



Shetland arts



Re: Project Manager Culture Collective

Thank you for your interest in the above job role. This post offers a rare opportunity to join an innovative and entrepreneurial creative organisation at a point of transformation.

Join us and think nationally and internationally for Shetland's creative future.

Please refer to the job advert and visit [www.shetlandarts.org](http://www.shetlandarts.org) to find out more about who we are and what we do.

### How to make an application

Please fill in the attached/ enclosed application form ensuring you refer to the person specification at the bottom of the role profile. We need you to demonstrate in your application where you meet the experience, education, skills and knowledge required for the job. Please don't assume we will be aware of this information simply because we might know you; if it's not on paper to conform with our short listing process we can't interview you.

This job role presents a real opportunity to help shape the future of local cultural life. It will deliver new opportunities for creative practitioners and communities to work collaboratively developing ways of responding to the impacts of the ongoing pandemic and build community resilience.

The post, hosted by Shetland Arts, will work across the four consortium members An Lanntair - Isle of Lewis and Harris, Pier Arts Centre - Orkney, Shetland Arts Development Agency - Shetland and Taigh Chearsabhagh Trust - North Uist supporting and coordinating the ambition of the creative practitioners in the development and delivery of the agreed activity.

Although each island group in the consortium has their own unique challenges there are elements of their contexts that are similar. The overarching political collaboration "Our Islands, Our Future" demonstrates the success the islands and their agencies can have when they work together creating opportunities for investment that would not exist individually. Each island has significant economic challenges, high rates of fuel and in-work poverty, higher instances of isolationism, environmental risks and demographic and depopulation challenges, all of which put at risk the long-term viability of our homes. The Oxford Economics Covid vulnerability index ranks Orkney 2nd, Shetland 9th and the Outer Hebrides 11th most vulnerable local authority areas in the UK.

There are also many opportunities to harness the unique assets of Orkney, the Outer Hebrides and Shetland to create highly resilient communities and world class, innovative and globally focused Creative Industries that will strengthen the distinct and important

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contribution our Islands make to the economic vitality and international reputation of Scotland.

The work would encompass the following social outcomes

- Improved quality of life through greater access to creative and social experiences
- Improved mental and physical health through active engagement in creative and social experiences
- Improved community resilience through a more diverse and sustainable creative economy

Each of our organisations has strengthened engagement within our island communities throughout the COVID-19 period. Through this, we have identified some of our most vulnerable communities in need across Shetland, Orkney and the Outer Hebrides. These include:

- Older people, including people living with dementia.
- People experiencing mental health issues.
- Young people, many of whom have experienced significantly increased anxiety.
- People living in the outermost rural island communities experiencing isolation, for example in Unst, Fetlar and Foula (Shetland).

Through this Culture Collective action, we will focus on strengthening and expanding our networks of creative practitioners in the islands to develop innovative creative projects, connecting with and supporting these key groups. Our aim is to build a body of evidence demonstrating the value of, and therefore securing a legacy for, positive creative engagement as a crucial part of service provision for some of our most vulnerable island communities.

The delivery practitioners will be hosted locally by the relevant partners, supported by their existing staff and networks alongside the role the co-ordinator will take on. It is expected that the Project Manager will meet regularly with all the practitioners digitally to provide feedback, support as well as traveling to each location at appropriate moments in the project delivery in line with any Covid restrictions that may be in place at the time.

The processes we use to engage the communities will enable the Project Manager to support a shared dialogue between the participating communities across all the islands. This may take the form of exchanges, case studies, partnering or any number of other mechanisms that can support creative conversations.

Through this work, we anticipate a number of important outcomes:

- Key agencies, including those working across health, housing and education, will experience and understand the value and positive impact of creative and arts interventions within community setting and supporting specific groups within society, and will commit to resourcing and investing further in this for the longer term.
- Creative practitioners across the islands will find new opportunities together through collaboration and networking.

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- New communities, creative business and artists will relocate successfully to the islands.
- Island artists will have the opportunity to reach a national profile and engage with a national as well as local network for their work.
- Creative practitioners and policy makers nationally will have access to a body of evidence created through this work that will inform practice and collective action across similar rural and island communities nationwide.
- Partnerships will be established with new industries key to our islands population growth for example the renewables and the space sectors.

If you wish to discuss the role further please contact [Alison.Eunson@shetlandarts.org](mailto:Alison.Eunson@shetlandarts.org) to arrange a call with Graeme Howell, Chief Executive, Shetland Arts.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Elly Fletcher

Chief Executive  
An Lanntair

Neil Firth

Director  
The Pier Arts Centre

Graeme Howell

Chief Executive  
Shetland Arts

Simon Hart

Director of Business &  
Development  
Taigh Chearsabhagh

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