

CURATOR **VISUAL ARTS**

This role leads on the initiation, development and delivery of visual arts projects including exhibitions and curatorial projects globally. This includes exhibitions drawn from the British Council's collection, artist residencies and collaborative curatorial programmes. The curator works closely with internal and external colleagues including British Council staff overseas to agree visual art programmes and activities which respond to local objectives, targets, opportunity and context, ultimately contributing to the British Council's overall cultural relations aims. This will require collaborative or co-curatorial working with both overseas and UK based curators.

The curator provides the connection to the UK Arts sector and is able to draw upon a wide-ranging knowledge of contemporary UK art and artists and network of UK contacts to provide specialist advice. The curator is responsible for end to end project management contributing directly to project design, implementation, financial forecasting and management, drafting and negotiating contracts, setting and managing project schedules, research and writing texts, relationship management, working in collaboration with a team to ensure the smooth delivery of projects with partner institutions and ensuring full evaluation in the end of the project.

Role Information

Role	Pay Band	Location	Duration	Reports to:
Visual Arts Curator	British Council Pay Band 7	London	FTC 2 years	Director of Exhibitions

Role purpose

To contribute to the British Council's cultural relations work globally, through the development, implementation and management of a range of exhibitions and collaborative curatorial projects.

Strategic Business Unit overview:

The **British Council** was founded to create 'a friendly knowledge and understanding' between the people of the UK and wider world by making a positive contribution to the countries we work with, and in doing so making a lasting difference to the UK's international standing, prosperity and security. The programmes we use to do this are wide-ranging and cover the arts, education, English, science and society.

Our UK **Arts team** works with the British Council's global network of offices to achieve significant impact and change by finding new ways of connecting and seeing each other through the arts. Our team in the UK has three main groupings: We have six art form teams; three cross-disciplinary teams; and three country-specific teams in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our aim is to see stronger creative sectors across the world that are better connected with the UK. We believe arts and culture are vital to prosperous, secure societies, and that offering international cultural connections and experiences strengthens their resilience. We are uniquely able to make a difference thanks to our extensive and diverse networks in the UK and internationally, enabling us to respond to the individual context of each place we work in. [Link to Vision on internet.](#)

The **Visual Arts Department** is a dedicated team of specialists, committed to promoting the achievements of the UK's best artists and institutions abroad. We connect the UK's visual arts sector with professionals internationally, focusing predominantly on staging and supporting contemporary art projects in areas of the developing world. Primary activities include exhibitions, training and development, professional study exchange visits and the sharing of our unrivalled knowledge and advice on the logistics of working internationally in the visual arts and museums sector. The principal assets of the Visual Arts department include a major art collection (the British Council Collection); a professional library with extensive coverage of developments in the British art of the 20th and 21st century; the British Pavilion in Venice; a state-of-the-art Workshop and a team of professional visual arts experts who curate exhibitions for our global network, as well as offering advice and assessment for international institutions and individuals wishing to work in the UK. <http://visualarts.britishcouncil.org/about>

Main opportunities/challenges for this role:

- Creating opportunities for the UK museum, gallery and contemporary art sector that encourage international showcasing, collaboration and professional exchange within a cultural relations context.
- Maintaining expertise in contemporary UK Visual Arts sector, contribute to the British Council Collection acquisition process and project proposal process.
- Develop expertise within a specific global region, developing and maintaining excellent working knowledge of the visual arts sector as well as developing and maintaining excellent

relationship with key stakeholders, including British Council colleagues in the region.

- Develop a variety of Visual Arts projects collaboratively with a range of national and international partners offering knowledge and expertise on Modern and Contemporary British Art including access and engagement with the British Council Collection.

Main Accountabilities:

Programmes

- Leads in the development, management and presentation of specific project or programme proposals, including the visual arts related component of wider programmes, to ensure these are soundly based and gain approval
- Oversees, manages and, as necessary, advises on the implementation of approved visual arts products and/or programmes to ensure these are efficiently and effectively delivered to agreed standards.
- Sets in place evaluation plans and ensure the provision, collation and analysis of participant and stakeholder feedback on all relevant projects and programmes so their quality and effectiveness can be assessed and, recommend improvements.
- Advises and works with colleagues to ensure the relevant parts of the British Council's knowledge management systems, websites and marketing materials are up to date and comprehensive in relation to British Council's work within specific visual arts projects.
- Supports the delivery of programmes through the management of finance, contracts, information systems and evaluation as relevant.
- Working within cross-departmental and multi-location teams to deliver exhibition programmes.
- This role also provides specialist support to British Council offices overseas to ensure that these projects are delivered to a high-quality meeting the strategic aims of the British Council as well as meeting specific regional requirements and support the British Council's cultural relations objectives.

