

CULTURE IN COMMON PROGRAMME MANAGER: ROLE SUMMARY

ROLE OVERVIEW

Culture in Common is now seeking a Programme Manager to support the conception, development and delivery of projects, workshops and events across all of our strategy pillars. In addition, the Programme Manager would be the main coordinator and liaison point for our panel of Community Anchors. The Programme Manager will support the Programme Director to plan strategy, programming, reporting to Arts Council England and to be involved in Community Engagement consultations across the Forest.

Alongside our Community Arts Producers, you will work at a grassroots level in the New Forest, supporting and enabling community representatives and artists to co-create projects, events, clubs and opportunities for their community. Creative Clubs offer a chance for residents to try something new and to improve health and wellbeing through the arts. With activities requested by local people projects will connect high quality artists to communities. They will take place in friendly, familiar spaces with everyone welcome to come along and give them a go.

CULTURE IN COMMON: OUR PLACE AND VISION

Culture in Common (CiC) is funded by Arts Council England (ACE) and is one of 45 [Creative People and Places](#) (CPP) programmes across the country, where involvement in creativity and culture is significantly below the national average. In December 2021, the New Forest Consortium secured £1 million for the first 3 years which was extended for a further year and has now secured a further £1 million from ACE to continue delivery 2026-29, part of a 10-year vision to bring the disparate communities of the District together to enjoy Culture in Common.

The central aims of the CPP programme are to:

- Engage more people from the identified places in a wide range of creative and cultural experiences as audiences and/or participants.
- Empower communities to lead and shape local cultural provision.

- Ensure both the engagement process and the creative and cultural experiences on offer are relevant and excellent.
- Encourage partnerships between publicly funded, amateur, voluntary, community and commercial sectors, as well as collaboration across various cultural institutions.
- Take an Action Research approach to community engagement in arts, creativity and culture; learn what works best and share that learning.

[The Culture in Common](#) team is hosted by Energise Me and overseen by a **consortium** of organisations: Energise Me, Folio, The Handy Trust, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority. The consortium blends arts, community engagement, heritage, physical activity and health expertise. We are all passionate about collaborating and building authentic relationships with New Forest communities.

The Culture in Common name is inspired by the ancient tradition of **commoning** which is still thriving in the New Forest and represents our ambition to unite people through a shared vision of arts and culture, which is driven by local people.

CIC has made a significant amount of progress since its inception in 2022. The team, consortium, community anchors, our partners, residents and commissioned artists have worked hard to achieve genuine change in a locality that was identified as having low arts engagement levels. We have tested a whole host of ways of involving people in a programme of high-quality arts and creative activities that otherwise would have been inaccessible to many people in the New Forest.

THE ARTIST PROGRAMME:

The Culture in Common artistic programme is designed to offer engagement opportunities at a variety of different levels from small-scale projects co-created with target groups or large-scale popular events to sustainable creative clubs and activities, not forgetting the personal and professional interventions that residents can happen upon in unusual indoor and outdoor places across the District.

Find out more about Culture in Common, our work and rolling programme at the [Culture in Common](#) website.

The co-created artistic **programme strategy** (titles inspired by the activities of the Commoners' Year) falls into 6 areas of work: -

FUZZING: Time-limited Projects with target groups. Mid-scale commissions where artists co-create work with a local group (e.g. Gypsy Romani Travellers, Young Commoners or a Running club), which reflects the place. For public artworks, final works are presented as 'chance' discoveries or destinations to be sought out e.g. Damerham Telephone Box Installation project. These interventions could be

transitory happenings or permanently sited artworks. Street Art in underpasses, Story Quest trails, a gathering of 'Alices' - projects of discovery which will re-enchant a love of community, place and creativity in the New Forest.

PANNAGE: Piggy-backing and enhancing local popular outdoor events such as the *Totton Lantern Parade*, *Ringwood Carnival*, *Halloween Treat Trail*, Country fairs, Raft/Side Car Races or Poppy Day – make the local event organiser's dream come true by offering them a choice of high-quality walkabouts and outdoor performances, some using digital approaches, to enhance their event. Introduce some new artforms, ensure a great turnout for 'never seen before' work and develop the skills and networks of local potential creative producers.

THE DRIFT: A rural touring programme and new festivals started or requested by local people which take place or tour to the furthest reaches of the District, providing interesting and varied programmes bringing together all age groups and cultures. Comedy, Music, Film, Drama and Literature festivals e.g. *Acting Up* and *Play on Words* - all providing opportunities to see and experience high quality diverse performances, take part in workshops and competitions, talks and discussions where they live.

CREATIVE CLUBS: Regular opportunities to participate, try something new and improve health and wellbeing with a creative group meeting regularly over a long period. Usually requested by local residents and often emerging from a successful new project, these 14+ small-scale creative clubs connect artists to communities in a friendly space, developing welcoming entry points for engagement and connecting people to participatory activity, whether they are young, old, active or with a life-limiting challenge. As a result, the communities that are involved have taken that first big step into cultural engagement, learnt a new skill and made friends which contributes to increased wellbeing into the future.

OUTDOOR BURNING: Dramatic performance commissions – large scale/budget performances at the New Forest Show, fire and light shows, installations or promenade performances through a woodland, new commissions co-created with communities. Examples would be telling stories of historic characters or happenings, witches, myths and legends of the New Forest, national or international outdoor arts companies partnering with local amateur drama, dance and singing groups to re-create moments in history encapsulating a message for the future e.g. *The Crowning of Witchy White*.

ABOVE THE BROWSE LINE: Inspiration & Training Programme – workshops, consultations, development programmes, publications and online resources delivered in creative ways to share learning and develop the skills of local residents in

arts and culture. Examples are workshops in *Co-Creation, Arts & Environment Programmes, Creative Health Workshop* and a Community Engagement Sessions.

Programming plans are workshopped with our Consortium and Community Champion panel (Community Anchors), encourage co-design with local communities, whilst reaching as many people as possible across the New Forest. We champion democratic platforms and invite local people into meaningful two-way conversations, centring community voice in our processes.