



Artistic Director - Forma Arts

Forma Arts is one of Europe's leading creative producers, working with British and international artists to develop and deliver new cross art form productions in the UK and across the world. Characterised by excellence in concept and context, production values and the audience experience, Forma exists to imagine, enable and deliver remarkable art by exceptional artists.

Forma Arts is moving into an exciting new phase and is looking for an inspirational, curatorial and producing focused Artistic Director to reinvigorate the organisation, taking its 15-year legacy into the future.

The new Artistic Director will create and implement a visionary curatorial approach to selecting and developing artistic pieces, which will culminate into a multi-year programme of works. They will have a wide personal network cross media (music, film, visual art, science, environment and academic fields) with previous experience of working with original ideas and content, to form collaborations and conceptually lead production of excellent quality cross media work within visual arts, performance and commercial contexts, locally, nationally and globally.

Forma Arts is a National Portfolio Organisation, supported by the Arts Council England.

Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To Apply: Please email CV, cover letter, a 1-page artistic vision concept paper and details of at least one professional reference, by 5pm on Tuesday 25 September 2018 in confidence to trustees@forma.org.uk

If you would like to arrange an informal phone conversation about this role please email the same address.

A copy of the current business plan will be made available to shortlisted candidates.

Interview dates are set for early October. Start date 1 January 2019 or earlier if possible.

<http://www.forma.org.uk/>

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Job Description

Purpose of the Job:

The Artistic Director will primarily be responsible for raising Forma's artistic profile.

The post holder will be responsible for artistic strategy and development, with a visionary artistic, curatorial and collaborative approach to selecting and developing artistic pieces, which will culminate into a full programme of work.

Using personal and existing Forma networks the Artistic Director will select artists, generate ideas and form collaborations, and will lead the organisation to produce excellent quality cross media work with original content, within visual arts, performance and commercial contexts. Artistic themes will resonate with local, regional, national and global trends and interests, to enable a range of commercial and subsidised touring options.

In addition to the artistic responsibilities, the Artistic Director will also be responsible for:

- strategic business development
- major stakeholder relationship management (Arts Council England and others)
- delivery of the business plan including implementation of the new business model aimed at creating and sharing more value with creative partners; and
- ensuring a smooth organisational operation.

It is envisaged the Artistic Director will be the sole leader of the organisation and accountable for both artistic and executive aspects and be London based.

The board of trustees are keen to receive applications based on artistic merit and to work closely with the selected applicant to structure the organisation to suit their executive strengths and weaknesses.

Key Responsibilities – Artistic

- To develop individual presentations and integration of singular works into a strategic thematic programme of works.
- To work closely with artists; selecting and supporting artists through creative process to create original works through to first public presentation(s) and subsequent distribution of the work. This includes developing concept of the work, instigating collaborations, conducting research and development, secure funding, and leading a team to produce and present new works.

- To develop artistic and cross discipline (science, environment, academic etc) networks to support the artistic collaboration process and presentation of the works – developing a wide network of contacts and deep relationships of artistic trust and mutual benefit.
- To develop the wider organisation by nurturing existing and creating new relationships with producers, funders and presenters.
- To lead the staff team and relevant freelance producers to ensure excellent professional producing service to artists and excellent quality of presented works.
- To identify and manage financial and other risks when making artistic decisions.

Key Responsibilities - Executive

Working closely with the Company Manager, the Artistic Director will also be responsible for:

- Leading and managing all strategic business planning, including regular reviews of the Business Plan and the implementation of new initiatives and priorities.
- Identifying and leading on securing financial investment in Forma's wider activities from a range of different strategic partnerships, including corporate fundraising, sponsorship campaigns, individual giving and grant applications.
- Developing and capture commercial opportunities in contracts in line with the new business model aimed at creating and sharing more value with creative partners.
- Liaising with key funders including Arts Council England and leading on the preparation and submission of applications and reports as required by ACE and other funders and stakeholders.
- Line managing senior staff and overseeing the recruitment of new staff when required.
- Together with the Chair of the board of trustees, to manage the board of trustees (and appropriate advisors), including recruitment and induction of new trustees.

Hours of work:

Full time (40 hrs per week).

Your usual hours of work are from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Occasional evening work and international travel is required to attend events, private views and to liaise with potential donors and sponsors.

Rate of pay:

Your basic rate of pay is: £45,000 p.a. inclusive of London weighting.

Holiday entitlement:

You are entitled to 25 days paid holidays in any one complete holiday year (exclusive of the generally recognized Bank Holidays).

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Person Specification

- Experience of artistic directing or curating experience in the visual arts, film, performance, digital or cross media art forms, with strategic programme creation and management.
- Arts leadership experience and positive reputation in the sector. Able to act as an ambassador for the organisation and show leadership in the arts in general; this might include but not be limited to attendance at events and giving public presentations.
- Experience with managing budgets in excess of £300k, strategic funder management and understanding of legal compliance and best practise in the sector.
- Commercial and Subsidised sector experience – specifically arts council funding, creative industries and creative economy.
- Strong, established and high-profile network of established artists and collaborators across art form (including digital), science, environment and academia.
- In-depth and strategic producing experience – including original concept development with artists and setting up collaborative projects and working collaboratively putting the artist's idea at the centre of producing.
- Experience with creating and leading inclusive and high achieving creative teams.
- Lifestyle led passion for the arts and pursuit of artistic excellence.
- Eligible to work in the United Kingdom.