



Writer's Brief - Echoes & Origins

Bluecoat is a home for creative potential where art and people meet. Our purpose is to create new, more meaningful ways to experience art. For artists and for everyone - we bring art into life. Our work has four pillars:

Breaking New Ground

Bluecoat is Liverpool's contemporary arts centre - the first, the original. A place defined by 100 years of radical thought and creative reinvention. An independent arts centre that continues to nurture artistic talent and break new ground. Part of Liverpool's past, key to its future.

Inspiring Curiosity

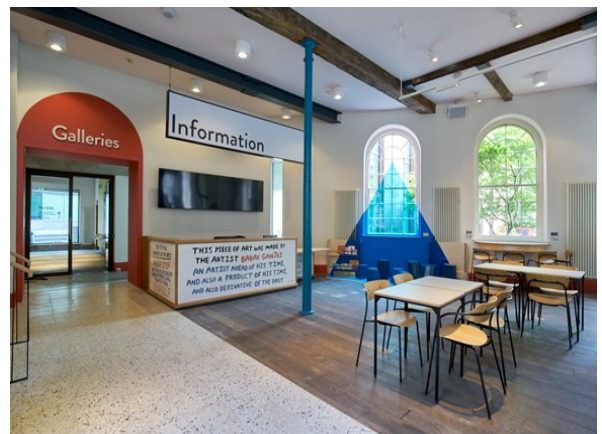
Bluecoat is a creative playground, a supportive space in which to unearth new ideas and embrace something out of the ordinary. It is a place that sets out to inspire: here, you can make, debate, participate, in new and unexpected ways.

Unlocking Creative Process

Bluecoat brings people into the heart of the creative process, creating new opportunities for individuals and communities to interact with artists as they work. A place not just to look at but to engage with art.

Purposefully inclusive

Bluecoat is an inclusive home for artists and creative practitioners. A place that sees potential in many voices under one roof. A platform for artists with different viewpoints and from backgrounds underrepresented in the sector. Here, artists can find their voice and share their work with a wider and more diverse public.



Participation at the 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 participants including vulnerable adults, children and their parents and carers.

Echoes & Origins Project

This year, the Bluecoat established [Echoes & Origins](#), a project to explore the historic origins of the building and its inhabitants. It will examine how continuing legacies from its original purpose as an Anglican church charity school connect to the lives of people in the city today.

The project is split into two strands, with the first focusing on 'Colonial Legacies'. Its starting point is the building's connections to the sea, through the Liverpool merchants who supported the school using profits derived from trade with Africa and the British colonies. This includes the transatlantic slave trade and goods enabled by slavery, such as cotton, sugar and tobacco, which contributed to the charity school's fortunes.

The second strand will look at the history of the building as a school - known as the Blue Coat Hospital - and home for children who we might now refer to as 'looked after'. The charity school gave the children education, a place to live, and apprenticed some of them to work in maritime and other trades. Although many children benefited from the school, life there was - to contemporary eyes - very harsh. Using creative activities, the project will reflect on those children's lives through the eyes of local people today who are 'care experienced' or are currently 'looked after'.

The participants will collaborate with our creative team to research, develop and create art works in response to their sessions.

Work with Us

We would like to work with an experienced writer who can facilitate a group of care experienced adults and currently 'looked after' young people. We want you to help draw out their lived experiences along with researching, exploring and imagining the stories of the children who attended the Blue Coat charity school.

The project will bring together participants with a dance artist, historian, digital artists and a facilitator to develop workshops and a programme to highlight this history and bring it alive for the public. The writer's role in this is to develop a body of work in collaboration with participants and the wider creative team that will help to tell the story of the Blue Coat children whose voices have all but been lost.

You will have access to historical archives, creative resources, spaces and an experienced team of Participation Staff who will support you in the role.

Hours & Fees

We are offering 182.5 hours of planning and delivery time, to be worked on a flexible schedule across November 2021 - July 2022 at an average rate of £35 per hour.

November and December will include research and development time with the creative team and supporting the recruitment of participants.

Key dates:

- **Saturday 20th November - Open day at the Bluecoat for recruiting participants (5 hours).**
- **Thursday 25th November - Meet the team (4 hours).**

You will work on average around 15-20 hours per month, to be decided in consultation with the team.

January - June 2022 you would need to commit to 1-2 workshop sessions per week (days to be decided in consultation with the creative team). Sessions will be 2 hours long, with 1 hour either side to plan and meet with the team.

The total fee for the project will be **£6,387**.

Timeline

Nov 2021: Writer begins. Meetings and open day with the creative team.

Nov - Dec 2021: Recruitment of participants and meetings / getting to know each other sessions at the Bluecoat or other organisations, as decided by the participants and creative team.

Jan - Jun 2022: Weekly creative sessions begin at the Bluecoat or other venues, as decided by the participants and creative team.

May 2022: Presenting some of the project work at the Writing on the Wall festival.

Jul - Aug 2022: Two performances of the participants' work. This might include dance, music, spoken word, poetry, performance or digital art.

Jul - Oct 2022: An exhibition of artworks produced during the project to be displayed at the Bluecoat.

Oct 2022: Public workshops, discussion and advocacy events relating to the findings, research and topics that have been explored.

How to Apply

We are looking for a writer who has experience of working in collaborative ways with participants and other artists to develop this body of work with us. You can be experienced in any form of writing.

If you would like to apply for this role, please complete the Expression of Interest Form attached, saying why you are interested, what your experience is and how you feel you can meet this brief by **Friday 12th November at 5pm** to Katrina Shock, Project Facilitator: katrina.s@thebluecoat.org.uk.



Supported by Art Friends Merseyside.