

HEALTH & WELLBEING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Connecting Pollok: Culture Collective Programme

The Village Storytelling Centre (VSC) is delighted to present an opportunity for a year long (2 day a week) Health and Wellbeing Artist in Residence as part of our Connecting Pollok, Culture Collective Programme.

We are looking for a creative practitioner with an interest and/or experience of working with people who face barriers to participation due to poor physical or mental health, including those affected by dementia and individuals experiencing isolation or loneliness.

Based in Greater Pollok, South Glasgow, the Artist in Residence will develop and test creative, inclusive approaches that prioritise accessibility. With this in mind this post will also have an emphasis on research and reflection and the Artist is invited to test and evaluate new ideas.

Aims of the Residency

The residency aims to:

- Use creative practice to engage people within the community that face barriers to participation due to their physical or mental health.
- Improve participants' health and wellbeing through arts activity.
- Develop working relationships with partners across health and wellbeing services and consider how this is sustained.
- Build on the VSC Dementia Awareness in Greater Pollok Project and contribute to its future development.
- Support the Artist's professional development through a year-long embedded residency.

About the Programme

The Village Storytelling Centre is Scotland's leading applied storytelling organisation. Our vision is a world where people and communities are inspired, connected and heard. Through storytelling and creative engagement, we work locally in Pollok and with partners across Glasgow and beyond.

Connecting Pollok is a community-led arts programme that connects people with the area's culture, heritage and environment to support wellbeing and community-led regeneration. In

partnership with local organisations, VSC recently launched the Greater Pollok Arts and Creativity Strategy.

Funding from the Culture Collective Fund will support delivery of actions arising from the strategy, including 4 year long Artist in Residence opportunities. Culture Collective is a Scottish Government initiative supporting creative practitioners, organisations and communities to make a positive difference locally and nationally.

For more info :

Web : www.villagestorytelling.org.uk

Facebook : The Village Storytelling Centre

Instagram : @villagestories

Residency Overview

The residency will run from **10 August 2026 to 9 August 2027**.

The selected Artist will commit approximately **90 days** across the year, to include:

- Research and planning.
- Delivery of weekly workshops and engagement activity.
- Regular meetings with the Culture Collective Co-ordinator.
- Four Artist development sessions with other Greater Pollok Culture Collective Artists.
- Contributing to creative evaluation with support from a Creative Evaluator.
- Documenting their process and sharing content for the VSC social media periodically.
- Identify two opportunities to share work, approaches or learning with the wider community.
- Sharing reflections and recommendations for the future of inclusive creative Health and Wellbeing work in Greater Pollok with local partners and the VSC Dementia Project team.

The Artist will receive support from the Culture Collective Co-ordinator, to include:

- Training and professional development opportunities.
- Introductions to partners and participant groups.
- securing access to suitable workspaces.
- Support connecting with wider Connecting Pollok activity, (VSC storytellers, local events and opportunities to share work.)
- Access to a creative evaluation toolkit.
- Promotion of their work through VSC networks and events.

Residency Structure

During the first few weeks, the Artist will focus on research, relationship-building and planning rather than delivery. This period will allow time to establish participant groups, confirm venues and develop an engagement plan with support.

The VSC launch of the Dementia Awareness project toolkit is on **Thursday 27th of August at 4pm** at Rosehill Housing Association, we hope the Artist could attend.

For most of the residency, approximately 50% of the Artist's time is expected to be spent directly delivering creative activity. Towards the end of the project, more time may be allocated to sharing outcomes and reflection.

Partners and Participants

The Artist will be initially connected with Community Links Practitioners at Pollok Health Centre and other local health and wellbeing services.

Throughout the year the Artist will have some opportunities to work directly with the storytellers involved in the VSC Dementia Awareness in Greater Pollok Project, delivered in partnership with Rosehill Housing Association. However the residency should include work with participants that experience barriers due to a range of health and wellbeing factors.

It is anticipated that the Artist engages 3 or more different participant groups throughout the year in order to explore different approaches. These are expected to be a majority of adult groups although they may involve carers of any age or groups of young people.

