

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR: MAY 2016

### SUMMARY:

**the drawing shed** is a contemporary arts organisation (registered charity) led by Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd - two down-to-earth, hard-working artists with huge imaginations who are committed to working with diverse communities, in particular those living on two housing estates in Waltham Forest where the Community Development Coordinator will be based. They are looking for someone who will love working with them, and will enjoy coordinating the development and delivery of five high quality, contemporary arts and community projects with and for local residents within one of the borough's more deprived wards, by engaging both existing and new communities across generations. **the drawing shed** artists will bridge on and off the E17 estates whilst the local projects are running as they continue to develop a major new work **Black Light - Critical Shelter** linked to their research about climate change, community and migration.

**the drawing shed** is pleased to acknowledge funding for the estate based projects to date from: Big Lottery Awards for All, Waltham Forest Arts Development Fund, London Community Development Foundation, Walthamstow and Chingford Alms Charity, Goldsmiths, Skinners and Charles S. French trusts. *This is a freelance role for an initial 4 months starting early July 2016, with the potential for an extended contract, funding permitting.*

The Community Development Coordinator will build upon links with the community and co-ordinate the estate based creative projects for **the drawing shed**. This role will be supported by the lead artists who will provide overall vision and direction for the projects. Using the charity's garage project base, LockUpNumber11, the Coordinator will encourage self-confident, visible and active communities in this targeted neighbourhood in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

**the drawing shed** has co-produced events with individuals and families who live longer-term on these estates and are one of the community's real strengths, working together to create stronger community over the past six years and to 'welcome strangers to join neighbours'.

*(Please see Further Information and list of projects at the end of this document.)*

### More specifically, the role will include:

- Coordinating the development and delivery of five specific and diverse creative projects for young people and adults, in liaison with **the drawing shed's** lead artists
- Coordinating a team of freelance project workers and volunteers across these projects
- Developing close working relationships with local residents and other stakeholders to identify participants for these projects
- Working with the community, and voluntary, public and private sector partners to coordinate an evolving arts programme to meet local needs and aspirations and respond to contemporary concerns and ideas
- Contributing to increased local community visibility and exchanges of difference and ideas
- Working alongside **the drawing shed** lead artists who will manage this freelance worker

- A commitment to equal opportunities and supporting creative and critical dialogues within and between communities
- Writing project specific risk assessments to use within projects

### **Community Engagement:**

- Effectively motivate and mobilise people to be actively involved in effecting positive change in their neighbourhood through creative projects
- Support and facilitate community led activity and local change and well-being through accessing participation in creative projects
- Support people of all ages to transform ideas into projects and initiatives, which build on strengths, meet needs and aspirations and tackle concerns in the community, using creative projects as the tools
- Support and build a small team of active community volunteers, encouraging and supporting people to develop their skills and knowledge and motivating them to be active for positive change within the community
- Liaise with other agencies and partners linked either to **the drawing shed** projects or the estates' management

### **TIME-FRAME AND FEE STRUCTURE:**

- 2 days per week starting early July, initially for 4 months, *with potential to extend, funding permitting.*
- This is a freelance role. As such, the successful candidate will be responsible for paying their own Tax and National Insurance.
- There is no fixed weekly timetable for this project co-ordination role and this is reflected in the fee structure; please be prepared for some evening and weekend work.
- 2 days per week x £150.00 per day (32 days across 4 months) = £4,800.00

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- Please send your CV and a covering letter (maximum 2 sides of A4) responding to this Brief and Person Specification via email to: [thedrawingshed@gmail.com](mailto:thedrawingshed@gmail.com) by **5.30pm on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**
- Please include the names, role and contact details of two referees (at least one being a former employer / professional relationship)

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR: PERSON SPECIFICATION:**

#### **Knowledge/Qualifications:**

- Must have practical knowledge and understanding of community development practices, principles and values
- Must have experience in the coordination of successful community / arts based projects
- A recognised qualification in Community Work would be an advantage
- Must have positive knowledge and experience of working with diverse communities

#### **Essential Skills/Abilities/Experience:**

- Has the ability to coordinate a team of freelance workers and volunteers across a range of projects
- Has excellent communication and liaison skills both face to face and through social media
- Has excellent group work skills
- Has the ability to work at different levels within the community and with voluntary/statutory

agencies to actively translate needs into positive opportunities, with and for the local people living on the two estates

