

**Freelance Opportunity:** SSW Community Arts Organiser

**Hours:** 3 days a week (flexible working hours including evenings and weekends)

**Fee:** £11700

**Contract:** Freelance position for 8 months March - October 2023

**Additional support:** Accommodation available if required. There will also be an additional budget to support access for the Community Arts Organiser if required.

**Location:** This freelance opportunity is based within the new Community Making Space at Scottish Sculpture Workshop (SSW) in Lumsden, Aberdeenshire.

**Reporting to:** The opportunity is co-managed by SSW Director and Myvillages artist Kathrin Böhm

**Deadline for Application:** 8th February

**Interview:** 21st February

**Commencement of work:** March 2023

Are you passionate about working with and for communities?

Are you interested in making art accessible and imagining different ways of working together?

Do you want the rural and rural knowledge to be more present in the arts and beyond?

Do you enjoy supporting and facilitating people through your artistic/ cultural/ making practice?

If yes, then you should apply to be our first Community Arts Organiser at Scottish Sculpture Workshop based in Lumsden.

SSW together with [Myvillages](#) are looking to recruit a **Community Arts Organiser** who is based in Aberdeenshire to support the development of the newly opened Community Making Space at SSW as part of the [Rural School of Economics](#).

The Community Making Space is a multifunctional meeting and making space, in a former bakery on Lumsden's main street. The space is part of the SSW complex, and a new offer to the wider local community to connect, make use and develop new making activities in the context of SSW.

The Community Arts Organiser position will run for 8 months from February 2023 - September 2023 and is set up to provide inclusive cultural and social activities and support local users in accessing, using and developing the space together. The selected Community Arts Organiser will work closely with SSW, with artist Kathrin Böhm of Myvillages as well as with local groups and individuals in developing this work. This 8 month test period is called Lumbungden\*.

The Community Arts Organiser will be responsible for co-devising and delivering accessible and exciting making activities each week in the new community space. The activities should be led by local interest and suggestions. Over the 8 months period the successful candidate will research, consult, test and explore concrete ideas in the making and develop collective ways of working with local groups.

The work includes making new community connections with local groups and individuals, translating ideas for the space through activities, collecting and evaluating feedback, and assembling a catalogue of activities for the long-term future of the space.

### **International Summer School**

In addition to the above the Community Arts Organiser will also work with SSW and Myvillages to develop an 'International Summer School' that brings together community groups, cultural practitioners, artists, organisations, economic researchers and activists. The theme will be 'diverse rural economics' and aims to make space for rural knowledge holders in order to understand the complexities and possibilities of economic everyday practices that shape the rural, and Aberdeenshire in particular.

The summer school will directly connect to the BePart network as well as the wider trans-local network of Myvillages' Rural School of Economics and the global cultural movement #Lumbung, which was initiated by [rurangrupa](#) through [Documenta fifteen](#) in 2023, and proposes a new neighbourhood of art, culture and politics.

### **Aim and Specifics of the role:**

The aim of this role is to develop and apply your experience to Lumsden and the community space in order to drive imagination and discover what work and activity will support our local cultures to flourish and connect.

The role will have three areas of work:

- Practical consultation with groups
- Testing creative ideas in the space together
- International Summer School

Running throughout the three areas above will be time and space for the Community Arts Organiser to:

- test out ideas
- meet other local makers
- reflect on feedback
- undertake administrative work and have time to research

We imagine this would equate to the following time however understand this may change over the 8 month period:

- 1 x day administrative work - contacting people/ meeting people/ consultation/ supporting with content for marketing i.e images and texts/ updating agreements/ meeting with SSW and Myvillages
- 1 x day (8 hours - this could be split over 2 or 3 separate days depending on activity) open delivery of activity led by you in the space/ supporting or facilitating other groups in the space
- 1 x day research and dedicated time for developing ideas, writing and planning

### **Person Specification:**

The Community Arts Organiser should:

- Have a passion for, and experience in running creative and community-led projects which support the interests of those involved.
- Fun, approachable and can do attitude
- Take a lead in supporting, developing and administering the day to day running of the Community Making Space and the Lumbungsden programme
- Have their own practice that is collaborative and/ or able to support collective working and making
- Be able to facilitate groups working together including creating and using group agreements
- Have a strong understanding and experience of working across different communities and have knowledge and skills of understanding various access needs communities and individuals may have.
- Be practical and hands on - able to work in the space and install documentation, run events and develop artistic work.

### **Essential criteria:**

- Experience of working as a creative organiser
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organisational skills including monitoring budgets and evaluation
- Lives in Aberdeenshire or has strong knowledge of Aberdeenshire through their current or past work/ life experience
- A keen interest in the role of art in rural community settings
- Adaptable
- A passion for bringing people together in an empowering way
- Proven ability to be responsive to group working and needs

- Able to work with a wide range of people
- Strong facilitation skills

**Desirable criteria:**

- Strong design skills including using Adobe packages
- Able to illustrate/ share learning in an accessible and open way
- Keen interest in working in a trans-local way - connecting international rural knowledge
- Strong networks or knowledge of contemporary, rural artistic practice

**Disclosure checks**

Working in this position will involve regulated activity/work and as such offers of the position will be made conditional on the receipt of a satisfactory disclosure check. These will be conducted by Disclosure Scotland.

**How to apply:**

- Send your application to [arts@ssw.org.uk](mailto:arts@ssw.org.uk) - In no more than 2-sides of A4 please outline why you would like to position, your experience of working in a similar role and what skills and capacities you would bring to the position. Please also outline how you fit the person specification and criteria outlined within the job pack below. Please also include 2 referees in your application.
- We also accept video/ voice applications - a link to your application can be sent to the above address.
- Following submitting your application we will acknowledge receipt of the application and send through an equalities monitoring survey for you to complete.

**Process of selection:**

- A selection panel consisting of Sam Trotman of SSW, Kathrin Böhm of Myvillages and a member of the local community in Lumsden will review the applications
- You'll be notified of your application outcome by w.c 30th January
- Interviews held on 1st February