

Job Description: Children's Story Box Facilitator 2019

Contract

Full-time, fixed term: 5 August (morning only) & 8 - 27 August.

Morning of 5 August, 8 and 9 August will be spent on preparation and staff training during office hours.

As this role involves working with children, employment will be conditional on receipt of a PVG scheme record. This contract also covers 2 preparation days in the lead up to the festival to be arranged.

Rate of pay

£10.80 per hour, paid weekly in arrears by bank transfer (plus holiday pay).

Key dates

The Edinburgh International Book Festival runs for 18 days every August. The next Festival will take place 10 - 26 August 2019. The Festival site will be closed to the public but open for events as part of our Schools Programme on 27 August 2019.

Background

The Edinburgh International Book Festival, a non-profit making organisation, is a distinctive international showcase celebrating the written word, literature and ideas. It brings leading and emerging international, British and Scottish authors and thinkers together to inspire each other and audiences in an extensive programme of public events.

In recent years, debate, discussion, performance and interactive events have become prominent features of the Festival, complementing the more traditional interview-style events and readings, and contributing to the Book Festival's reputation as a powerful forum for the public to exchange views with writers and experts on a wide range of issues: social, ethical and political as well as literary and cultural. At the heart of the Book Festival's activity is an integrated approach to creative learning and education with the aim of expanding participation in democratic discussion, fostering a love of reading and developing engaged, knowledgeable audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The first Edinburgh International Book Festival took place in Charlotte Square Gardens in 1983 with around 30 author events; now it stages over 900 each August, attracting around 250,000 visits, making it the largest public celebration of the written word in the world. The Book Festival takes place in a temporary, tented Festival Village, created and built each year in Charlotte Square Gardens and more recently on neighbouring George Street.

The Book Festival's children's programme offers a comprehensive series of author events, activities and workshops for audiences ranging from babies to young adults, attracting audiences of 20,000 each year. In addition, an extensive schools programme is created especially for primary and secondary pupils, attended by around 14,000 school children.

Through an award from players of People's Postcode Lottery, the Book Festival has expanded its activities to create On The Road, a wide-ranging programme of live-literature events and mini-Festivals which take place in communities around Scotland across the year.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival has an annual turnover of around £2.8 million. Under 20% of income comes from Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council to support core operations. The rest is raised from ticket sales and the sales of books through the Book Festival's highly successful independent bookshops in addition to corporate sponsorship, trusts and foundations, individual donations.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, increasing our sustainability and creating a forum for discussion to bring environmental concerns and the climate change debate to a wider public. As a key member of the Festivals Edinburgh Environmental Group, we have worked to create a joint Environmental Policy across all of Edinburgh's Festivals. We are also part of the Green Arts Initiative, the interactive community of over 200 Scottish arts and cultural organisations working to improve their environmental performance, run by Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh.

We have our own Green Team - a cross-departmental team of staff who champion sustainability throughout the year, attending workshops and the Green Arts Conference hosted by Creative Carbon Scotland, communicating issues and the latest thinking across the organisation. The Green Team ensure that environmental matters are considered at every stage of activity to help identify where changes can be made, however small, to reduce our impact.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is a founder member of Festivals Edinburgh, the organisation created by Edinburgh's 11 major Festivals to support their joint strategic development and maintain their position as global leaders.

The team

The Book Festival has a permanent staff of 26 throughout the year, expanding rapidly over the summer to a peak of around 120 staff during the Festival itself.

The Programming team comprises the Director, Associate Director, Children & Education Programme Director, Programme Manager, Creative Learning Manager and Author Logistics Officer. Several temporary staff are added to the team in the run up to the Festival, including a Programme Administrator, a Programme Logistics Assistant, two Authors' Yurt Managers and five Author Hospitality Assistants.

The role

The Baillie Gifford Story Box venue provides daily, free, drop-in activities to more than 3,500 children and their families over the course of the Festival, and is staffed by Story Box Facilitators from 9.30am to 5.30pm each day, with activities running from 11.00am to 4.30pm.

Key duties and responsibilities

Perfect for those with an interest in arts education and childcare, the role involves preparing and delivering engaging and interactive activities on a variety of literary-related topics, as well as working with outside organisations to support their activities in the venue.

The Story Box Facilitators are also responsible for meeting and supporting authors for events in the venue including Big Draw sessions and our daily Are You Sitting Comfortably? storytelling sessions at 10.00-10.30am.

The Story Box Facilitators are responsible for the daily set-up and tidying of materials and venue, and for evacuation of the venue in the event of an incident.

Person specification

Successful candidates will possess the following:

- Experience of working with children
- Experience of delivering activities for children of a range of ages
- An interest in children's books, especially picture books
- A fun and professional manner
- Confidence when dealing with the public
- Excellent customer service and communication skills
- Energy and enthusiasm and a flexible, positive attitude

Additional qualities which may be useful include:

- Experience or an understanding of live literature or festival organisations
- Current First Aid at Work certificate
- PVG scheme membership (employment will be conditional on receipt of a PVG scheme record)

Terms and conditions

The post is based at 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh and at the Festival site in Charlotte Square Gardens during August. Normal hours of work are 9:30am - 5:30pm (6 days out of 7), on a shift basis, between Monday and Sunday. Rotas will be issued in advance of the festival. Attendance at all training days is compulsory. Each Children's Story Box Facilitator has two rostered days off during the Festival.

Wages are paid weekly in arrears by bank transfer.

We are committed to making the Book Festival as accessible as possible to customers, participants, sponsors and staff. If you have any specific access requirements or concerns, please let us know and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is an equal opportunities employer and an Investor in People.

Applications

To apply for this position, please complete the online application at <http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/about-us/jobs>.

We do not accept applications by post or email. Due to the volume of applications we receive, it may not be possible to respond to everybody.

If the job description doesn't answer your questions, please contact jobs@edbookfest.co.uk or call the Book Festival office on 0131 718 5666.

Please note that we do not appoint without interview. Due to the number of temporary staff we hire each year, our interview schedules are very busy and we strongly advise that you ensure you are available during the interview week. In some cases, if travel to Edinburgh is impossible we will interview by Skype, but we prefer to meet all candidates in person.

Closing date: Friday 10 May 2019, 17:00

Interviews: week commencing 27 May 2019

Interviews will be held at the Book Festival offices at 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DR.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd has its registered office at 5a Charlotte Square, EH2 4DR and is a company limited by guarantee (no SC 79939) with charitable status (SCO10120).