A number of potential participant groups have been identified, such as;

- An informal wellbeing themed arts, crafts and gardening group for adults in Priesthill, supported by Priesthill URC and Urban Roots Community cooking group.
- Patients supported by Community Links Practitioners at Pollok Health Centre.
- Groups supported by Glasgow Museum Resource Centre (GMRC) through their Dementia work.
- Residents in local care homes in the area.
- Older adults engaged in the Therapeutic Activity Service Levensdale Hospital.

The Artist is not expected to work with all of the above and alternative or additional participants / groups may be developed as the project evolves.

We would love to see a collaboration between the different AIR's (4 in total), in particular as Health and Wellbeing will be a consideration for all of the posts so where appropriate, this may involve delivering one off workshops with participants engaged in another AIR project.

Sharing Outcomes

The residency is not driven by a requirement for finished artworks. Accessible, meaningful engagement and positive participant experiences are the priority. However, opportunities to celebrate and share work can support participants to develop confidence, self-esteem and to share their stories.

We are therefore flexible about how outcomes are presented. This might include:

- Exhibitions.
- Performances.
- Zines or printed materials.
- Presentations for partners.
- Workshops demonstrating creative processes.

Similarly, learning and recommendations for the future of inclusive Creative Health and Wellbeing work in Greater Pollok may be shared with the project team as the Artist wishes, for example through reflective journals or discussions, presentations or other formats.

There will be opportunities throughout the year to showcase work as part of the wider Connecting Pollok programme.

Location and Workspaces

The residency will take place across Greater Pollok and is likely to suit an Artist based in or near Greater Glasgow.

We imagine that workshops / engagement will take place in local community venues, (Community centres and rooms, church Halls, carehomes etc). The Artist will be able to book space depending on availability at the VSC studio and office (Langton Halls, Pollok.) The VSC studio is a medium classroom size, with tables, chairs, sink etc. There are also creative facilities available for hire at SWAMP (Great Pollok Community Hub) including meeting spaces, art room, dance studio, recording facilities and wood workshop.

The VSC has a lot of outdoor equipment that can be borrowed.

As we have no Artist studios in Greater Pollok the Artist may wish to work from their own studio / workspace some of the time.

Fees and Budget

- **Artist fee: £25,000 - based on 2 days per week x 45 weeks** at the following rates:
 - 45 x days @ approx £200 per day (admin, prep, planning etc.)

- 45 x days @ approx £360 per day (artistic delivery / engagement)
- **Production budget: £3000** for materials, venue hire and specialist support.
- Additional access budget available where required.

How to Apply

We welcome applications from creative practitioners working across a range of disciplines, including collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Applicants should demonstrate experience of participatory practice.

We are committed to contributing towards a more diverse workforce in the arts and the third sector. We welcome applications from people who identify as coming from a group that is marginalised due to (for example) age, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, education, socio-economic background or caring responsibilities.

We particularly encourage applications from Artists based in, or connected to, Greater Pollok.

For further information, please contact: hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk

Proposal Requirements

Please confirm your availability for the residency dates and address the following:

1. How would you describe your practice?
2. Why are you interested in this opportunity at this time?
3. What relevant experience do you have of working within health and wellbeing contexts or with people facing barriers to participation?
4. What initial approach to engagement would you propose? We understand that this residency will be informed by the process of gaining a greater understanding of the context including partner and participants perspectives but would like to hear about any processes or mediums you might be interested to work in.

Proposals may be submitted as:

- Written proposal (maximum 2 A4 pages)
- Video or audio submission (maximum 5 minutes)

Please note it is not compulsory to write 2 full pages

Please also include:

- A CV.

- Links to five relevant projects/examples of work, or up to ten images (maximum 5MB in total).

Applications should be submitted to hannah@villagestorytelling.org.uk by **9am on Tuesday 21st July 2026**.

Informal interviews will take place on **Thursday 30th July**.

Please note: Artists must undergo a PVG check with Disclosure Scotland.