

# Peckham Platform

## Project Manager: Memories for the Future



Visit to Museum of London Dockland with Golden Oldies 2022. Image: Tolu Elusadé.

### Background Information:

Peckham Platform is a cultural organisation with a civic duty. Our vision is of a more connected society and we are dedicated to creating positive change through meaningful social art, delivering projects where local communities and artists work together at each stage to provide a programme that is uniquely responsive and relevant to place. Since 2010, we have fostered new collaborations between our local communities and prominent social artists; to co-produce bold new artworks that create open platforms for civic enquiry.

In 2023, we will launch our new venue on Peckham Square, working in partnership with London Borough of Southwark. Our new home will be at the heart of an ambitious new vision for Peckham Platform. With five times our previous footprint and new facilities; we will become a welcoming centre for creative civic engagement and community participation. With new gallery spaces, learning facilities, and a dedicated Social Art Resource we will expand our activities, doubling our audiences, the number of participation opportunities we offer, and

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increasing our ability to create transformational artistic opportunities for communities facing the greatest need in Peckham and beyond.

We operate in Peckham, with 71% BAME\* local residents and over 40% young people - one of the highest ratios in the country. Peckham is changing rapidly, with a borough-led strategy for regeneration providing significant investment in the area in recent years and new businesses and communities moving to Peckham. Within this, a cultural scene is burgeoning, with outstanding cultural spaces and innovative creative industries emerging.

Inequality is growing, existing communities are being displaced and marginalised, and the benefit of new investment is often being felt only by a narrow cross-section of residents. Lower overall deprivation masks the continuing challenges facing Peckham, which is historically one of the most deprived areas in the country; 84% of the population live in the most economically challenged quintile nationally; 34% of children live in low income households; unemployment is at 15%; and it is ranked in the 12% highest crime spots in England. The situation has become critical in the context of sweeping cuts to public services decimating Peckham's support structures.

This inequality of access and opportunity is becoming even more apparent in Peckham at this time of rapid development. Operating within this complex landscape of urban change, Peckham Platform is committed to addressing social inequalities, promoting cultural democracy, and initiating long-term relationships with the arts across communities of need. Young people are at the heart of this process, as collaborators and audiences. Through our learning programmes, we use creative practice to explore alternative pedagogies that place young people at the centre of their educational development.

Our mission is more important than ever as we face a national crisis that spans social, environmental, economic, political and cultural fields. In this challenging context, the social value of art is being given more attention. Cultural organisations are increasingly experimenting with delivering more socially relevant work and look to Peckham Platform as a model of best practice. Our new venue is essential to helping us to expand our work to meet the needs of our community and the sector.

We believe that Peckham's public spaces can be reclaimed by residents as welcoming areas to come together; reinvigorated through performances, exhibitions, artistic interventions, and more. Our locality's vibrancy will be celebrated, recognising the diversity of experiences and histories that contribute to Peckham's unique identity, equally.

**\*BAME** is a problematic term and we agree with its many [critics](#) within the sector and beyond. We use this term here as a reminder that this term remains in use in "official" data such as the census.

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Visit to Tate Modern led by artist Beverley Bennett with Leaders of Tomorrow and Peckham Park Baptist Church Youth Group, 2019. Image: Ruth Sewell.

## Artistic Programme

Our artistic programme strives to be both relevant and supportive to artists and the communities with whom we work. Reflecting our values and concerns as a cultural organisation with a civic duty. We are committed to community-led co-commissioning and creating a genuinely collaborative process.

For each commission, we focus our work on engaging communities that are at risk of being marginalised in the cultural mainstream, platforming groups to explore the issues that arise with them. In the past, this has amplified the voices of womens' youth services, disability, mental health, and substance abuse recovery groups. We maintain a joint decision-making process with communities right through to the exhibition, installation or event.

Our new home will provide a larger, redeveloped gallery that welcomes these communities and more to a permanent and resilient home for our ground-breaking work, building on 10 years at the forefront of social art.

Our current co-commissioning programme includes a three-year project funded by Catalouse Gulbenkian Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn and Big Lottery titled Create Civic Change. A cross-generational, cross-cultural project capturing our community's response to a rapidly changing Peckham.



