

Shelanu: Women's Craft Collective

Volunteer Opportunity

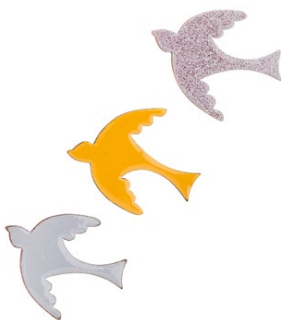
Job Description

We are inviting applications from volunteers, who are looking for a new challenge and have an interest in craft and community participation, to support Craftspace to facilitate sessions for Shelanu: Women's Craft Collective.

Fee: Local travel expenses will be paid

When: Thursdays 11.30am-5.30pm

Where: Craftspace, Unit 204 The Argent Centre, Frederick Street, Birmingham B1 3HS



Background

Craftspace is a craft development organisation based in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, recently awarded World Craft City status. We are a charity that creates opportunities to see, make and be curious about exceptional contemporary craft.

We aim to recruit a volunteer for our ongoing project, Shelanu: Women's Craft Collective. Shelanu, which means 'belonging to us', is a collective of migrant and refugee women working with Craftspace to develop craft skills, confidence and well-being through social enterprise. They produce high quality craft for sale inspired by place and diverse cultures, the city and industrial heritage of Birmingham and their experiences of migration.

As well as learning new making skills, the women are enabled to improve their English, learn business skills and run workshops for the community. This contributes to positive integration and social cohesion.

Shelanu have been meeting since 2011. Over the last 15 years, they have launched three high quality jewellery collections and a Birmingham souvenir range, supported by professional makers. The Collective have exhibited at the School of Jewellery, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Midlands Arts Centre, RBSA and Goldsmiths. They have run community workshops in many of Birmingham's cultural venues, as well as Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

We are seeking a Birmingham based volunteer to assist Craftspace's Exhibitions and Project Development Manager with Shelanu's sessions. By joining us you will contribute to this extraordinary project, which supports migrant and refugee women – in Birmingham – to develop new skills, build their confidence and wellbeing.

What will you be doing?

This year Shelanu will be reviewing and making new stock for their Migrating Birds, Interlocking Stories and Nurture collections. craftspace.co.uk/shelanu/collections

Alongside this the members will be developing personal projects, as well as devising and facilitating workshops for community groups and city-wide events.

In addition to supporting the delivery of the Shelanu sessions, we are looking for someone to assist with the planning and administration of the Collective. This is an authentic opportunity, with the chance to gain creative experience in an established arts organisation.

The sessions are on Thursday afternoons throughout the year from 1-5pm, although the volunteer role will be from 11.30am. It is important to build continuity and relationships for the Shelanu members, however, there is some flexibility to the role.

Activities will include

- Creating worksheets for the collections for new members
- Preparing equipment and materials for sessions and external workshops
- Supporting members with making activities
- Documenting sessions and sharing updates on social media
- Assisting with Shelanu materials inventory and ordering
- Assisting with keeping inventory of Shelanu stock
- Possible occasional cover of sessions for the Exhibitions and Project Development Manager, supported by Craftspace team
- Assisting with planning tasks e.g. craft fair/ stockists research, workshop content research

Benefits

- Craftspace will cover local travel costs
- Support women to learn new skills and build their confidence
- Learn different craft techniques and processes
- Learn about event planning and preparation
- Work with a friendly, established visual arts team in the historic Jewellery Quarter

Skills and knowledge

- Confident working with ethnically and socially diverse groups
- Good communication skills
- Interest in craft, making and/or enterprise
- Hands on making experience
- Good interpersonal skills
- Organised with task planning
- Flexible – to work on other tasks as sessions can change
- IT skills: Word, Excel
- Some photography skills (can be phone based)

Application process

Email info@craftspace.co.uk for an application form or download one from our website craftspace.co.uk

Complete and return the form by **Monday 29 June 2026**.

You can complete this application form and return it by email. Or you can do an audio recording or video of your answers and email them, or send them by What's App.

Email responses to: e.daker@craftspace.co.uk


What's App audio, film or text messages to: 07483 656869

Contact

If you have any questions about the role email Emma Daker at e.daker@craftspace.co.uk.

craftspace.co.uk

 craftspace.co.uk/sign-up

 ShelanuCollective

 [#ShelanuCraft](https://twitter.com/craftspace_)