



Critical Friends Call Out
Information Pack

Deadline: Midnight, 16 July 2023

Liverpool Biennial

CRITICAL FRIENDS CALL OUT

Overview

Liverpool Biennial is looking for 5 people to join a new group of Critical Friends to help us build an inclusive environment for d/Deaf and disabled communities.

The Critical Friends Group will work together as a specialist steering group made up of people with lived, professional and caring experience of Disability and long-term health conditions.

They will hold Liverpool Biennial accountable as we transform engagement with Disabled, d/Deaf, and neuro-divergent communities.

The group will meet 4 times a year and be paid £250 for each meeting including preparation needed for the meeting. They will use their experience to lead decision making related to projects with Disabled, d/Deaf and neuro-divergent artists.

We want to recruit people with varied experience across the arts, academia, activism, care, education and health, to ensure we have a broad spectrum of knowledge when creating an inclusive environment for disabled artists, audiences and the team and Board.

About Liverpool Biennial 2023

Taking over unexpected and public spaces, historic sites and art galleries, Liverpool Biennial has been transforming the city of Liverpool through art for over two decades.

The 2023 edition, 'uMoya: The Sacred Return of Lost Things' is curated by Khanyisile Mbongwa and marks the organisation's 25th anniversary. 'uMoya' addresses the history and temperament of the city of Liverpool and is a call for ancestral and indigenous forms of knowledge, wisdom and healing. In the isiZulu language, 'uMoya' means spirit, breath, air, climate and wind.

The festival explores the ways in which people and objects have the potential to manifest power as they move across the world, while acknowledging the continued losses of the past. It draws a line from the ongoing Catastrophes caused by colonialism towards an insistence on being truly Alive.

Since its start in 1998, the Biennial has become renowned in the international contemporary art world, bringing together different voices and artistic practices from across the world.

Taking place every two years, Liverpool Biennial activates public institutions, historical sites and extraordinary locations across Liverpool, delivering exhibitions and major commissions in the public realm. Each edition is underpinned by a year-round programme of research, education, residencies, projects and commissions.

Having commissioned over 340 new artworks and presented work by over 480 celebrated artists from around the world, Liverpool Biennial is built on a longstanding commitment to connecting international artists with local practitioners, communities and the public at large.

FUNDING

Each Critical Friend will receive £250 per meeting for preparation and attendance at four meetings per year. The position is freelance, and an invoice would be submitted for payment.

Attendance to all meetings can be remote via Zoom.

The current funding is for a total of 10 meetings until the end of Biennial 2025.

We are aware that the full 3-year period is a lot to commit to, but we expect that each Critical Friend would join for a minimum of 6 months.

We would expect Critical Friends to attend up to 1 event within our public programme per year. Travel and required access costs would be paid for attending events.

Ideally, we would like at least 2 of the Critical Friends to attend a performance in Liverpool this summer.

The performance will be of a new dance commission by Unmute Dance Theatre from South Africa. They will be collaborating with four D/deaf, disabled and/or neuro-divergent artists from the region to create the work.

The schedule for the performances is:

- Wednesday 2nd August -Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot – rehearsal (time to be confirmed)
- Thursday 3rd August – Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot - evening performance (7-8pm)
- Saturday 5th August – Capstone Theatre Hope Creative Campus, City Centre - daytime rehearsal, evening performance (7-8pm)
- Sunday 6th August - Capstone Theatre Hope Creative Campus, City Centre - daytime performance (1-2pm)

Here is an idea of what the first commitments would involve:

- Attendance at an Unmute performance in August 2023 and to provide feedback on the event.
- Attendance at two meetings. The first will be scheduled in October 2023 and the Second in February 2024
- Each meeting will last approximately 2 and a half hours including regular breaks ie: 50 mins / 15-minute break / 50 minutes / 15-minute break / 20-minute meeting summary.
- Preparation for each meeting might include reading reports and documents and could take between 30 minutes to an hour, but it could take longer.

CRITERIA

Anyone with lived, professional and/or caring experience of disability including neuro-divergence can apply. We would like a broad range of experience and we have given some potential examples here:

- Disabled artist: You may be a disabled artist who faces barriers to their day-to-day practise and wants to be part of ensuring Liverpool Biennial is informed of these barriers and help us to take steps to overcome these.
- Parent or carer: You may be the parent or carer of a child or adult with disabilities and want to look at ways we can provide opportunities for children and families to participate in the arts.
- Arts organisation professional: You may work for a larger arts organisation with specific experience of running projects with people with disabilities and feel you can bring your working knowledge of strategy and practice and experience to help us plan.

- Merseyside specific work with disabled artists: You may work locally with disabled artists and be integrated into the scene and community of the local area.

HOW TO APPLY

The closing date for applications for these roles is **Midnight on Sunday 16th July**.

If you would like to be considered for the role, please send us:

- An up-to-date CV or a 3-minute audio or video file telling us the content of your CV
- A supporting statement which addresses why you are interested in the role and how you feel you might contribute to the Critical Friends Group.
- Contact details for two referees (we will not contact them without seeking your permission first).

Applications in BSL are welcomed.

Completed applications should be submitted by email to applications@biennial.com by the closing date of midnight on Sunday 16th July 2023 with the subject title: 'Critical Friend Application'

Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a link to our equality monitoring form for you to complete and submit online. The information on the form will be treated as confidential, stored anonymously, and used for statistical purposes only. The completed form will not be treated as part of your application.

After the closing date, our shortlisting panel will then meet to evaluate all the applications and a short-list of applicants will be invited to interview. **Interviews will take place via Zoom on Thursday 27th July 2023.** Unfortunately, we are not able to provide guidance on individual applications, however if you require any further information about this recruitment process,

need additional information about the role, or would like to discuss your access requirements, please contact Adrian at access@biennial.com. We are here to support you.

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Image credit: Ugo Rondinone, Liverpool Mountain, 2018. Image courtesy Liverpool Biennial. Photo Mark McNulty