

CAST

Call for a ceramic artist or technician to act as a consultant for Ceramic Studio project at CAST in Helston

This contract is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Cornubian Arts & Science Trust (CAST) seeks to engage a freelance ceramic artist/technician to set up and run a ceramic studio at CAST in Helston, Cornwall. This consultancy will involve working on site over the course of ten months to develop a sustainable studio model.

CAST (the Cornubian Arts & Science Trust) is a studio complex and arts organisation based in a late-nineteenth-century school building originally given to the town of Helston by the philanthropist John Passmore Edwards as a Science and Art School. The building currently provides studios for some twenty artists and accommodates an active programme of talks, screenings and public events as well as learning activities for schools, families and young people. The ceramics studio was originally the school carpentry workshop and is a self-contained space measuring 300 sq ft, with its own entrance onto Penrose Road. When completed, we envisage that the studio will be equipped with a sink with clay trap, workbenches, drying shelves or racks, an electric kiln and one or two wheels. A three-phase electrical supply is available if required. There is a tea-making area and WC nearby. A small south-facing terrace provides an external seating area.

We are seeking an energetic and experienced ceramicist, who will advise on the final fit-out of the studio and on purchase and installation of specialist equipment, for which there is provision in the project budget. The ceramicist will devise ways of involving members of the local and artistic community to create a sustainable studio business. CAST will pay a fee of £1,000 per month for up to ten months and will support the successful candidate to develop opportunities for community participation as part of the economy of the studio.

As part of the work covered by the monthly fee, the artist will contribute to the marketing of the studio, set up health and safety procedures, offer instruction, develop pilot projects, and use their expertise and judgment to devise a viable and sustainable model for the long-term operation of the studio.

The studio space will be rent-free for the first ten months, but the ceramicist will be responsible for rates and utilities, including electricity for kiln firings. At the end of the ten-month period an ongoing management plan will be agreed upon and monthly rent rates will be set.

Qualifications, skills and experience:

Training in ceramics, ideally at BA level or above.

Experience of working in a ceramic studio.

Knowledge of specialist equipment, maintenance and operation.

Understanding of best practice in relation to both health and safety issues and environmental sustainability issues.

An interest in sharing skills and working with others

Experience of working with other artists and the wider community

Ability to communicate and share skills

Experience of project management or business development

A desire to be based at CAST, to be part of our community and to operate a self-supporting business.

Selection Criteria:

The ceramic artist/technician will be chosen on the quality of their own work, their experience of working in a ceramic studio, and their commitment to developing a viable and self-sustaining business. The panel will also consider the artist's interest in working with other artists and the wider community, their ability to communicate and share skills, and their commitment to developing their own professional practice.

CAST recognises that diversity, in the widest sense, is an important element in contemporary society and we will work to combat any social and institutional barriers that prevent people from participating in and enjoying the services we deliver. As a condition of their engagement, the selected ceramic artist/technician will be required to commit to CAST's Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy and will be asked to contribute to the development of CAST's Diversity Equality Action Plan. The ceramic artist/technician will be required to set standards and share approved practices with all users of the studio.

How to apply

Applicants should provide a CV, link to a website or online portfolio and cover letter of no more than 500 words outlining their interest in the opportunity and relevant experience.

A short video of no more than 3 mins can be accepted as an alternative to a written cover letter, please do not submit both.

Please supply text files in PDF format, videos should be supplied as a private youtube link.

All applications should be emailed to info@c-a-s-t.org.uk by midnight on Monday 3rd January. Interviews will take place in January, for consultancy on equipment and studio set up to begin as soon as possible. Any questions should be directed to teresa@c-a-s-t.org.uk

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