

Training Information Pack

Creative Practitioners: Creative Approaches to Work: Making Neurodiversity Your Business Programme

Venture Arts is an award-winning visual arts organisation working with learning disabled and neurodivergent artists of all ages.

Through our studio programmes, exhibitions and collaborative projects, we remove barriers to the arts, we put artists in the lead, we champion neurodiversity and provide pathways for every individual to develop their creative identity.

Venture Arts equips people to succeed as artists, advocates, cultural workers, educators, curators and critics.

This Opportunity

We are looking for 8 emerging creative practitioners who identify as neurodivergent to join the Creative Approaches to Work Programme.

This project is all about creative health and aims to show how creative practice can help build confidence and support neurodivergent young adults to feel more prepared to move into work.

This course will run from **Oct 2026 to December 2026** and aims to give you the tools to use your creative experience to build opportunities for other ND young adults through a 6-week course from **January to May 2027**.



The programme is part of the Greater Manchester Creative Health Place Partnership and is part-funded by Arts Council England.

Participation Support Payment

A payment of **£1200** will be available to each creative practitioner taking part in the programme. Information about the funding arrangement and payment process will be provided later in the process.

Meet The Team

These are some of the people you will meet and work with during the programme. We're here to support you throughout the opportunity.



Amanda Sutton
Director of Venture Arts



Lucy Niemczyk
Programme Producer

How The Training Opportunity Works

You will take part in **8 training sessions across 4 weeks from October to December 2026**.

This is **not** a four- week full-time programme. The sessions will take place at set times across the four weeks across two days each week.

We will do our best to work with all participants to ensure the dates and times of the sessions work for you.

Each session will focus on developing your creative practice, skills and confidence so you are prepared to then pass on your learning to young neurodivergent adults who are looking to move into the workplace.

Throughout the 8 training sessions, you will:

- Develop and reflect on your creative skills and ideas.
- Explore the barriers that neurodivergent young people face.
- Explore how creative practice, across a range of creative mediums, can support young neurodivergent adults to build confidence, develop skills and move closer to the workplace.
- Explore your identity as a creative.
- Work with creative industry professionals, arts organisations and creative venues across Greater Manchester.
- Feed into creating a core set of modules that will support other ND individuals to succeed.

You will have support throughout the programme.

After completing all 8 sessions, participants may be considered for opportunities to help deliver a 6-week creative programme for around 10 neurodivergent young adults aged 18–30 in Greater Manchester.

The 6-week creative programme will run from **January 2027 to May 2027** and will use a range of creative approaches to support participants to move towards employment.

Who Is This Opportunity For?

This opportunity is for **neurodivergent creative practitioners** (aged 18+) from **Greater Manchester** who have some experience of delivering or supporting arts projects or workshops. For example, you might have:

- Led or helped lead creative projects.
- Worked with groups through creative activities.
- Facilitated workshops, sessions or community projects.

We are looking for someone who can take an active role in leading a group, with support from the team.

For example, you should feel able to:

- Communicate ideas to a group of around 10 young adults.
- Explain a creative activity.
- Encourage people to get involved.
- Notice when someone might need help.
- Ask the project team for support when you need it.
- Take responsibility for your part of the session.



You do not need to have everything figured out. We will provide support to help you develop.

Your experience can come from paid work, volunteering, education, community projects or your own life experience. You do not need to be an experienced professional facilitator.

You do **NOT** need:

- A university or college qualification
- To call yourself a professional artist
- An agent or professional representation
- Lots of professional experience or paid work

What Do We Mean By “Creative Practitioner”?

A **creative practitioner** is someone who has an artform or creative activity that they use to engage people, encourage ideas, and support learning during workshops.

For example, you might be interested in:

- Drawing, painting, illustration or visual art
- Photography or film
- Music, singing or songwriting
- Theatre, performance or spoken word
- Dance or movement
- Writing, poetry or storytelling
- Digital art, animation or graphic design
- Craft, textiles, fashion or making

We are looking for creative practitioners who share our belief that art can support social change.

If your creative practice sits outside of these examples, we would still like to hear from you.

What Support Will Be Available?

This is an **emerging practitioner opportunity**. That means we are not expecting you to already be an expert. You will have support to help you prepare for the opportunity.

This could include support with:

- Planning sessions
- Developing creative activities
- Understanding your role
- Preparing for facilitation
- Communicating with the group
- Reflecting on sessions
- Building your confidence

Asking for support is a positive thing. You will not be expected to do everything independently.

Is This Opportunity Right for Me?

This opportunity could be right for you if:

- ☐ You are neurodivergent and live in Greater Manchester.
- ☐ You have a creative practice or artistic identity.
- ☐ You have some experience of facilitating or working with groups.
- ☐ You want to develop your creative and facilitation skills.
- ☐ You are interested in working with other neurodivergent people.

It is important that you can take on the main responsibilities of facilitating a session and supporting a group of young people who may have their own support needs.

If you need someone to provide continuous one-to-one support throughout the session, this opportunity may not be the right fit for you at this time.

This does **not** mean that you are not capable of creative work or that you cannot become a facilitator in the future. It simply means that this opportunity has a particular level of responsibility.

We want to be honest about this so that everyone who applies has a clear idea of what the opportunity involves.

If you are unsure whether you meet the criteria, please contact our Programme Producer Lucy (She/Her), at lucy@venturearts.org . We would much rather talk it through with you than have you decide not to apply.



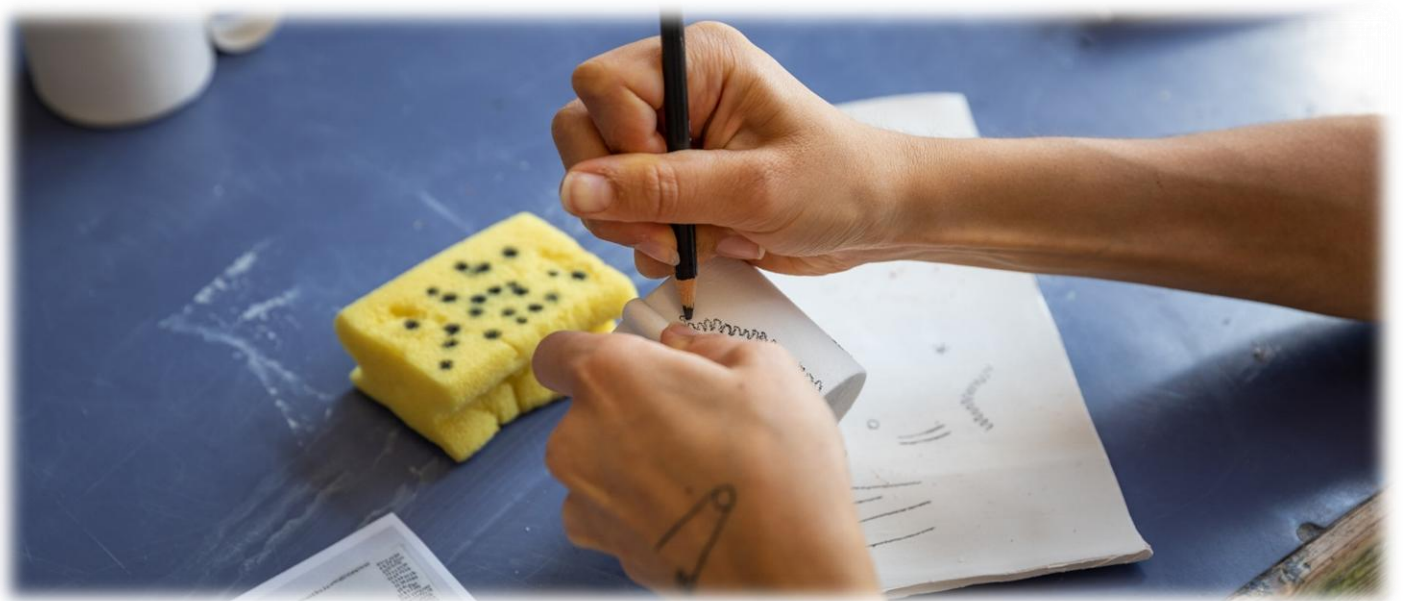
How to get involved

Choose the format that works best for you:

- Video – up to 5 minutes
- Audio – up to 5 minutes
- Written – up to 1 side of A4

Please answer these questions:

1. **About you:** Who are you, where are you based, and what would you like us to know?
2. **Your creativity:** What kind of creative work or art form do you do? What do you enjoy exploring?
3. **Working with groups:** Have you led or supported a group, workshop or activity? Tell us a little about what you did.
4. **Why this programme?** Why would you like to take part, and what would you like to learn or develop?



Send Your Information

Email us at **Lucy@venturearts.org** by 10am on **1st October 2026**.

Email Subject Line: Creative Practitioner – Creative Approaches to Work

Please include your **full name, phone number and attach your submission** in your email.

If you are sending a video or audio submission, simply attach the file. **You don't need to include your contact details in the recording.**

Before sending, check:

1. ☐ I have answered all the questions
2. ☐ My submission is within the time/length limit
3. ☐ I have included my contact details in my email
4. ☐ I have attached my submission to my email
5. ☐ I have emailed it to **Lucy@venturearts.org**



Timeline of Dates

Deadline For **Submissions: Thursday 1 October 2026** by 10am (Late submissions will not be accepted).

We aim to update everyone with the result of their application by **Wednesday 4 October**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal chat with the team either online or in person on the week commencing **7 October**.

Offers on the programme will be made by **12 October**.

The programme aims to start by **November 2026**.