



The School of Plural Futures

Lead Artist/Curator

Recruitment Pack 2020

ATLAS Arts is looking for a lead artist and/or curator to co-design and coordinate a new alternative school programme on the Isle of Skye. Working with ATLAS Arts and a core group of eight participants between January and July 2021, the artist/curator will be responsible for planning and delivering 5 x 3 day sessions on Skye between January and July 2021 (in person where COVID restrictions allow).

The ideal candidate will have an interest in the impact that art can make to the communities of Skye and Lochalsh and have a strong track record in process-based arts projects and creative programming - with a keen interest in alternative pedagogy and curriculum building.

The School has a broad focus on climate crisis and social justice. We want to charge these discussions with imaginative, pleasurable, radical potential - building poetic strategies and alternative communities. The lead artist/curator will create an imaginative framework for the school - and will work with students to build and realise an ecologically focused, decolonial curriculum that learns through histories of Skye, Lochalsh and the Highlands region. Responding to the place, people and culture in which it is situated, the programme should explore ways of thinking and responding to the climate crisis in the present - exploring what is happening locally and to situate this globally.

The project is fully funded by a grant of £36983 enabling an ambitious and well resourced curriculum of workshops and events, and a student stipend.

This is a salaried post fixed for 8 months, funded by Inspiring Scotland Creative Communities Fund in collaboration with Skye Climate Action.

To discuss this role and for further information, please contact ATLAS Arts' Director Ainslie Roddick ainslie@atlasarts.org.uk

1. Summary Terms and Conditions

Job title: Lead Artist/Curator

Reporting to: Artistic Director

Contract type: Part time, 0.4 FTE, fixed term of 8 months.

Salary: £28,000 (pro rata to 2 days a week)*

Pension: Auto enrolment into Nest pension scheme at 3%

Working days: Flexible but must be able to lead 5 x 3 day sessions between February and late July 2021, on the Isle of Skye (according to COVID restrictions), plus a day long introductory session in January 2021 and join any other events as reasonable.

Probationary period: 2 months

Notice: Notice period of 3 months is required by either party.

Annual Leave: 25 + statutory public holidays (pro rata)

Additional remuneration: ATLAS will cover 5 x return trips to Skye from elsewhere in Scotland, if required, plus 30 days per diem and accommodation costs on Skye if required.

*Equating to £7467 plus NI/pension for 2 days for 8 months. Option to pay equivalent plus NI and pension as freelance fee, if preferred.

2. About the role

What: The Plural Futures Academy is a new alternative school based on the Isle of Skye. It will take shape as a series of workshops, gatherings, film screenings, walks and online conversations, and will be co-designed by a group of people aged 16-25, living in Skye, Raasay or Lochalsh with the Lead Artist/Curator. This group will be recruited by ATLAS throughout November and December.

Working with a range of artistic processes and a programme of speakers, the aim is to explore different ways of gathering, making culture and imagining the future - via an ecologically focused, decolonial curriculum that learns through histories of the Highlands and Islands, and responds to the place and culture in which it is situated. The school will have 8 participants and the artist/curator's role is to collaboratively create the curriculum with this group between January and July 2021, and to work towards an open ended creative project outcome (as expected by the funder).

This outcome will be decided by the school's participants, and can be small or large in scale, private and/or public. The school will have access to ATLAS Arts' space, [The Oyster Table](#) at

Bayfield, our [bookbinding studio](#), film making equipment, [zine library](#), and other resources to aid this.

Budget: Total funding for the project is £36983 and no further fundraising will be required. We have allocated funding to support 8 student fellows with stipends, plus individual travel budgets, until July 2021. In addition to artist/curator expenses, the budget has provision for 10 x day speakers (paid at SAU day rates), 4 screening fees, hospitality and materials, mileage, printing and book binding, and an additional £3000 production budget to be used as appropriate.

When: The successful applicant will take up their post in December or early January. ATLAS is recruiting school participants throughout November and December. The lead artist should be ready to meet with the group in an introductory session in January (online or in person) to start to plan the curriculum. The remaining sessions will take place approximately every 4-6 weeks, across 5 3 day sessions (mid February, late March, early May, mid June, and mid July). There may be a day or 2 of additional events in between these dates where appropriate and realistic. Project evaluations and outcomes should be completed by the end of July 2021.

Why: The purpose is to create a shared curriculum together exploring climate justice and artistic pedagogies - paying close attention to the local context and with a place-centered approach to the Highlands and Islands. With few places to gather and less opportunities for younger people on the island, the school will be a place to discuss what is happening locally and to situate this globally - to work with people here to create alternatives for the future.

Where: Different locations across Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh, but mainly in Portree at ATLAS Arts, with some sessions online depending on COVID restrictions.

Access: See our updated [access statement](#) for information on our office and the CLIMAVORE Oyster Table.

3. Personal Specification

The central responsibilities of the Lead Artist/Curator are to create an artistic and theoretical proposal for the school based on your own interests and experience, and to curate and organise the school's programme of workshops, public events and readings. It is open to artists/curators living in Scotland.

