

EAST QUAY

Learning Engagement Officer
Recruitment Pack
January 2022

Post: Learning Engagement Officer

Full-time: 40 hours per week, some evening and weekend work will be required.

Location: Watchet, Somerset.

Salary: £24,000 pa

Deadline for applications: Friday 11th February 2022

Interviews: Saturday 19th February 2022

Start date: As soon as possible

Responsible to: Head of Learning

Work alongside: Delivery, communications and events colleagues across East Quay and wider Onion Collective projects.

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in applying for this role. This is a thrilling and important time for Onion Collective as we have just opened our new building.

This is a hands-on role in a deeply community-focused, non-traditional and collaborative organisation. It's an opportunity to develop East Quay's education programme as part of a small team, providing exciting, creative learning opportunities for children and adults in the area.

Details about the role, East Quay and Onion Collective are provided in this pack along with details of how to apply for the role.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or for an informal conversation about the role.

Best wishes,

Cat Smith
Head of Learning

cat@onioncollective.co.uk
07988 726005

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Description

Onion Collective is seeking an experienced, motivated learning engagement officer to work as part of a small team in planning and delivering exciting, creative learning opportunities to a wide range of different community groups, ordinarily based at our new creative and cultural development in Watchet, with occasional off-site work.

East Quay has a designated 'Creator Space', designed by young people from the local middle schools, an environmental psychologist and our pod architects, Fearze Ltd., which puts creativity, fun and imagination at the heart of all activity. Our vision is to bring a range of high quality, interesting, inclusive creative opportunities to all age groups and members of the community, enabling greater access to quality arts opportunities. These include adult courses and workshops, baby and toddler groups, school/college/university visits, school holiday creative workshops and activities and community group visits to name a few.

East Quay opened in September 2021 and includes a contemporary art gallery, restaurant, 14 studios and workshops, holiday accommodation pods and an outdoor courtyard.

Further information about East Quay's learning programme can be found at:
<https://www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk/learn>

Purpose of the post

To support East Quay's Head of Learning in enhancing our creative learning offer, developing existing opportunities and establishing new ones. This role is for someone who is passionate about the arts and creativity, and who can contribute fully to ongoing audience development and community engagement.

Job Description

This job description is a guide to the nature of the work. It is not wholly comprehensive or restrictive and may be reviewed as required; other responsibilities may be added depending on experience and need.

- Work closely with the Head of Learning, the General Manager and as part of the wider Onion Collective team to deliver high quality creative learning experiences.
- Deliver audience focused creative learning work related to East Quay's artistic programme.
- Maintain strong, regular links with our closest primary schools and develop new links with schools and education establishments further afield.
- Organise and deliver events aimed to cement links with a variety of age groups.
- Maximise the impact that East Quay has on opportunities for public engagement, working on site at East Quay and occasionally off site at other venues.
- Work together with regional educational networks such as the South West bridge organisation, RIO, and the Cultural Education Partnership.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of East Quay's creative learning programme.
- Facilitate positive and effective communication with the whole team including Front of House, the Kitchen team and the wider East Quay team, attending staff meetings as required.
- Ensure highest standards of health and safety, complying with risk assessments, maintaining compliance with all relevant legislation and standards including Safeguarding, Health and Safety, First Aid, COSHH, safe working practices and fire safety.
- Contribute to wider events planning, marketing and delivery.
- Other duties as may be required by the Head of Learning, the General Manager and other Onion Collective Directors.
- Complying with Onion Collective policies and procedures and supporting the team to do the same.

Person specification

- Professional experience in arts education.
- Knowledge and understanding of the arts.
- Knowledge of education/arts engagement landscape.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work on own initiative.
- Excellent IT skills.
- Great time management and organisational skills.
- Reliable, patient and flexible, keen to learn and develop.
- Aptitude for collaborative working, open dialogue and non-hierarchical approaches to development and delivery.
- Ability to juggle multiple priorities and work to deadlines.
- Enthusiastic, motivated and keen to fit in with the ethos of East Quay and Onion Collective.

