



# FESTIVAL OF THRIFT

## Community Development Manager Role



### Background

Festival of Thrift CIC has a mission to “carry out activities to benefit the community and to advance public awareness of sustainable living through Festivals, exhibitions and other activities”. Every penny we raise goes back into organising these activities and increasing the number of people we can engage with.

The first Festival took place in 2013 at Lingfield Point in Darlington, making a big impact regionally and nationally, with 27,000 visitors thronging the site. By 2015, 35,000 visitors were pouring through the gates to celebrate all things sustainable. That year, Lingfield Point was sold to developers and the team set up a community interest company to manage funds.

In 2016, at the invitation of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, the Festival moved location to the beautiful Kirkleatham Museum & Grounds in Redcar, where over 35,000 people now attend annually to be entertained, inspired and educated about how to live thriftily and sustainably in style.

We have won a multitude of awards including Best Event Teesside, Gold at North East Tourism Event of the Year and the Observer Ethical Awards for Arts and Culture, recognising the fact that artists are embedded in the programme as agents for social change. The aims of the Festival are to:

- Promote the concept of sustainable living and be a voice for sustainable issues, globally and locally.
- Build a unique and distinctive, fun and sustainable national event, drawing positive media attention to Redcar & the Tees Valley.
- Share the skills of artists and craftspeople, professional and amateur, to inspire people of all ages to learn old ways and find new ways to be creative in their everyday lives.
- Ensure wider economic benefit through encouraging visitor spend on travel, accommodation, restaurants & related businesses.
- Contribute to community cohesion through wide engagement in our programme, volunteering and participation.
- Celebrate the heritage and contribute to the future prosperity of Redcar & and its business and industry.



For details of our programme please see [www.festivalofthrift.co.uk](http://www.festivalofthrift.co.uk)

### **Board and Advisory Groups**

The Festival is currently managed by a small Board comprising Stella Hall, Wayne Hemingway, MBE, Gerardine Hemingway MBE and John Orchard. We intend to expand and recruit a wider membership in 2021. In addition, we have a regularly meeting Advisory Group which represents wider partners including Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Teesside University, individual artists and local organisations and communities. Marketing and Production also have their own advisory groups.

### **Finances**

Festival of Thrift CIC is currently a project based company. In 2019 its turnover was roughly £420,000. It raises money from a range of sources: grants, trusts and foundations and sponsorship and was poised in 2020 to make an application to Arts Council of England for NPO status prior to the Covid 19 outbreak. We will be making the case in a future submission for a renewed Festival and year round working. In this financial year, we have maintained elements of our programme and our profile through an online Digital Festival, ThriftFest Upcycled and our first hyper local event in two streets in Brotton, East Cleveland. (See website for film).

### **Team**

The current team is freelance, though we intend to establish a payroll for core members of the team, including this role. They are extremely committed and have worked for significantly less than their average earnings to keep Festival of Thrift afloat during 2020, for which we are extremely grateful. Another key part time role, Executive Director (ED), will be recruited end 2020, and it is expected the ED will participate in interviews for this post.



### **Community Development Role**

Festival of Thrift is based in the Tees Valley in an area deeply affected by the challenges associated with severe socio-economic deprivation. This new role has been created to focus on the existing skills, knowledge and interests of local residents (the communities' assets) and seek to share them in creative projects. We aim to generate a nurturing environment where people enjoy getting to know each other and creating free activities and experiences that they enjoy, want to participate in and potentially share with others.



Since its inception seven years ago, Festival of Thrift has been gathering evidence of its positive impact on improving lives. During the run up to and during the Festival it has increased social connections, reduced isolation, and enabled local people to rediscover a sense of civic pride through positive engagement through its programme. Now we want to build a year round outreach programme which expands on the work we have been doing, takes it out to communities and brings it back to the Festival.

We have raised funds to employ an individual for three days a week and we are now seeking a highly motivated and experienced community development professional to lead the project for the next year (and possibly beyond, subject to further funding being secured).

The company is entering an exciting phase, where, having operated for seven years without an office base, we have recently taken office and gallery space in agreement with Tees Valley Arts at The Palace Hub in Redcar. We are now keen to consolidate a core team and to build year round activity in the Tees Valley. This is a new role and will be based in the office at Palace Hub. See attached role description for further details.

**Deadline**

Please send applications to [info@festivalofthrift.co.uk](mailto:info@festivalofthrift.co.uk) by 9am on Wednesday January 6th. Interviews will be held (in person if possible, otherwise online) in Redcar in the week beginning Monday January 11th.

**Submissions**

Please email [Stella@festivalofthrift.co.uk](mailto:Stella@festivalofthrift.co.uk) if you would like an informal conversation prior to submitting your application.

Please apply with a covering letter outlining your interest in and suitability for the role, together with a current CV and the names of two referees. These will only be approached with your permission once shortlisted.

Festival of Thrift is committed to ensuring our workforce is reflective of the UK's diverse cultural population and is therefore committed to increasing representation of staff of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds across all roles and at all levels. It's important that our team reflect the communities we work with and in.

If you are disabled and your application meets the minimum criteria for the post, we guarantee you an interview.