

onioncollective

Network Weaving Facilitator, Understory

'The world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible.' Margaret Wheatley

Contract duration: March 2025 - March 2029

Salary: Between £25k - £30k Depending on experience and whether full or part-time.

Hours: Potential to be a full or part time role over four years, with some evening and weekend work required. A flexible approach to working hours but necessary to be available for busy periods, and to help with East Quay where necessary, and to support and deliver events and workshops.

Working with strategic leads: Sally Lowndes, Director Onion Collective and Georgie Grant, Director Onion Collective

Purpose: To work with the Understory team and three partner places to deliver the *Attachment as a means to mobilise: from our rootedness to the dream space* project, as funded by the Lottery UK Fund, over four years.

The theory behind this work is that by exploring collective memory in place, and connecting that work to a rich understanding of both human and non-human networks, we can unlock hope and capacity for imagination, and create transformational change. This is an action research post, in which the post holder will facilitate sessions with the local community to explore and test this theory and help us move forward to a space of transformational change.

About Us: Understory is a partnership between Onion Collective and Community Parlour. It is a digital mapping tool that allows communities to reveal the hidden connections that bind them together. Understory will bring together those who are involved in community action in a place. Onion Collective and Community Parlour have developed software to enable communities of place to map connections between organisations, charities, businesses, Councils and informal groups that work together towards creating 'community action'. Over the last two years we have mapped over 30 places across the UK to understand how these network connections work in a place, and what we can understand from them. Over the next four years we will be working closely with 3 of these places, Minehead, Dudley and Heanor, as well as within Watchet, to better understand what these networks mean, and how they can affect change for a future more grounded in community. Research around this work will also be carried out in partnership with Bristol University's Centre for SocioDigital Futures. www.understory.community

Onion Collective: Onion Collective is a social enterprise working to support a different kind of economy; one that supports social, environmental and cultural well-being. Our projects include; East Quay Arts Centre, Watchet Visitor Centre and Understory. www.onioncollective.co.uk

Community Parlour: Community Parlour is a not for profit that makes work for the public realm, digital spaces and democratic processes. From re-imagined futures to alternative infrastructures, their work always puts people at the centre. They are a new company, formed to carry out this project by our friends at Free Ice Cream: www.freeicecream.co.uk

Role and responsibilities: The role is predominantly about ecosystem coordination and facilitation, both with the human and wider ecosystem networks in and around Watchet. You will help us find ways to connect with people across the town, and especially work to bring in underrepresented voices, but also to connect people and organisations with each other. You will also find ways to acknowledge and celebrate the natural world, and connect people here to that work. It should be a joyful role, but also one that doesn't shy away from conflict, finding ways to promote connection and empathy in a complex and divided world.

The work centres around connection, nature, memory, seasons, hope, imagination and gratitude.

Specific responsibilities will include:

Network Weaving

- Become familiar with Understory maps, and use them to support Network Weaving work
- Support local people to use the Understory map
- Build and manage a team of network weaver volunteers
- Co-design and deliver network weaver training
- Co-design and deliver collective memory and attachment workshops
- Work with the events and education teams at East Quay to integrate Understory work / approach
- Identify local organisations who need network support
- Network with external (or internal!) experts and incorporate that knowledge into the work
- Support the design and delivery of celebration events
- Help create a plan for networking with the natural world
- Work with Fiona and the Visitor Centre to support nature tourism / as a hub for local information
- Develop a strong relationship with programme partner, Minehead and Coast Development Trust (MCDT)
- Attend meetings inc quarterly ones with partner places
- Carry out surveys and interviews for evaluation
- Help to deliver a final piece at the end of the four years

Administration

- Venue hire, refreshments, meeting management, including invitations and minuting
- Small budget management
- Keeping detailed field notes
- Managing the Understory dashboard for Watchet, keeping the maps up to date, running sessions to add more people
- Support communications of Understory / Onion Collective with the creation of content for social media, articles, blogs etc.
- Collate stories / memories / data and organise them in repository

Additional

- Stay up to date on relevant thinking - eg bioregionalism, network theory, ecosystem thinking, planetary intelligence
- Support other Onion projects as needed

- Support East Quay as needed

Skills and experience required for role

- A creative background
- Practical crafting skills in an area such as textiles or carpentry
- Experience of and a desire to meaningfully collaborate and co-design with partners
- Experience creating and delivering workshops and events
- A strong local knowledge, particularly of Watchet and Minehead
- An academic background would be helpful, particularly with a creative, ecological and / or participatory research bent
- Strong IT skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, including an ability to connect with people across a broad spectrum of difference
- A passion to create space for underrepresented voices
- An interest in systems change and the power of grassroots action
- Strong interest in nature
- Good organisational skills
- Must have deep empathy, whilst not being afraid of challenge

To discuss the role or for any queries, please contact Georgie, at georgie@onioncollective.co.uk

Funded by:

