

MAKING IT OUT

Art and Design Mentor - Volunteer Role

Time: 2 - 4 days p/month

Locations: Portside, Portslade (East Sussex) / Buncton, Steyning (West Sussex)

Compensation: Travel expenses and other incurred costs

Background

Making It Out (MIO) was established in 2018 to address lack of meaningful regular activity for people who have recently left prison or are at risk of being incarcerated. We receive referrals from probation and prison staff as well as voluntary services across the city of Brighton & Hove and surrounding areas and currently have two workshops where we provide supportive and positive environments, engaging individuals in voluntary, creative projects. Participants attend our workshops regularly, and after identifying what they would like to gain from working with MIO, working towards this goal with assistance from staff and other participants.

The charity, based in Portslade, has had a successful first two years and grown significantly since. We have increased capacity by taking on a new premises near Steyning in West Sussex, where we deliver MIO programmes with a focus on traditional crafts. We also run creative away-days for local charities and businesses, offering them a chance to work with our participants to make a variety of artefacts.

Our creative output has included large scale public artworks, shop fitting, series of prints and bespoke furniture. We also manage collaborative making projects with partner organisations and their service users. A recent project involved co-creating a commemorative artwork for those who died whilst being homeless in Brighton and Hove.

Role

The primary objective of Making it Out is to increase the independence of our participants so that they can lead more fulfilling and crime-free lives. We aim to make this possible through increased confidence, skill & knowledge development, collaborative working, and trusting people with new responsibilities. Many of our participants have embraced a lot of the opportunities and made great progress within the organisation.

As our participants become more independent, we are finding that the next stage of their development requires a different type of relationship that will stretch them and broaden their horizons. Whilst some of this can come from within MIO we have identified that there are specific directions that our participants want to head in that we don't have working knowledge of. We are also increasingly aware that we don't have the time available for one-to-one participant guidance, a valuable step within participant development which we want to support. To do so, we are hoping to find some professional artists and designers from all creative disciplines to work with us as volunteer mentors.



The mentors will be attached to participants who have been developing their practice in a relevant discipline with the hope that the mentor will be able to guide the participant's development. The guidance will be individual to the participant and mentor but will generally include meeting once or twice a month to assist with practical skill development; set tasks: agree on achievable medium-term targets; and monitor progress. We hope that through these relationships we will see an increase in participant confidence, motivation, skill level and - where suitable - an increase in the participants' ability to market their work.

Necessary Criteria

- Current or previous career within at least one art, craft, or design discipline.
- Reasonable level of IT and competence in both written and spoken English.
- Available time for 2 – 4 days a month. These can be flexible and don't need to be full days.
- Commitment to volunteering in a workplace irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation.
- Non-judgemental attitude towards people who have previously been in prison or committed offending behaviour.
- Passion for making and an enthusiasm to help others find and develop their creative practice.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of our volunteers and participants is paramount in our concerns as a charity. Whilst we want these mentoring relationships to be friendly, we must stress the need for them to remain professional and not to stray into friendships. Unless otherwise agreed with MIO staff, all meetings will take place at MIO premises and there should be no need to share personal numbers or addresses between volunteers and participants

Contact

Please get in touch at admin@makingitout.co.uk with a brief introduction about you and your creative practice. We will then arrange a time to come in and have a chat to see if we can match you to one of our participants. We'd love to see your creative work so please send links, attach images to your email, or bring examples along with you when you come in for a chat. Whilst it will be an informal interview, we will not necessarily be able to offer the position to everyone that applies.