The Lead Artist/Curator will be responsible for:

- Creating a thematic / creative theoretical focus for the school in line with your own interests and experience
- Alongside the ATLAS Team, plan and attend a short introductory session in January 2021 to meet the school's contributors
- Co-design 15 days of school sessions thereafter - such as workshops, film screenings, readings and talks (budget allows for 10 speakers paid at SAU rates).
- Hosting at least 6 moments open to a wider public (eg. an evening talk, meal, wider group session, film screening etc).
- Responding to the needs and interests of the schools participants to co-design the curriculum
- Travelling to Skye for each of the sessions to host in person (where COVID restrictions allow). ATLAS will cover £80 per night, 30 days per diem and travel from anywhere in Scotland.
- The post holder will book and liaise with speakers and in collaboration with ATLAS' Assistant Producer, arrange logistics for the sessions, including catering, travel, hall bookings, event ticketing, and content for event communications
- With support from the Assistant Producer the post holder will ensure good communication with the projects participants across the duration of the school, creating a framework for learning in between sessions
- Managing the project budget and timely delivery of the programme
- Contributing to monitoring, evaluation and end of project reporting

ATLAS Art's team of 4 will give close support and guidance to the artist throughout. We will be responsible for recruiting participants of the school, introducing to local stakeholders and for follow up care where appropriate. We will give logistical support such as event marketing, distribution of materials, and production support where appropriate.

Knowledge and Experience:

Essential

- At least 2 years experience of the management and delivery of artistic projects, with a diverse range of artists, agents and partners.
- Previous experience in similar projects, such as alternative curriculum building, events programming, arts pedagogy, or socially engaged arts projects
- Strong knowledge, interest and understanding of Highland/rural life and culture.
- Commitment to the development of the Gaelic language and culture.
- Critical awareness of decolonial/ecologically focused arts practice
- Experience in design and delivery of community participation and learning activities
- Strong research skills
- Good relationships with artists, curators, producers, and other cultural workers within Scotland, the UK and international networks
- UK Driving licence

Desirable

- Gaelic speaker
 - Demonstrable experience of working in rural and/or Scottish Highlands and Islands contexts
 - Experience in monitoring and evaluation processes
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4. Key dates

Application Deadline:	10am 26th November December 2020
Interview Date:	Monday 7th of December 2020
Interview address:	ATLAS Office, Portree, or online via Zoom depending on COVID restrictions and individual circumstances.
Start Date:	December or early January 2021

School dates: These will be fixed in line with the successful applicant and contributor's commitments and can be a small amount of flexibility, but should take place approximately across 16 days, within 5 x 3 day sessions, every 4-6 weeks as follows:

Introductory session:	End of January
Session 1:	Mid February
Session 2:	Late March
Session 3:	Early May
Session 4:	Mid June
Session 5:	Mid July (project outcome)

The project must be completed by the end of July 2021 as per our funding agreement with Inspiring Scotland.

5. About ATLAS Arts

ATLAS Arts is an art organisation working across Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh. We work with artistic projects that connect with the conditions and desires of our local area, and the shared concerns of global communities.

Our projects aim to build communities through the sharing of knowledge unique to Skye's history and culture. Things like film, food, publishing, libraries and walks are important to us. Our projects respond to the culture and history of Skye - its crofting and fishing heritage,

histories of land struggle, and the wealth of knowledge and skills on the island in relation to sustenance farming, stewardship of the land and sustainable aquacultures.

Our work spans performance, film, publishing, installations and learning programmes. In recent years our programme has included community filmmaking projects, Gaelic learning collaborations, walks, screenings, meals, local apprenticeship programmes, environmental research projects, exhibitions and zine libraries – working with national and international artists and local groups alike.

ATLAS' fixed gathering spaces are our office space in Portree, and The CLIMAVORE Oyster Table on the tidal zone at Bayfield, Portree. More information on our work can be found on our [website](#).

Plural Futures is a long term programme. This programme is about thinking about many different kinds of possible futures and ways of relating to the world – whilst building solidarity and plurality in this imagining. It includes film events, artworks, collective-making, workshops, meals, discussions and long term processes of work aimed at building plural communities, dispersed curatorial decision making and complex island identities.

6. How to Apply

Please submit a completed application form (video or sound recording also accepted) and [Equalities and Diversity Monitoring Form](#) to admin@atlasarts.org.uk by **10am, Thursday 26 November 2020**.

Interviews will be held on **Monday 7th December 2020**. Candidates will be informed if they have been invited for an interview by Friday the 11th of December 2020.

You will be interviewed by Ainslie Roddick (ATLAS Director), Heather Fulton (ATLAS Producer) with the option of meeting in person at the [ATLAS Arts office](#), and or online via Zoom. Interviews will be relaxed and shortlisted candidates will be provided with further information to help you to know what to expect at the interview, in advance.

Application advice session

If you would like more information about the role and the work that ATLAS does, or have any questions about the application process, the ATLAS team will be offering online 1-1 advice sessions on **Monday 16th of November 3-7pm**.

If you would like to attend a session please contact katharine@atlasarts.org.uk with your preferred time.