, please send an expression of interest document no longer than two sides of A4, or a 5-minute video or audio recording, to schools@anewdirection.org.uk by 5pm on **Wednesday 16 February 2022**.

Your expression of interest should include:

- Your understanding of the brief and your relevant experience
- Your approach to supporting the Cultural Ambassadors
- Ideas of workshops and/or facilitators to enrich the programme

Shortlisted applications will be invited to a short interview with us to discuss their approach as part of the decision-making process. Interviews will be held the week commencing **21 February 2022**.

If you would like to discuss this further before submitting an expression of interest, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk to arrange a call.

Please note that the successful candidate for this post will be required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Check, must be eligible to work in the UK and registered to pay their own taxes.