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Title: Bath Community Engagement and Participation Fellowship

An opportunity to spend 10 months in residence with The Studio in Bath, Creative Twerton and surrounding communities. This a practical Fellowship with a focus on community-based Action Research looking at ways in which communities within Bath & North East Somerset (BaNES) can engage with immersive and creative technologies leading to positive change.

This might be improved social mobility and job prospects but also positive social impacts such as creating better, more connected communities with inclusive infrastructure, intergenerational connections and better mental health.

You will respond to the findings of a previous initiative, The Bath Challenge; its primary finding was the fragmented nature of the creative and cultural sectors in BaNES. Bath city centre is characterised by both expensive parking and expensive bus fares and meaningful collaboration with communities outside the city centre will only happen if activity is co-created in those places.

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**Overview**

This MyWorld Fellowship is aimed at freelancers or sole-traders with experience of community-based work. We invite people to think about these Fellowships as a period of collaborative thinking and experimentation, applying practice, expertise or relevant experience.

The Fellow will be contracted and paid via the University of Bristol (UoB) and supported by Watershed.

Day-to-day the Community Engagement Fellow will be supported by the MyWorld research lead at Bath Spa University, Prof Kate Pullinger and wider team at The Studio in Bath but based mainly at Creative Twerton, a creative community hub run by Little Lost Robot CIC.

This document contains information about the opportunity and the application process. If you have any access requirements that mean this document does not work for you, please contact Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk.

This Fellowship is part of the MyWorld IDEAS programme, funded by UKRI.

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**The Fellowship**

Bath Community Engagement and Participation Fellowship

This will be the first of three linked 10-month practical Fellowships taking the form of community-based Action Research.

Action Research is a research method that “tackles real-world problems in participatory, collaborative, and cyclical ways in order to produce both knowledge and action” (Zina O’Leary). For this Fellowship, we are looking for people who are interested using this collaborative ‘learning through doing’ method, to develop co-created strategies to find ways to engage the different communities that are served by Creative Twerton with immersive and creative technologies.

You will analyse existing data and reports like The Bath Challenge, while also embedding yourselve within Creative Twerton to build an understanding of and trust with the different user groups.

Twerton is an area of economic deprivation and these communities include, for example, 15 - 25 year olds with mental health issues linked to the pandemic, parents of primary aged school children who need extra support, and a multicultural group of adults with complex and diverse intersectional needs.

In the later stages of the Fellowship you will evaluate and refine these strategies so they can be developed by the second and third Fellows who will be recruited in 2024. You can find out more in the FAQs about the plans for this.

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**The award: £20,000 for 10 months at roughly 2.5 days/week**

For a payment schedule breakdown please check the [FAQs.](https://wshed.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/MyWorldstrengthinplaces/EdUwqJLheFFKjcdLwre2XEcBs0Plgxyd7530K9QpK46UTQ?e=5PwZ4S)

**Key Responsibilities (outputs):**

* Collaborate with Little Lost Robot at Creative Twerton and other community partners to work with key community groups.
* Identify barriers to community engagement with creative technologies and immersive media within these groups.
* Begin the development of a co-created program that speaks to the needs of these groups in terms of their engagement with immersive and creative technology, and links with MyWorld.
* Organise relevant events and workshops as the primary liaison between the communities and the MyWorld team at The Studio in Bath.
* Collect before and after data in order to help evaluate the impact of this work.
* Co-design the brief for the second and third Fellowships so that they can carry on developing the work.
* Share your learning via a blog post and/or talks at the Studio in Bath and the Pervasive Media Studio (if appropriate).
* Plan and action a handover strategy for the second and third Fellows.

**Experience and Skill Set**

* Be open and collaborative, comfortable sharing early ideas and giving/receiving constructive feedback with care.
* You will either have a working knowledge of Bath and strong links into the communities such as Twerton and Radstock or a clear understanding of how to champion and nurture those links from experience elsewhere.
* Experience of outreach, intersectional community engagement and/or inclusion work, in particular working with marginalised and/or disadvantaged communities
* Experience of organising workshops and events within a community context and liaising with different stakeholders.
* Being open to and enthusiastic about new technologies.
* Experience of collecting qualitative and quantitative data which will be used to evaluate the reach and impact of the project. Academic advice and support will be offered on this.

**Desirable experience**

* An understanding of immersive technologies such motion capture or virtual reality (VR).
* Knowledge of and links to communities in and around the BaNES region

**What do we expect from you?**

* You will join as a MyWorld Fellow, becoming part of the team at The Studio in Bath made up of MyWorld colleagues at Bath Spa University.
* You will spend time at Creative Twerton embedding yourself with the different user groups and work collaboratively with Little Lost Robot CIC.
* You will produce work that is appropriate for a community context, create outcomes that are documented and shared for wider learning.
* An open and collaborative approach towards peer networks and sharing.

