

Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service Arts Education Fund Youth Advisors

Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service (THAMES) is looking for two 15–18-year-olds to support the shortlisting and selection process of their Arts Education Fund (AEF).

THAMES receives its AEF Grant from Tower Hamlets Council to fund arts education projects for children and young people. Local arts organisations have been invited to apply for grants to deliver these projects in schools and education/youth settings across the borough during the 2024-25 academic year. THAMES administers the funding, making decisions on how it is allocated, and which projects take place. In previous years, the fund has supported projects delivered by Conductive Music, Grand Union Orchestra, Green Candle Dance, Half Moon Theatre, London Youth Choirs, Rich Mix, Spitalfields Music, UD Music and Whitechapel Gallery.

We are looking to involve two young people in the decision-making process for the Arts Education Fund 2024-25. This will involve reading and assessing funding applications and being on the decision-making panel with THAMES project managers (Alison & Becca) to help decide which projects to award money to.

THAMES is committed to youth voice and involving young people in our decision-making processes. We believe that young people bring a different perspective to our work and are more in touch with what young people want from their education. In turn, we will support young people to develop their knowledge, skills, and confidence in being involved in decision-making processes, giving them insight into the arts sector, and providing valuable skills and experience for their future education and careers.

What you will gain from this opportunity:

- Experience of the arts sector and how funding decisions are made.
- Learning about a range of arts education projects covering music, drama, visual art, dance, media & film, and museums & heritage and getting to know about the cultural organisations operating in Tower Hamlets.
- Insight into arts education priorities and activities taking place in schools and education/youth settings.
- Experience in reading and assessing funding applications which will provide transferrable skills into various jobs in the arts, charity, and public sectors.
- Opportunity to share your ideas and opinions and help decide how funding is spent.
- Valuable knowledge and experience to boost future college, university and/or job applications.



What type of person this opportunity would suit:

- You will be aged 15-18 years and can either be attending school/college or working.
- You will ideally live, work or study in Tower Hamlets or nearby.
- You will be interested in the arts. This can be any art form, including music, drama, visual art, dance, media & film, museums & heritage. You do not have to be studying an arts subject.
- You will enjoy reading written material and applying critical thinking.
- You will enjoy working as part of a team and bringing your own ideas and opinions to the table.

What the role will involve:

You will need to be available for around 10 hours in June 2024 to take part in the following:

1. Attending a briefing meeting with the THAMES project managers to learn more about the Arts Education Fund and be given more information and support on how to assess applications.	1-2 hour meeting Can be online or in-person (TBD) Early June
2. Reading and scoring sections from the submitted applications (roughly 15-20 applications). <i>The THAMES project managers will be available to answer any questions or provide additional support if needed.</i>	Around 5-6 hours Can be done in your own time Between 5-21 June
3. Attending a selection meeting with the THAMES project managers and contributing to the discussion about which projects take place and how funding is allocated.	2 hour meeting Can be online or in-person (TBD) w/c 17 June

This is an unpaid, voluntary opportunity.

How to apply:

Please [email us \(thames.admin@towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](mailto:thames.admin@towerhamlets.gov.uk) by **Wednesday 22 May 2024** to express your interest by responding briefly to the following questions:

- What are you currently doing at the moment, e.g. studying or working?
- What interests you about this opportunity and what do you hope to get out of it?
- What is your experience of the arts, e.g. do you currently study or informally pursue an arts subject, play a musical instrument, take part in a band or choir, attend a dance or theatre group, create your own art, music or film, enjoy visiting galleries or museums?

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please [email us](#).