



Wigan  
Council



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# MAKE. BELIEVE.

## HIGHER FOLDS COMMUNITY PRODUCER

**Deadline for applications: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Interviews: Week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> January**

**Start date: February 2025 (negotiable)**

### Introduction to MAKE. BELIEVE.

MAKE. BELIEVE. is a two-year ACE funded programme of creative activity led by The Turnpike Gallery, designed to reach new audiences, address inequalities in our community and co-create new artworks in Wigan & Leigh.

The project is woven together in three strands which will come together in the Make. Believe exhibition in May 2026, celebrating the creative imagination of our communities.

### **Community led engagement project with Higher Folds residents**

We will deliver a programme of participatory arts and creative storytelling in partnership with HF Works CIC & Resilient Cities Network. Higher Folds estate in east Leigh is an isolated, often misunderstood community and an area of significant deprivation (top 8% in UK). Residents tell us they 'just want to be given a chance'. There is a wealth of creativity within the neighbourhood – from the outsider art of individuals to the collective folklore stories of Marble Woods, the Monkey Tree and the epic tree house created by a local resident out of recycled materials.

### **Creative participation and learning with Wigan borough communities**

For our wider community workshops, we'll explore a similar DIY approach to creative making. Taking a cue from the Turnpike Print Collection, with works by artists such as David Hockney and Patrick Caulfield, we will share different printmaking methods and innovative techniques to encourage people's creativity through a touring workshop programme.

### **Local Artist and Organisational Development**

The programme will be anchored by professional development opportunities and paid work for artists, including the creation of a peer advisory group for The Turnpike Gallery to share sector learning, ensure relevance and quality and raise our ambition.

## The Project Team

**The Turnpike Gallery** is an arts and exhibition space based in Leigh and managed by Wigan Council. Our small team run an ambitious and dynamic visual arts programme rooted in our local community. We deliver quality cultural activity through collaboration with local people, platforming youth voices and nurturing new connections in the town of Leigh, the Wigan borough and beyond.

**HF Works CIC** is a community-led organisation dedicated to empowering young people and supporting families living on Higher Folds housing estate. They provide a safe space for growth and development to raise aspirations and break the cycle of low expectations.

## About the Role

**Contract:** Freelance

**Reporting to:** The Turnpike Gallery Team

**Location:** Split between onsite work at Higher Folds Leigh, and remote working or working from The Turnpike Gallery

**Contact length:** 36 days between February 2025 – July 2026 (approx. 2 days per month)

**Fee:** £5500

The Higher Folds Community Producer will be a key part of the project team and will focus on the Higher Folds strand of the MAKE. BELIEVE. Project. They will be responsible for jointly developing and implementing a collaborative arts project with HF Works CIC and residents of Higher Folds. The goal of the project is to engage the community, support local artists, and enhance the livelihood and wellbeing of participants.

## Key Responsibilities

- Build strong working relationships with The Turnpike Gallery Team and project partners Resilient Cities Network and HF Works
- Work with HF Works to carry out consultation with residents to understand their needs and interests for the project
- Work with HF Works to design a brief for the lead artist on the project and lead on recruitment processes
- Collaborate with HF Works and the lead artist to design and deliver a community engagement project that is responsive to the community's needs and aligns with the overall project goals
- Support the Freelance Marketing Assistant to promote the project and workshops
- Work with HF Works to recruit and support micro-commission artists working on independent projects
- Work with HF Works to plan and deliver the final community celebration event at Higher Folds, to showcase the community's artistic achievements
- Contribute towards evaluation of the project working with our project evaluator

- Support HF Works in developing a legacy for the project and future funding applications

#### Person Specification

- 3+ years of experience in arts producing, community engagement or socially engaged arts practice
- Experience in commissioning and supporting professional artists and arts projects
- Experience working collaboratively with communities and groups
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills to engage diverse audiences
- Demonstrated success in project management, including managing budgets
- Understanding of contemporary arts practice and socioeconomic challenges facing disadvantaged communities in the northwest of England
- Familiarity with project evaluation and impact measurement
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team
- Use of own computer and proficiency with Excel, TEAMS, Word and Outlook
- Access to own transport (desirable)

#### How to apply

Please submit a CV, covering letter and equal opportunities monitoring form to [theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk) no later than Sunday 19th January. Your covering letter can be in written format of up to 2 pages, or audio/video format of up to 3 minutes.

For questions or an informal conversation about the role, please contact [theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk) / 01942 404469