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Peckham Platform team portrait of Small Island Vibes Summer Programme, 2022. Image by Nigel R Glasgow

## Learning Programme

Our work with young people currently includes Arts Awards and Youth Platform, a creative in-house initiative that develops agency in young people facing multiple factors of disadvantage in Peckham. Funded by Charterhouse Southwark and the Portal Trust, in the last 3 years, we have nurtured an effective model of progressive participation, from often first out of school arts engagement, to becoming creative leaders with the skills and confidence to pursue pathways in the creative sectors. This work will be central to our organisational growth moving forwards. The learning programme is currently going through a development process to increase our offer for more people across the ages.

*"Peckham Platform has proven itself to be a shining beacon in bringing together artists' practices and community interest to embed contemporary art in a great unfolding programme of productive dialogues in London"* Sonia Boyce, MBE, Artist

## Company Information

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Peckham Platform is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Its annual turnover is around £380,000 with over 20% of its budget allocated to artistic programme. A National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England (receiving £75k pa), the organisation relies on fundraising and commercial income generation to deliver its creative and business plans.

Peckham Platform has a core part time staff of 6 with a further people working on project funded contracts, equating to a team of four as a full time equivalent. We are committed to creating a diverse workforce, offering flexibility within employment contracts, widening access to careers in the arts for volunteers, interns, apprentices and placements, and ensuring all staff have personal development plans to enable them to progress their career.

The Board of Trustees consists of ten members who lead the Charity and oversee the organisation in many ways. Trustees each bring unique skills and lived experiences to the organisation and contribute to the success of Peckham Platform.

You can read more about who we are; our vision, mission and values and learn more about our team on our [website](#).

## **Access support**

We are committed to meeting reasonable adjustment, to meet access requirements and supporting all team members to apply to Access to Work to cover relevant costs. Access support is available for all applications, including alternative formats. If you prefer to meet one of our team or talk through this job pack please contact [recruitment@peckhamplatform.com](mailto:recruitment@peckhamplatform.com) or call 020 7358 9645

## **Equal opportunities**

Peckham Platform is an equal opportunities employer, and actively encourages applications from groups currently underrepresented irrespective of gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability or age. This applies whether in relation to terms of employment, conditions of service or opportunities for training. Individuals are selected and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities, and no one is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justifiable.

## **Our Anti-racism pledge and action plan**

Our workforce reflects the demographics of Peckham and we actively support the anti-racism agenda. In terms of recruitment, we do this by ensuring that; all our roles are advertised, at least one person of colour attends every interview panel; people that are interviewed will get a chance to meet someone from the team to give insight to the organisational culture, as well as a chance to ask questions outside of the interview. We will offer feedback to everyone we interview. We strive to hire people with lived experience represented in the communities that we work with. We have relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure that our workplace is safe and welcoming.

## JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

**Job Title:** Project Manager, Memories for the Future

**Salary:** £31k pro rata at 2 days per week (Fixed term, 15 month contract starts July 2024)

**Accountable to:** Artistic Director, Peckham Platform

**Location:** Peckham with remote working

Peckham Platform is a creative and educational charity that connects art, people and place. Bringing together local communities with leading artists to co-produce art projects with impact. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Producer for Public Realm to join a civic minded arts organisation at an exciting new phase of its development.

### **Purpose of Role:**

As Project Manager of Memories for the Future you will lead on the delivery of a programme that explores the diverse lived experiences of our elders; 1st generation of women who relocated to Peckham during the first, major postcolonial migrations from African diaspora nations before and after their independence.

Memories is a hyperlocal community-led programme that researches and responds to the intangible heritage of the people who shaped Peckham's iconic Rye Lane. Building from community-input, our starting point are Rye Lane's iconic "Aunties", women business leaders whose roles in Peckham exemplify the lived realities of migration into Britain and the experience of rebuilding lives as part of a diaspora. This project works to cherish and learn from these at risk histories which elucidate Britain's complex relationships with the rest of the world, and the foundational influence of these women on the communities living/working on Rye Lane

Memories will identify, record, preserve, share 10 oral histories of Peckham aunties in conversation with younger generations in their families and/or beyond that tell a multi-dimensional story of: post-colonial commonwealth migration, British community response, diaspora experience, and how Peckham became the diverse area it is today. The outcomes of

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these conversations will inform artworks including creative placemaking through public realm and community-led artistic commissions.

This role engages local youth, elders, families and children through our co-developed programmes and local and national stakeholders. Key focus areas of the role include project management, production, installation and delivery of this commission. You will manage a small but dedicated team and freelancers to form engaging, accessible, sensitive and ambitious creative experiences with a focus on heritage and creative civic exchange.

