

# MAGIC ME ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

## Call for Expression of Interest



Photo from Quality Street by Samia Meah



## WHAT IS A MAGIC ME ASSOCIATE ARTIST?

We are looking for freelance creatives to join Magic Me as Associate Artists as we start our journey as a new Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation. We are looking for Associate Artists to join our freelance pool in Autumn 2023, until March 2026 to deliver on our exciting, ambitious plan over the next three years.

As an Associate Artist you will be:

- approached to plan and deliver Magic Me Projects during this time period.
- contracted on to a new Learning and Development Programme that brings Associate Artists together four times a year for peer learning and developing intergenerational arts practice.

We are particularly interested to hear from those with experience and knowledge of our Tower Hamlets community.

### FEE AND TERMS

**Fee:** Magic Me Associate Artist rate of £273 per day / £156 half day

**Start:** Autumn 2023 onwards

**Report to:** This role will report to the Programme Director and relevant Project Manager

**Contract requirement:** Must have the right to work in the UK and will be required to provide the necessary paperwork to verify this.

A majority of the projects will be delivered in and around Tower Hamlets and East London, with some in Essex and other areas of England. Travel to projects in London are not paid for by Magic Me. Where travel is necessary to deliver projects outside of London, travel will be reimbursed.

## ABOUT MAGIC ME

**Magic Me's Vision** is a world without ageism, where everyone can enjoy their unique creativity and full potential.

**Our Mission** is to inspire change - for individuals, communities and systems - through extraordinary art, sparking magic between generations.

We bring younger and older people together with artists working across many artforms, to create powerful artworks and performances, challenging how society thinks about ageing.

For 30+ years, we have pioneered intergenerational arts practices and experimental creative projects, engaging individuals and partner groups - care homes, schools, cultural organisations - to combat social isolation & build community. Based in Tower Hamlets, east London, we have grown a rich body of innovative work connecting people across generations and from different ethnicities, faiths and backgrounds.

Find out more about our current and past projects and their many benefits [here](#)

In April 2023, for the first time, Magic Me became one of the Arts Council England's, National Portfolio Organisations (ACE, NPO) Regular NPO funding, and support from a wide range of other regular funders, will enable us to design and deliver a rich programme of work, and invest in our organisation.

Our 3 Year Strategic Plan from 2023/24 focuses on three objectives:

1. Growing long-term partnerships, offering fresh approaches that serve the needs of our culturally diverse east London communities;
2. Increasing our reach to serve care homes for older people in London, Essex and beyond;
3. Harnessing the power of the arts and intergenerational activism to fight ageism, and bring positive lasting change.

Our anti-racism Action Plan runs across all work strands. We believe that by increasing the diversity within our organisation and team we will improve the relevance and the quality of our work.

Magic Me is a registered charity, governed by an enthusiastic and dedicated Board of Trustees. This year we will collaborate with more than 40 partners - care homes, schools and community organisations - in east London and Essex and work with a team of artists who are employed on a freelance basis to deliver Magic Me programmes.

**We welcome and encourage Expressions of Interest from people from Asian, Black and other minoritised communities and from disabled people.**



Photo from Searching for Community by Anita McKenzie

## WHY WORK WITH MAGIC ME NOW?

This is both an exciting and challenging time to become an Associate Artist with Magic Me - a time of change and re-evaluation. Our new 3 Year Strategic Plan responds to our communities' needs as we all emerge from covid. The Plan builds on 30+ years of intergenerational expertise and learning from our lockdown experiments. As we grow our programme following the pandemic, we are looking to expand our pool of freelance Associate Artists to lead this work.

Throughout the pandemic Magic Me continued to serve our regular participants and partners, delivering activities to combat social isolation and offer community connection. We trialled new creative and remote approaches offering quality arts to schools, individuals and care homes. Our focus for the next three years is to build on this work with a team of Associate Artists, participants and partners and provide regular space for artists and Magic Me staff to reflect and articulate learning and our practice together.

For this expression of interest we are particularly interested to hear from artists who have the skills and interest to co-design and deliver our strand of intergenerational work in Tower Hamlets, alongside the communities who live here. In future we will do call outs for artists interested in working on other areas of our programme as it develops (for example, creative work in care homes).

### Upcoming Projects

The following overview will give you a flavour of upcoming projects that will be led by Associate Artists with Tower Hamlets communities over the next 12-18 months.