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**What do you get?**

* A grant of £20,000 for 10 months embedded exploration at roughly 2.5 days/week (incl. expenses).
* You will work alongside MyWorld researchers and technologists.
* Access to an interdisciplinary community across MyWorld and the partner universities, particularly the work package known as Experimental Productions
* Support from a Watershed producer (relationship management, contracts, networking, signposting to opportunities, etc.).
* For the duration of MyWorld’s programme: Desk space and access to facilities at the Studio in Bath as well as in the Pervasive Media Studio at Watershed in Bristol, connecting you to a vibrant community of artists and creative technologists, and the potential to remain a Resident at The Studio in Bath at the end of the Fellowship.
* Access support.
* Sharing opportunities for any work made, via Bath Spa’s Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries, the Studio in Bath and the Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol, MyWorld MEETS, and/or blogs, Watershed First Friday programme, and other opportunities.

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**How to apply**

You are invited to answer five questions in an online questionnaire focusing on how you meet the skills and experience for the Fellowship and how you can build care into the process.

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to interview.

**Apply here for the Fellowship:**

<https://wshd.to/bathstudioapplication>

Please check the eligibility criteria in the [FAQs](https://wshed.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/MyWorldstrengthinplaces/EdUwqJLheFFKjcdLwre2XEcBs0Plgxyd7530K9QpK46UTQ?e=5PwZ4S) before applying.

We understand that online forms do not work for everyone. If you would like to apply by alternative means please email Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk

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**Timeline**

* Closing Date for applications:

Monday 11 September 2023 at 10.00a.m. (BST!)

* All applicants will hear from us by end of:

Friday 22 September

* Interviews:

Thursday 28 September 2023

* Contracting:

October 2023

* Fellowship start date:

w/c 13 November 2023

* Fellowship end date:

w/c 19 August 2024

**Talk to Us**

We have shared some [FAQs](https://wshed.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/MyWorldstrengthinplaces/EdUwqJLheFFKjcdLwre2XEcBs0Plgxyd7530K9QpK46UTQ?e=5PwZ4S) here. If your question has not been answered please contact Vanessa Bellaar Spruijt on myworld@watershed.co.uk

**Application form for Fellowship at The Studio:**

<https://wshd.to/bathstudioapplication>

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**About the Studio in Bath**

The Studio in Bath is Bath Spa University’s award-winning city centre home for enterprise and innovation. We provide free and paid-for space for micro-businesses, students and graduates to work on projects and ideas that focus on creativity and technology. Bath Spa University recently achieved Gold Mark accreditation as a Social Enterprise, and hosts the regional Social Impact Network.

 **About Creative Twerton**

Creative Twerton is a vibrant community hub on Twerton High Street in a former retail unit. It is run by Little Lost Robot CIC working with the Vacant Unit Action Group within BaNES’ Regeneration Project and is supported by Bath Spa University. To help support the local community, Creative Twerton runs regular create sessions that are free to attend and include free lunch and refreshments. Holiday workshops range from costume & clothes making & upcycling, circus skills & performance to welding and puppetry. <https://lostrobot.org/creative-twerton/>

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**About Pervasive Media Studio and Watershed**

The Pervasive Media Studio hosts a brilliant community of over 180 residents exploring creativity and technology.

The Pervasive Media Studio is based within Watershed in Bristol, a cultural organisation championing engagement, imagination and ingenuity. We have an open plan studio with a culture of generosity, curiosity and interruptability. We believe that by clustering together people from a broad range of backgrounds, with differing skills, experiences and opinions, all of our ideas get better.

It is a collaboration between Watershed, University of Bristol and UWE Bristol.

**About MyWorld**

Bath Spa University, Watershed and the Pervasive Media Studio are part of a programme called MyWorld which will showcase the latest advances in digital production and research.

Led by the University of Bristol, the aim of MyWorld is to position the West of England as an international trailblazer in screen-based media, forge dynamic collaborations to progress technological innovation, deliver creative excellence, establish and operate state of the art facilities, offer skills training and drive inward investment, raising the region’s profile on the global stage.

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MyWorld is funded through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) ‘Strength in Places fund’.

Main Delivery partners: University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, Bath Spa University, Watershed, Digital Catapult, Aardman Animations, Lux Aeterna, Esprit Film and Television, Bristol Old Vic and Opposable Games.