- Has the ability to supervise and motivate voluntary workers
- Has excellent self motivation and time management skills
- Has the ability to develop and maintain successful, positive working relationships, including the ability to consult, collaborate, negotiate and compromise to ensure effective outcomes, whilst maintaining professional boundaries
- Has skills and experience in developing appropriate project specific risk assessments to be carried through the projects
- Proven experience of community development, preferably within a setting of significant social need
- Experience of work with communities on issues affecting children and families and / or other vulnerable groups i.e. older people, refugees, carers, women who have experienced domestic violence
- Experience of working in the context of community / arts projects and artists
- Has evidenced experience of basic financial management skills (petty cash tin!)

### **Personal Qualities:**

- Enthusiastic, adaptable, outgoing, approachable and resilient
- High degree of empathy and compassion, including the ability to see issues and impacts from other points of view, and the ability to understand and relate to a diverse range of people from a wide range of backgrounds
- Promotes & facilitates equality, diversity, rights & responsibilities of individuals
- Able to deal with complex situations sensitively

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

#### **the drawing shed**

**the drawing shed** is a registered charity, set up in 2009 to deliver high quality contemporary arts projects, particularly working with communities experiencing high levels of social exclusion. Based on two housing estates in Walthamstow, East London with its project base, LockUpNumber11, the work is inter-generational and inter-cultural and involves diverse partners and communities. **the drawing shed** has a strong relationship with the local ward Councillors in Hoe Street and Waltham Forest council. It is led by visual artists Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd who collaborate together and with other artists across disciplines and with local people of all ages.

**the drawing shed** sets up projects with particular communities inviting local people to experience and take part in cultural activities and exchanges. Printmaking, drawing, festival, performance / live art, film, sound, pop-up cinema, food, installation, live-art-writing and social media are used to create art works, share ideas, develop community-based performance and trigger 'public' intervention through provocation.

**the drawing shed** is interested in ideas and imaginatively interrogating issues relating to living in this world that are often hidden from us, working often in contested public places and exploring notions of 'community'. Reflecting both London and the globalizing world's diaspora, the project's mobility is the aesthetic and political driver that underpins **the drawing shed**'s ethos of 'going to where people are rather than waiting for them to come to us'. Bridging in and out of the durational projects on their estates' base, **the drawing shed**'s enduring presence in turn makes way for shorter term projects and risk-taking which feeds back into the development of critical practice and ideas.

Its mobile studios – **the drawing shed**, ClayOven, PrintBike, The Public Reading Wall & Soapbox, and The Public Typing Pool - act as an artist-led project resource for collaborations and form one of the central platforms for the work which takes place on the estates, across London and further a-field. **the drawing shed** also

commissions other artists to work with the organisation, running participatory projects, interventions and provocations, as well as co-curating.

**the drawing shed** works closely with the Institute for Health and Human Development (IHHD) at University of East London (UEL) on questioning the relationship between creativity, networks, community cohesion and correspondent value to well-being. Sally Labern & Bobby Lloyd are both Honorary Fellows of IHHD.

## The community:

The residents of The Drive and Attlee estates are culturally diverse and live in a deprived area of Waltham Forest, ranked in the bottom 10% of all neighbourhoods in the UK according to the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. The average income of residents is low, unemployment and crime levels are high and the community is diverse and transient, with many recent migrants and families with English as a second language living alongside families and older people who have lived in the area for a long time. With migration and transience, there is a breakdown in wider family and kinship networks leading to a lack of community cohesion and isolation for older residents and those new to the area or country.

Local statistics and partnerships show that families on the estates need to access food banks and children's services that meet the needs of those living with long term poverty; women who live on these estates also experience high levels of domestic violence. *However, the people and families we know who live longer term on these estates are the communities' real strength, and the drawing shed has co-produced events with them over the past six years of working together to create stronger community and 'welcome strangers to join neighbours'.*