- Developing and producing four intergenerational events at our new base of Pott Street (E2) that connect older and younger neighbours and challenge the perception of what generations can do together to wider Tower Hamlets audience (2023 & 2024)
- Developing and delivering workshops in Sheltered Housing Schemes, Community Centres, Estates and Secondary Schools around Bethnal Green to develop Magic Me's relationships with older and younger individuals in our local neighbourhood. (2023 & 2024)

- Piloting a new experimental arts project with communities across Tower Hamlets that asks "What could intergenerational collaboration bring to our community/community space?" (2023 & 2024)
- Delivering intergenerational workshops and projects that connect Primary School children with local older people living in care homes or Sheltered Housing (2024)

### **Associate Artist Learning & Development Programme**

Magic Me will run four Learning & Development sessions for Associate Artists and Magic Me staff throughout the year. Themes will include intergenerational practice, embedding an anti-racist approach, as well as time for artists to share examples of their work and experience each other's practice. We will expect Associate Artists to take part in at least three of these paid Learning and Development sessions per year.



Photo from Bancroft Estate Community Mural Project, led by Mural Artist ATMA

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for artists across a wide range of disciplines and artforms to join Magic Me as a freelance Associate Artist in Autumn 2023. We are looking for artists who are interested and curious to bring their practice and apply Magic Me's [Intergenerational Principles](#) to a range of community settings.

We are particularly interested to hear from artists working within the following areas, but this list is not exhaustive.

- Celebratory Artforms: transforming spaces, events/immersive experiences, food
- Artforms culturally specific to Tower Hamlets communities
- Making: props, costumes, objects
- Visual: Puppetry, textiles
- Storytelling, poetry
- Movement, dance
- Sound, singing, music
- Animation, photography

We would love to hear from artists who work in the following ways:

- Are interested in and motivated by cross-arts collaboration and the potential of intergenerational working
- Passionate about challenging ageism
- Are collaborative and want to co-design with participants, Magic Me staff, community partner staff
- Interested in creating an experience not just making an outcome
- Are skilled at communicating with a wide range of people simultaneously
- Have a learning and reflective mindset, and want to challenge and develop themselves and their practice.
- Are able to describe their practice in an accessible way
- Can apply elements of their art form/practice to different contexts/groups
- See the value of people and social outcomes as well as as arts outcomes
- Find ways to challenge and stretch groups, individuals in sensitive ways

We are particularly looking for artists with the following experience:

- Living or working in Tower Hamlets
- Lived experience of being part of the muslim and/or South Asian community
- Lived experience of being working class
- Collaborating with community partners (eg. teacher, care home manager etc) to co-design arts projects in response to a particular situation or agenda important to them
- Have worked previously as artists in care or health settings, non-arts environments, in people's spaces or homes (community halls, Sheltered Housing, estates etc)
- Have delivered arts projects with people who have complex needs (all ages), are neuro-divergent, have learning disabilities or are living with a Dementia.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

<b>Expression of Interest Deadline</b> Upload via the Magic Me website	Thursday 24 August, 12 noon
<b>Interviews (online, 30 - 45 minutes)</b> First round shortlisted artists meet the Magic Me team and tell us more about their work.	Wednesday 6 or Thursday 7 September <i>Between 10.00am - 5.00pm</i>
<b>Workshop (in person, 3 hours)</b> An opportunity to lead a short creative activity with participants and other fellow artists (full brief will be sent in advance)  <i>Paid @ £65 flat fee per candidate</i>	Monday 18 September  <i>2.00 - 5.00pm at Pott Street, Bethnal Green (E2)</i>



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Interested in this role? Please visit our [website](#) and submit:

- A written expression of interest (two pages A4 max)
- or
- An audio/film file (5 mins max) responding to the following questions:

**Why are you interested in this opportunity?**

**Tell us about your previous experience of leading participatory projects, and collaboration**

**How would you describe your arts practice?**

*You are welcome to provide up to two web links to your Expression of Interest to demonstrate your work.*

We are committed to being as accessible as possible, wherever we can, including application processes. We welcome any questions, feedback and suggestions or to discuss access requirements.

Have any further questions about this role? Want to discuss access requirements?

Contact Programme Director Kate Hodson on [katehodson@magicme.co.uk](mailto:katehodson@magicme.co.uk) or 0203 222 6064



Photo from Arts & Ages by Samia Meah