Equal Opportunities

We want our company to be representative of all sections of society and welcome applications from everyone.

Equality and diversity considerations are not an 'add on' to the work that we do, rather enabling access and engagement to the broadest range of people from and beyond our community is the very reason for our existence. We are committed to achieving a truly inclusive environment for all, providing an atmosphere where everyone can take part, learn, work and engage free from prejudice, discrimination, harassment and violence.

We would be grateful if you could please complete our Equal Opportunities form by copying this address in your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/69F3Y88>.

To apply

Please send a CV including two referees and a letter of application (maximum 2 sides) detailing:

- Your suitability for the position
- Relevant experience
- Why you want to work at East Quay
- The impact of a creative learning experience you have previously delivered.

Please apply to jobs@onioncollective.co.uk by 5pm on Friday 11th February 2022.

Interviews will take place on Saturday 19th February 2022 and the appointed postholder will preferably commence duties as soon as possible.

Contact

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role, please contact Cat Smith on 07809 670372 or email cat@onioncollective.co.uk.

If you have any questions about the recruitment process, please contact Kiri Carter via jobs@onioncollective.co.uk.

Letting you know

We will contact all unsuccessful candidates to tell them they have not been short-listed for interview.

References and DBS

All appointments are made subject to satisfactory references, satisfactory enhanced DBS check, and the right to work in the UK.

Caring responsibilities or other personal circumstances that may impact role and availability

We have a dynamic and flexible internal culture that gives employees control over the way they work and supports wellbeing. We will be as flexible as we possibly can be in terms of supporting staff to balance their work and their personal lives. This role may require staff members to work at weekends and evenings. We are keen to have a conversation to find practical solutions to meet candidates' own situations whilst meeting the needs of the organisation. The position is advertised as a full-time role, but please do talk to us if caring responsibilities or other circumstances mean you would like to discuss possibilities in this respect.

Travel to work

We encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport within and to East Quay and aim to reduce reliance on the private car as the main form of transport, whilst recognising the challenges of a rural context. We actively encourage sustainable transport measures such as walking, cycling and car sharing, and encourage taking part in travel plan initiatives to establish regular sustainable travel patterns.

About Onion Collective

Onion Collective is a social enterprise working to tackle social, cultural and environmental justice in our hometown here in Watchet, through wide reaching and ambitious regeneration projects. Where any profits are made, they are reinvested to benefit the town and community as a whole.

Our four flagship projects are:

- East Quay, bringing community, culture and enterprise together.
- Biomill, a fungi-based manufacturing facility on the old Paper Mill site in the town.
- Watchet Visitor Centre, supporting people when they arrive in Watchet and to shout about our town nationally.
- Working with Watchet Coastal Community Team to support social action and volunteering in Watchet.

All our work is centred around creating a future in which we live as connected communities on a sustainable, thriving planet. We ground our work in the everyday power and values of community: connectedness, curiosity, plurality, compassion and solidarity. We are interested in work that supports a new economic system. One that values people and planet over profit. To this end, we are the next economy in action.

Currently we are a team of 28, five of whom are Executive Directors who work in project management, funding, sustainability, community engagement and marketing. The other posts are in the restaurant, education, finance, administration, creative support, operations and mycology. We look forward to this team growing with East Quay.

