

# Bluecoat

Liverpool's Centre for the Contemporary Arts

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Bluecoat is seeking an exceptional individual for the new role of:

## **Blue Room Facilitator**

**10 hours per week (based primarily at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Runcorn)**

**£20,000 pro rata (£5,333.33 per annum)**

Bluecoat is Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts, offering a year-round programme of exhibitions and a range of music, dance, literature, live art and heritage events. As conservators of a rich history and ornate building, which marked its 300 year anniversary in 2017, we are also home to around thirty artists, collectives, small arts organisations and craftspeople.



We used our building's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 to reflect on our past, but also to plan for the future. We want to develop the best possible space for artists, audiences and participants in the arts at the heart of Liverpool and to ensure everything we do is both relevant to the times and excellent in content and execution.

The most significant shift in our work from 2018 onwards will be a sharper focus on artists' practice. As the UK's first arts centre our ambition now is to develop an artists' hub for the North, underpinned by local talent development and linked to national and international opportunities. Alongside this objective, we are also developing a business model which will combine a new heritage offer, an effective trading subsidiary and the expansion of our award-winning participation work into other centres in the North West and further afield.

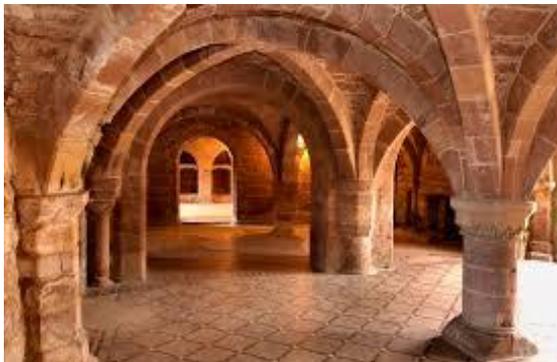
### **Bluecoat's purpose is to:**

- Support diverse artists to develop their practice at all stages of their lives and careers, to engage dynamically with audiences and to communicate the power and value of art to as broad a spectrum of people as possible;
- Preserve, reveal and interpret the multi-faceted story of our historic building - making it accessible to a range of audiences through activities, exhibitions, events and digital content in appropriate formats;
- Help more people find a meaningful place for the arts in their lives, creating safe and inclusive spaces for everyone to engage as audience and participant;
- Develop increasingly sustainable facilities that will generate income and support from a range of sources in order to support local and international artists and arts participants.

### **Participation at Bluecoat**

Our Participation programme is widely acknowledged for providing engaging and high quality contemporary arts experiences for people who would otherwise face significant barriers to involvement. This is delivered by experienced artists and creative staff through genuinely person-centred practice in the context of sustained relationship building with vulnerable adults and children and their parents and carers.

In 2008 we established **Blue Room** to provide weekly inclusive opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to access high quality visual arts programmes at Bluecoat. Supported by an artist facilitator, our 35 Blue Room members explore exhibitions in Bluecoat's gallery and other cultural spaces, using them as a starting point for discussions and creation of new work. A huge range of concepts are covered, including ground often left untrodden by people with learning disabilities such as love, war, death and politics. The groups explore a range of materials and processes to encourage experimentation and skills development. They work collaboratively with each other, with local children and guest artists and have exhibited their work at Bluecoat. Some of our Blue Room members help to run [Out of the Blue](#), after school art clubs for children living in some of the more disadvantaged areas of the city.



We are delighted to be working with new partners [Norton Priory Museum and Gardens](#) who have received support from Arts Council England to bring Blue Room and Out of the Blue to Halton. The new Blue Room project will be aimed at learning disabled young people and adults aged 16-25 and will be based at Norton Priory every Friday. With their team we will develop our existing way of working to this new context.

**We are seeking a Blue Room Facilitator** to join Bluecoat's dedicated and experienced Participation team to take an artistic lead on this new project. This will be a unique opportunity for someone with their own critically engaged practice to develop their existing participatory approach as part of an acclaimed programme within a supportive environment. After initial training at Bluecoat you will work closely with colleagues at Bluecoat and Norton Priory to support the recruitment of members, build a new group dynamic and plan and deliver an exciting programme of weekly sessions. You will draw on the richness of Norton Priory's history and landscape and the contemporary references of Bluecoat's programme to create engaging and inclusive experiences. You will support the group to appoint and host a guest artist-in-residence in 2019 and support the installation of two exhibitions of work at Norton Priory. You will work closely with the Out of the Blue Facilitator to support members to volunteer and collaborate with children from the local area.

Funding for the project is in place until August 2019 but it is inherent in the model that the project should become self-supporting as members pay to attend, usually from their personal social care budgets.

The deadline for applications for this exciting new role is **9am on Monday 21st May 2018**.

A full **Job Description** is available along with a **Person Specification** and **Application Form**. Applications should be submitted to **[recruitment@thebluecoat.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@thebluecoat.org.uk)**.

Interviews will be held on 24th May and successful candidates will progress to a second interview phase on 5th June.

For an informal conversation about the role please contact Bec Fearon on 0151 702 7760 or Laura Yates on 0151 702 5328.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

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