Sector/subject expertise

- Actively builds professional networks and information channels that maintain an excellent understanding of relevant developments, stakeholders and opinion formers in the visual arts sector (in both the UK and internationally), to support the creation of high quality project and programme proposals.
- Provides proactive advice and support to colleagues, particularly overseas, to ensure locally developed and/or implemented visual arts projects and programmes are high quality, cost effective and based on a genuine understanding of the key priorities and best practice within the visual arts and museum sector.

Relationship & stakeholder management

- Proactively identifies and cultivates potential/actual partners for project and programme development and delivery, and secures the successful achievement of British Council objectives.
- Builds and maintains effective relationships with internal partners and stakeholders, to ensure effective, integrated and joined-up delivery of portfolio goals in a complex matrix environment.
- Represent the British Council at exhibition related events to ensure appropriate support is given to partners and other stakeholders.
- Negotiates with and manages different types of relationships and work collaboratively across a complex organisation and achieve results.

Risk & compliance

- Ensures projects and programmes are delivered in line with British Council quality standards and Project Management methodologies, including adherence to all process and procedures, governance requirements and communication procedures.

- Uses specialist experience to identify project and programme issues and potential solutions or improved ways of working to address them, escalating where necessary.
- Excellent project management skills including setting and managing project schedules, setting and managing project budgets and risk mitigation

Commercial, financial & resource management

- Using agreed British Council systems and processes, plans and manages the budget for a range of small/medium-sized projects and programmes, and conducts monthly and year-end reporting on income and expenditure, profitability and risk.

Leadership & management

- Plans and prioritises own work activities, and those of a wider project team/teams (many of which exist outside the direct management line and may be external to the British Council e.g. artists), to ensure effective delivery of diverse responsibilities and programmes.
- May be formal line manager to junior staff, temporary staff or interns.
- Provides coaching and mentoring for staff reporting to the role and/or staff in the project teams, as agreed to build capability and capacity within the team and ensure the team receives the support it requires.
- Supports the analysis of skills, identifies development needs and contributes to the development of learning and development initiatives from areas of own expertise.
- Shares knowledge, expertise and ideas to support senior managers and peers identifying and/or developing ways in which the visual arts team can make the most effective impact on the British Council's cultural relations.

7 Role Requirements:

Threshold requirements:		Assessment stage
Passport requirements/ Right to work in country	EU passport/existing right to work in the UK	<i>Shortlisting</i>
Notes	The post includes both national and international travel, as well as attendance at events outside of standard working hours.	
Person Specification:		Assessment stage
Qualifications		
<i>Minimum / essential Only if essential for the performance of the role</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Assessment Stage</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree in relevant arts subject 	<i>Shortlisting</i>
Job Specific Knowledge & Experience		
<i>Minimum / essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Assessment Stage</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good, wide knowledge of contemporary and modern UK art and the ability to make critical judgements across different genres. • A track record in exhibition curating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in an international context or with different cultures. Proven experience of developing and delivering complex exhibition projects in the UK and 	<i>Shortlisting AND Interview</i>

<p>and visual arts programme management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong project management skills including budget, risk and resource management as well as experience of managing a team. • Excellent communications skills. The ability to write effectively for a variety of different audiences. 	<p>internationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the museum and visual arts sector globally • Excellent relationship management skills • Experience of drafting and negotiating contracts. • A good network of contacts across the UK visual arts and museum sector. 	
British Council Core Skills		Assessment Stage
<p>Managing projects – Level 3 Analyses requirements with the sponsor/stakeholders, defining the specification with awareness of equality and diversity impact, planning, revising, implementing and evaluating on small-to-medium scale and/or low risk projects.</p>		<i>Shortlisting AND Interview</i>
<p>Communicating and influencing – Level 3 Able to use a range of non-standard and creative approaches to inform, and persuade others, extending beyond logical argument to influence decisions and actions in a way which is inclusive and engaging.</p>		<i>Shortlisting AND Interview</i>
<p>Managing finance and resources – Level 3 Monitors and controls an agreed budget within a defined area, producing reports and analyses and contributing to planning.</p>		<i>Shortlisting AND Interview</i>
<p>Managing accounts and partnerships – Level 2 Communicates regularly with diverse stakeholders, customers and/or partners to build mutual understanding and trust.</p>		<i>Shortlisting AND Interview</i>
British Council Behaviours		Assessment Stage
<p>Creating shared Purpose (ESSENTIAL) Creating energy and clarity so that people want to work purposefully together</p>		<i>Interview</i>
<p>Connecting with others (MORE DEMANDING) Actively appreciating the needs and concerns of myself and others</p>		<i>Interview</i>
<p>Making it happen (MORE DEMANDING) Challenging myself and others to deliver and measure better results</p>		<i>Interview</i>
<p>Working together (MORE DEMANDING) Ensuring that others benefit as well as me.</p>		<i>Interview</i>
<p>Being accountable(MORE DEMANDING) Putting the needs of the team or British Council ahead of my own</p>		<i>Performance Management only</i>
<p>Shaping the Future (ESSENTIAL) Exploring ways in which we can add more value.</p>		<i>Performance Management only</i>