EAST QUAY

10 things about East Quay

1. East Quay is a contemporary art gallery, a paper mill, a geology lab, a print studio, artist studios, maker workshops, creative education space, a restaurant, accommodation pods, and outdoor space courtyard: it will open its doors in summer 2021.
2. East Quay exists to demonstrate four core beliefs:
 - that when community, culture and enterprise work together a better future is possible;
 - that it shouldn't matter who you are, where you live or what you have, everyone should have access to high quality contemporary art and culture;
 - that we must help break down barriers, so that contemporary art and creativity are perceived as essential and welcoming for everyone; and
 - that it is not enough to just 'do-less-harm' to the environment, we must instead strive to be actively regenerative, and to use our influence in this regard wherever possible.
3. In the context of the climate and biodiversity emergencies, East Quay will be a space from which the community can come together to imagine a future it wants to be part of.
4. There will be a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities for children and adults and during school holidays there will be an activity of some sort everyday.
5. We will support all our tenants to take an active role towards a better more sustainable future.
6. There will be five individual and bespoke accommodation pods to stay in, aimed at the more adventurous traveller, looking for an interesting short-stay experience. One of the pods is easy access and can accommodate a wheelchair.
7. Each pod has been designed by architects Fearze as an immersive short-stay experience. Pod 1 sleeps two and is an object exchange, Pod 2 sleeps four and is about stories and imagination, Pod 3 sleeps two, and is about industrial heritage, Pod 4 sleeps two and is about playful architecture and Pod 5 sleeps two is all about participatory art!
8. There will be a limited amount of parking for the studio and workspace tenants on site.
9. East Quay has been designed by Piers Taylor of Invisible Studio and Ellis Williams Architects. The design was inspired by the characterful buildings around Watchet sitting on the strong plinth of the harbour and surrounding cliffs.
10. East Quay has been funded by the Coastal Communities Fund, Arts Council England, Magnox Socio-economic Fund, Esmée Fairburn, the Social Investment Business and the Coastal Revival Fund.

EAST QUAY

MANIFESTO

East Quay is about cultural connection, nurturing creativity, and inviting curiosity. It is through culture, experienced collectively, that we come together, find laughter and joy and explore what gives us purpose and hope. It is about the things we see and experience, the music we make and hear, the way that we dance and play, the fun we have together.

Designed by some of the most inspiring architects in the country, East Quay has been developed over eight years with community input and deliberation. We have filled it with space for the finest artists to exhibit with joy, beauty, wonder and fun, and provided places to nurture the creative talents of local artists and artisans. Artists and makers will make their livelihoods here, and the community will come together through performance, music, conversation, food and ideas.

Within East Quay, the Gallery will be delivered by Contains Art. Its purpose is to raise ideas, open minds, invite discussion and encourage a social, economic and environmental conversation through culture. It will be a place of imagination and hope, where visits are rewarded with immersive, participatory, activist, and socially-conscious exhibitions and experiences that confound expectations of what visiting an art gallery is like in a place like ours.

East Quay holds the firm belief that who you are, what you have, and where you live should not limit or constrain your access to the highest-quality artistic and creative experiences. It signals bravely how community-led renewal can empower people and help them to develop agency to fulfil their potential. Here in West Somerset, we have the lowest social mobility in the country. This has huge ramifications for our children's futures. Art has a role to play in changing this - enriching experiences, drawing out creativity and helping people to flourish. Our education, audience, heritage and digital programmes will bring culture and creativity into classrooms, homes and communities, providing life-long learning and harnessing the imaginations and ideas of children and adults alike.