## THE FIVE PROJECTS:

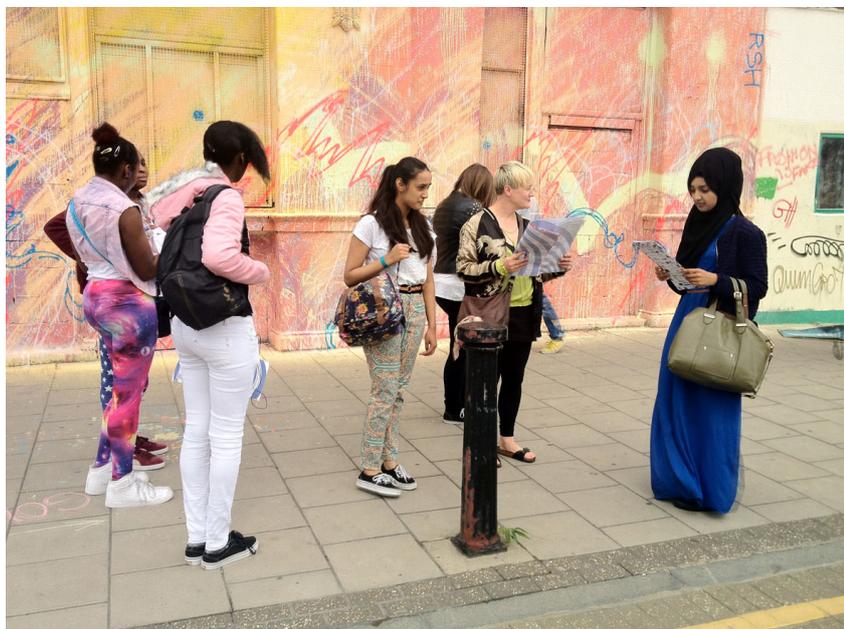
### 1. Top Boy Bakers

A baking project for men and boys. Men from the local area will become accredited mentors, through the bread-making process and then mentor vulnerable boys age 11-15+. The men and boys together will learn to bake bread and pizza at a locally community kitchen as well as on The Drive estate in **the drawing shed's** mobile clay oven. The workshops will include sharing culturally diverse recipes and healthy eating. Together they will plan how to share their new skills and produce with the wider community through community events and feasts, involving vegetables and herbs grown in the Attlee Terrace sunken garden, selling bread/pizza on the mobile veg van, sharing bread with vulnerable neighbours and teaching their own families and friends to bake.



## 2. Girls Performance Project

A performance art project for a group of 12 local young women from the estates (aged 15 -19yrs). There will be a series of 12 sessions led by performance artist Katy Baird based at *LockUpNumber11*, making contemporary art accessible for teenage girls, in particular introducing them to Performance Art, experiencing new work at London venues and developing their own performance piece based on their own experiences of living, working or studying in Walthamstow, to be performed on the local high street.



## 3. Intergenerational writing project - Stranger : Neighbour

A creative art-writing project offering a core group of 20 participants of all ages a series of workshops lead by professional writers and poets. The project will offer opportunities for members of the estate-based writers group to further develop their own craft as well as lead workshops for others, as well as opportunities for new or budding writers to try out writing for the first time. It is also linked to Parasol Unit, a contemporary art gallery with whom **the drawing shed** co-produce poetry workshops linked to exhibition programme with poet Simon Pomery. This project will welcome people with no previous experience of communicating their ideas or talking about their life experience through writing, supporting self-esteem and self-expression.



#### 4. Music Hall

The Music Hall takes place in LockUpNumber11 one late afternoon/evening in December, during the festive season. The event takes the form of a traditional sing-along with songs from the music hall era and West End stage, along with mulled apple juice, baked potatoes and popcorn. The event was initiated, and is always led, by The Drive estate resident William Woods alongside professional compere extraordinaire Mister Meredith, a London-based performance artist.



#### 5. Sunken Garden Project

**the drawing shed** is supporting the revival of Attlee Terrace Sunken Garden at the heart of the estates where a local intergenerational Community Gardening group will be formed to care for it going forwards. Supporting well-being through an active project across generations, this project will encourage those residents experiencing social exclusion to get involved, for example, older residents, people whose first community language is not English, refugees and asylum seekers. Bringing the garden back to life as a Community Orchard, flower and herb garden with the help of an inspiring professional community gardener, residents will take inspiration from neighbouring community gardens. Local groups concerned with air pollution levels in Hoe Street, one of London's air Pollution Hotspots, will help us explore the relationship between air pollution and well-being, with local primary school children leading a Citizen Science project with **the drawing shed**. Lead artists Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd will make artwork as a critical response, imaginatively investigating the link between hidden pollution levels and climate change.

