

# CREATIVE ESTUARY

## **Brief: Estuary Commissions Project Manager**

**Six months fixed term contract - fixed fee £12,000** (equivalent to two days per week, but this will vary according to the needs of the project)

In 2019 the University of Kent, on behalf of an exciting and diverse range of regional partners, was awarded one of five game-changing cultural development funds. This will invest in innovative creative, cultural and heritage initiatives intended to deliver culture-led economic growth and productivity. The project, Creative Estuary, builds on the ambitions, led by South East Economy Network (SECEN) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for the Thames Estuary Production Corridor (TEPC) to develop one of Europe's most integrated and productive creative regions.

Creative Estuary is committed to supporting the region's artists and engaging its communities through an **Estuary Commissions Fund** and recently awarded its inaugural commissions to artists and organisations located in Gravesend, Southend, Chatham Rochester and Tilbury each reflecting the rich history of North Kent and South Essex, with the Thames Estuary linking the two shores.

We now have an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and ambitious individual to shape, initiate and oversee a new commissioning programme.

Creative Estuary will make a fundamental contribution to the government endorsed Thames Estuary Production Corridor and the ambitions of the Thames Estuary Growth Board. It will provide the spark to change the life chances of diverse estuarine communities with new area identities, local pride, cultural production, jobs and innovation, developing a creative cluster in the Thames Estuary connected to London, UK and global markets. The geographical focus for Creative Estuary is North Kent and South Essex.

## **Estuary Commissions Project Manager**

We wish to appoint an **Estuary Commissions Project Manager** to work with us to ensure we realise our ambition to maximise creative impact, engagement and legacy, and to ensure that diversity is embedded across the Commissions and our **Estuary Commissions Board**.

### Key Tasks

- Manage and spearhead our objective to develop and diversify our interim Estuary Commissions Board through a recruitment drive which will require networking and distributing the opportunity to communities of interest
- Identify and work with partnership organisations and individuals that can broaden access for diverse communities
- Work with the Estuary Commissions Board to review the commissioning process to date and monitor progress going forward

- Initiate and oversee new commissioning calls/programme
- Develop and refine commission frameworks to inform future decision making to maximise impact, support artists and ensure legacy
- Develop our communications with stakeholders and partners
- Act as first point of contact for artists wishing to apply for a commission offering information, support and guidance if required
- Develop, sustain and manage partnerships
- Identify and secure additional funding to support the commission fund

#### Key Skills and Experience

- Understanding and experience of range of art form commissioning
- Understanding and empathy towards the need to promote Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic artists to achieve positive results
- Understanding of the need to pro-actively recruit board members recruitment from diverse communities and interests
- Highly organised with excellent communication skills
- Proven track record of developing and delivering successful cultural and creative projects in a complex environment
- Knowledge of the area
- Knowledge of commissioning frameworks and evaluation
- Ability to work on own initiative and organise workload to achieve deadlines with good time management skills
- Initiating and submitting successful funding applications to public and private funders

#### Additional Attributes

- Commitment to deliver equality, diversity and inclusivity
- A strong interest and empathy for Creative Estuary and its mission and vision

## **2. Estuary Commissions**

Over the next two years, Estuary Commissions will support a range of cultural projects with new commissions for Estuary-based producers and artists, from small-scale activity for emerging cultural activists to large scale commissions with a diverse mix of partners.

We will give artists, organisations or creative practitioners - who have reached a critical moment in their development - access to new support channels to help them realise their creative potential. This will include routes to funding, new partnerships, training and development opportunities. Critically, we will strengthen the Estuary's cultural network by linking creatives with others working in a similar way, inviting greater collaboration and knowledge sharing.

## **3. About Creative Estuary**

**Our ambition is simple: to transform 60 miles of the Thames Estuary across Essex and Kent into one of the most exciting cultural hubs in the world.**

From Southend to Margate, the Thames Estuary is a region of untold creative potential. Creative Estuary is proud to be driving forward the creative and economic evolution of the Thames Estuary, unlocking its potential both as an international production hub and a collaborative, inspirational working space for a new generation of creative talent.

Part of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, our aim is to use culture as the catalyst for growth. We are committed to making the region an attractive location for creative individuals and businesses to work, collaborate and grow.

Working with a range of public sector and cultural organisations across the UK, we are developing a shared narrative for the Thames Estuary and embedding it within new commissions, new creative spaces, new jobs, new collaborations, new opportunities and a new cultural identity.

The Thames Estuary is powered by its people; audiences, artists, producers, participants, learners and future leaders.

As a place of arrivals and departures for hundreds of years, we are a region whose success is built on our diversity.

Creative Estuary is raising the voices and stories of our communities as we position the area as a vibrant new hub for cultural growth and employment. The creative people living, working and learning along the Estuary are at the heart of our narrative, and we will open up more creative production, new career paths and cultural opportunities for all.

Despite our rich heritage, our residents are less likely to enter creative employment than similar regions in the UK. Through our work, the creative industries will be a more visible employment choice across the Estuary; our people will have access to more creative skills training, education and careers and we will support organisations to source the skilled workforce they need.

Through new pro-active networks of research and creative industry partners, our cultural entrepreneurs will be supported to develop collaborative working practice that champions innovation and diversification.

Working with the people of the Estuary, we will find new solutions to strengthen our communities and create a cohort of leaders to grow and amplify cultural activity in our places.

It is estimated that this six month freelance contract will involve working an average of two days per week, but this will vary according to the needs of the project. You will work mainly from your own premises, but there will be a requirement to attend meetings and events as appropriate.

## **5. Timetable and Payment Schedule**

Deadline for applications: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Interviews if required: Date to be confirmed

Contract to commence no later than: Monday 28 September 2020

## 6. Fee

The total fee will be £12,000. expenses such as travel will be payable with agreement of the Project Director Creative Estuary

## 7. Submission information

To apply, please provide the following:

1. A proposal outlining your approach to this work of no more than 1500 words.
2. A minimum of two examples of relevant previous experience.
3. An indication of your availability.
4. A copy of your CV
5. Two recent referees

## Selection Criteria

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals from Black, Asian, Disabled, d/Deaf and Minority Ethnic communities and all those who feel their voices and stories are not commonly represented.

## Contact and deadline

Please email any questions to Liz Moran [l.moran@kent.ac.uk](mailto:l.moran@kent.ac.uk)  
Submit your proposal to Natalie Parsons [N.J.Parsons@kent.ac.uk](mailto:N.J.Parsons@kent.ac.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> September 12 noon. Your submission will be acknowledged by return email.

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