

4600 Gifts

Volunteer Opportunities

Job Description

We are inviting applications from volunteers, who are looking for a new challenge and have an interest in craft, arts and community participation, to join a team of arts professionals in delivering a city wide arts event in Birmingham which will see 4600 Gifts – made and given!

Fee: Expenses will be paid

When: Various options from March - July 2022

Where: Various locations in Birmingham



Background

In 2022 Craftspace is engaging in a large-scale creative programme that celebrates our regions rich cultural identity. **4600 Gifts** is a unique and ambitious project, making crafted gifts to welcome athletes, from around the world, to Birmingham this summer.

Residents from across the city will be invited to community crafting events to take part in making these personalised gifts, reflecting Birmingham as a city of diverse skills, cultures and stories. 4600 Gifts will exemplify a model that taps into social making and meaningful exchange between maker and recipient, one that locates craft within a form of 'commoning', activating the power of grassroots making and social cooperation. By joining our team you will be supporting this extraordinary project, to place gifts and messages of welcome—made by the people of Birmingham—into the hands of every visiting athlete.

What will you be doing?

Craftspace is leading this project with a team of artists and designers: **Laura Nyahuye, Pottinger & Cole, Mahawa Keita** and **Kalandra McFarquhar**.

Working collaboratively, the team have designed a blank gift template, designed with recycling, repurposing and using locally sourced materials in mind. This template can easily be embellished, adorned and fashioned by people taking part in a series of community workshops. The project will illustrate that everyone has gifts to offer and, in re-inventing the idea of Birmingham as the 'workshop of the world', it will demonstrate the power of making to build community. Craftspace is now inviting applications from volunteers wishing to join the team in delivering these city-wide community arts events.

Our volunteers will be offered the rare opportunity to create one of these personalised gifts for a visiting athlete. Working alongside our team of artists, you could be preparing materials for workshops, guiding participants as they make their gifts or capturing their stories. As part of a creative team committed to creativity and its role in building positive community experiences and relationships, you will gain valuable experience within an established arts charity—where professional arts practice engages communities in collective creative activities.

The knowledge, skills and experience gained will contribute to your personal and professional development, and you will have the opportunity to meet other like-minded people from communities across Birmingham, all working together to achieve the outcomes of 4600 Gifts—made and given!

Application Process

If you are interested in joining a friendly team, would like to build your CV and develop your voluntary work experience, please complete an application form and email **info@craftspace.co.uk** or post to Administrative Assistant, Craftspace, 15 Highgate Craft Centre, 8 Highgate Square, Birmingham, B12 0DU.

The roles

You can apply for the following roles:

Creative Planners (1st team March—(mid) May; 2nd Team: (mid) May–July 2022)

We are seeking people who have a bit of a creative eye for preparing and organising arts & crafts materials. You will understand how a variety of materials can inspire participants in making and crafting. These might include traditional materials readily used in textiles, embroidery or jewellery making, however, they could include more experimental materials. With good organisation skills, you will be able to arrange these materials into kits ready for the community makes. Working in a small team, you will operate out of a 'base-camp' (a space where we will store all our materials) and support those leading the regular community crafting workshops and big city-centre making events.

Required skills/knowledge:

- Keen interest in materials and how they are used in arts and crafts
- Good planning skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Organised, reliable and enthusiastic
- An interest in promoting the spirit of inclusion as part of the cultural programme attached to the Commonwealth games

Creative Connectors (1st team April—May; 2nd Team June—July 2022)

We are seeking people who recognise the importance of creativity in connecting communities, the value of arts in celebrating our different cultural identities and its role in enriching our sense of community belonging. As a creative connector, you will be working alongside creative professionals in supporting participants during creative workshops in a hands-on way. If you possess some elementary practical arts and crafts skills, you could use your experience and support and help those making the gifts. Or you could simply be chatting to participants and making them feel comfortable whilst they're creating their artwork. You could be there to capture things people want to tell you about the gift they are making.

Required skills:

- Keen interest in, and some practical experience of craft and making
- Good people skills
- Organised, reliable and enthusiastic
- Happy to travel through the city to support the delivery of workshops
- An interest in promoting the spirit of inclusion as part of the cultural programme attached to the Commonwealth games

Creative Connectors /Creative Planner – mobile support (dates as above)

Could you add further support to these roles above? We want to reach and give opportunities to as many people as possible, in communities around the city centre. So, in addition to the activities described above, could you offer the additional role of delivering materials and equipment to workshop venues (costs will be reimbursed) using your own vehicle? As a guide we envisage that this might be 4 average sized storage boxes/crates.

Required skills/knowledge:

- Essential – full clean driving licence, access to your own vehicle and willingness to transport materials & equipment to workshop spaces around Birmingham

Creative Documenters (1st team April—May; 2nd Team June—July 2022)

We are seeking people who love to capture community participation in action, enjoy speaking to people about their experiences and have the skills to document their stories through multimedia. We're looking for enthusiastic, dependable individuals with an artistic eye for capturing people involved in creative activities. This can be collecting documentation through images, short films or audio recordings. You will visit regular community arts events from April to July, in and around the city, and capture people as they make their gift for an athlete. Your input would be invaluable in helping us document a truly unique project for the city of Birmingham, reflecting the diverse richness of the people, creativity and culture that populate our region.

Required skills:

- Photography/multi-media skills to capture making and wider public engagement (where approved)
- Interpersonal skills
- ICT skills & knowledge to upload and organise for digital access
- An interest in engaging with community people and capturing their stories
- Good communication skills
- Organised
- Reliable

Social Media - Digital Ambassadors (April—July 2022)

We are seeking people who are interested in arts and crafts and sharing community participation through social media. You will support us in reaching new audiences through digital platforms, seeking new networks and operating between multiple platforms, creating a buzz around our 4600 Gifts project and sharing our project with the city of Birmingham, and the world. You do not have to be well versed in all platforms simultaneously, but please let us know the ones you use most readily.

Required skills:

- Experience of multiple social media platforms, including: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube
- Knowledge of digital communities through your own social media use
- Communication skills
- Interest in community arts and making and the Commonwealth Games

Stewards (Saturday 9 April – Sunday 10th April; 3 days in May — 14,15,16th 2022)

If you find arts events exciting and would like to get involved, yet are not confident in your crafting skills or able to commit a lot of time, could you support our one-off crafting events—or *Mass Makes* as we're calling them? Our large, inclusive city-centre events will invite the public to creative workshops so they too can create a gift for an athlete. Volunteers will support the smooth running of these events; you will help register people at the front desk, find them a time slot, positively manage people and help ensure participants get an opportunity to create a gift. You will keep a broad eye on the creative activities over the day; other tasks might include recording contact details and documenting people's reasons for participating.

Required Skills:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Confident communicator
- Friendly and chatty
- Enthusiasm for supporting community events


Contact


If you have any questions about the roles email Emma Larkinson at info@craftspace.co.uk.

craftspace.co.uk

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