Peckham Platform currently operates off-site and online as we prepare to move into our new gallery space in 2025. You will be responsible for delivering the safe production and installation of the mobile structure, supporting the commissioned artists and Peckham Platform team to create a safe and inclusive public space. A key component to this role will involve evaluation, ensuring that our activities are relevant, inclusive and of high quality, reaching our target audiences with a particular focus on those with protected characteristics.

As Project Manager of Memories for the Future you have a strong track record of successfully delivering community embedded commissions, and experience within the arts and cultural sector, and or transferable skills. We expect all applicants to have an appreciation of the lived experiences of our core audiences. You should be in your element working collaboratively with across programme strands throughout projects to support the artistic vision and mission of the organisation.

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## Duties and Responsibilities

### Delivery

- Project management of the collection and research of oral histories
- Delivery of site-specific public realm commission
- Assembling Health and Safety-related documents including risk assessments and method statements.
- To manage a small team, ensuring the public realm commission effectively and meets required objectives and aims
- Support the Learning and Community Engagement Manager with partnership maintenance and development
- Support commissioned artists
- Manage project budgets
- To support, develop and coordinate new learning activities for elders, families, children and young people
- To coordinate and support the delivery of workshop programme
- To support staff team and volunteers to participate and fully understand the commissioning process and create positive professional development experiences
- Report on planning, implementation and delivery of public realm commission activities at weekly team meetings.
- To support the collection and collation of participant and visitor data for evaluative processes

### Community Engagement

- To attend local and national networking meetings and forums with a focus on creative learning
- To liaise with the staff team in coordinate community consultation events, online or/and in person feeding into our capital project
- Support commissioned artists and community groups in the development of a co-created event space



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## Communications & Marketing

- Create positive connections with various local and national stakeholders through marketing, attending events and meeting key local community professionals
- Deliver effective communications through all our marketing channels, to local audiences, schools and partners, creating content for our website, newsletters and socials
- Managing our database of contacts; filing and storing following GRPR regulations
- Report writing, data collection and management to deliver funding requirements
- Work closely with our Marketing Officer to plan and create content for marketing
- To ensure that volunteers and front of house staff are an informed and professional point of contact at all times

## General

- Support where possible to keep all IT software and hardware up to date so smooth running of the office can take place, ordering materials and updating IT software as required.
- Undertake health and safety duties and responsibilities appropriate to the role
- You will be expected to at all times work in accordance with the organisation's Safeguarding policy and Equal Opportunities Policy promoting equality and diversity in your work.
- You will conduct all financial matters associated with the role in accordance with the organisation's policies and procedures
- Other duties as assigned from time to time by Directors

## Person specification

### Essential:

- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Evidence of producing public realm commissions/festivals
- Experience of working on installations in the public realm
- Excellent communication skills and confidence to speak to people one-to-one, in groups and for public events to a broad range of audience
- Ability to strategise, plan, prioritise and work independently in a small team

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- Experience of managing a team to offer support and enable team members to work effectively thrive in their roles
- Strong interpersonal skills, and ability to develop positive working relationships with a range of colleagues and external partners
- A good understanding of Peckham and Southwark, and the communities that work and live in the area
- Budget management and delivery of funding requirements
- Demonstrable enthusiasm and aptitude for a role in cultural engagement
- An understanding of safeguarding and public safety for events

**Desirable:**

- Have previously worked in an ACE NPO Arts organisation and/or with a registered charity
- Have previously worked with Councils and stakeholders
- Experience or keen willingness to learn about marketing
- Good knowledge of other art organisations and cultural sector

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## How to apply

To apply, please send us your application

1. As a written statement of no longer than 2 pages; and/or an audio/video presentation of up to 5mins. Please tell us how you meet the person specification for the role. We would really like to hear why this role is an exciting move for you and what skills you would like to develop.
2. A supporting CV no longer than 2 pages, that demonstrates your skills, knowledge and experience.
3. Please also include earliest start date and names of two referees (only contacted after seeking permission)
4. Please note that all applications are subject to a 'blind' recruitment process. This means that identifying information such as name, gender and schools attended are removed before being read by the selection panel.

Complete the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring form](#) (this is for monitoring purposes only and will be detached from your application).

If you would find it more accessible to complete any part of this application in a different format, please email [recruitment@peckhamplatform.com](mailto:recruitment@peckhamplatform.com)

**Application Deadline:** Midday, Monday 1 July 2024

**Interview Date:** Wednesday 17 July