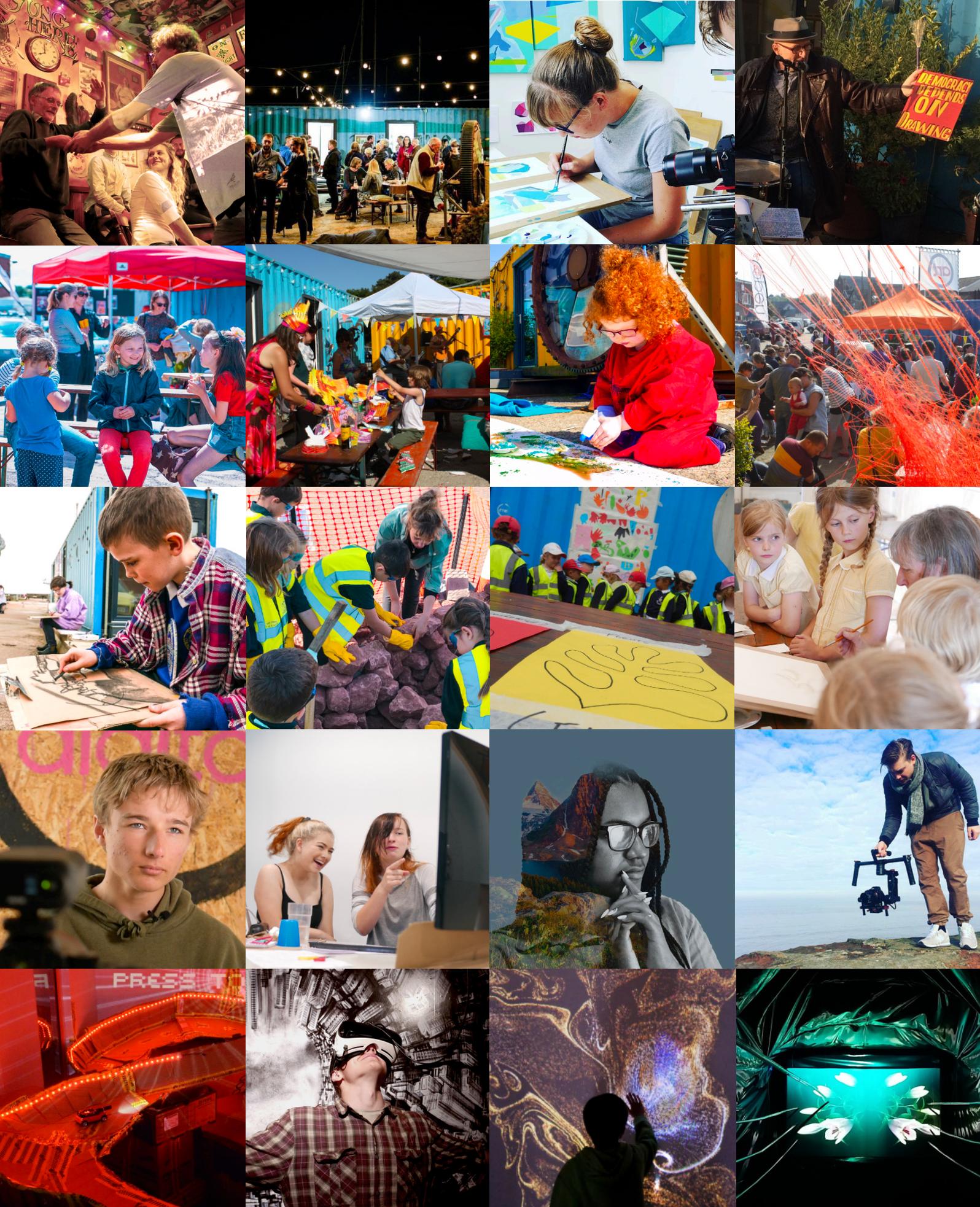
It also demonstrates that questions of cultural and social justice cannot be separated from economic life and that culture can help to rebuild a forgotten local economy. We need art now more than ever to help us understand and navigate the future. In these turbulent times, everyone must be able to play a role in conceptualising their futures; a process for which art is integral and a responsibility that East Quay will embrace. Our programme of exhibitions and events over the next three years at East Quay will therefore be motivated by ideas that support people and the planet. It will explore community and place, identity and belonging, the climate emergency and the human capacity for change.

We believe East Quay can change the world. We believe in the power of community, the power of culture and the power of enterprise. Together, these things can create the kind of future we all want to live in; one invested in people and built of curiosity, openness and hope.

EAST QUAY



Top: Creator Space, East Quay, 2021
Bottom: East Quay, 2021



Pictured some of Contains Art's events, projects, students, visitors, artists and activities over the past six years. Top row: events and enterprise with artists, including Chris Dobrowolski (far left), Georgina Towler (2nd right) and Bob and Roberta Smith (far right). Row two: community and family events in our courtyard. Row three: educational work with local schoolchildren building cultural capital, including Jess Ostrowicz (2nd left). Row four: participants in our studiodigital project, which supports disadvantaged teenagers to develop creative skills and consider creative careers, including filmmaker Jesse Roth (far right). Bottom row: digital work including by artists Fabio Giampietro and Alessio de Vecchi (2nd left), Biwei Niu (2nd right) and Richard Broomhall (far right).