

Western Edge Youth Arts

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WESTERN
EDGE
YOUTH
ARTS

Expression of Interest – Support Artists

ROLE: Support Artist

AGE: 18 - 30

JOB TYPE: Casual Employment: \$35/hr contact; \$30/hr non-contact

DIRECT SUPERVISOR: Lead Artist - WEYA Lead Artists are highly skilled professional artists who identify as belonging to the communities that our participants belong to.

WEYA prioritises applications from First Nations People and People of Colour.

We also strongly encourage applications from people who identify as LGBTQIA+ or living with a disability.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Each year, WEYA runs six programs in schools and community centres, facilitating safe and supportive spaces for young people to explore artistic practices and achieve their own creative agency. Each program is facilitated by a Lead Artist, with the assistance of two or more Support Artists. The Lead and Support Artists guide the participants through the process of creating a brand-new creative work to share with their community and audiences in the west.

As a Support Artist you will help plan, deliver, and document each session, with two hours of planning and two hours of delivery each week for the length of the program, and additional hours during production week. The dates and length of each program varies; Support Artists will be assigned to programs based on availability and experience in early 2021.

This role would suit an artist keen to strengthen their performance-making, facilitation,

leadership, and communication skills. All WEYA staff will be training together at the beginning of the year, learning vital skills in child safety, cultural safety and accessibility. Support Artists also receive also ongoing mentoring from Lead Artists and WEYA staff, and are able to grow their own network of like-minded creative peers in Melbourne's west. Plus, they have the opportunity to attend Masterclasses and other professional development opportunities, training with artists such as Jacob Boehme, Sister Zai Zanda, Candy Bowers, Carly Sheppard, and Mark Coles Smith.

JOB LOCATION

We run programs all over the western suburbs, including Footscray, St Albans, Werribee, Glenroy and Manor Lakes. We will assign Support Artists to programs with their address and access to transport in mind, but you may be required to travel to different suburbs for group rehearsals, meetings or training.

COVID-19 CONTINGENCY

All artists will be required to undertake COVID Safe training, and may be required to facilitate their programs online if Melbourne increases restrictions again. Artists will be given training and support to move online if this occurs.

As a Support Artist you will:

- Work closely with WEYA's Lead Artists to design and deliver creative arts workshops for young people. Each week of the program, you will have 2 hours planning and 2 hours contact as you deliver the workshops. You may also be required for additional hours during production week.
- Use your creative skills to help the Lead Artists and participants to create a performance that will be staged for the public.

- Be a valued member of the WEYA community. You will receive training, mentorship and build connections with other artists from across the west.
- Explore leadership in an embodied way, experiencing the way that WEYA rooms allow expertise to shift as the conversation moves through a supportive space, and helping to facilitate that shift.

As a Support Artist you will have:

- at least 1 year experience as a participant in WEYA programs, or a similar creative arts program.
- Availability for 4 hours work per week during your assigned program: 2 hours of planning and 2 hours of delivery. We will assign you to your program based on availability and experience, but we expect each Support Artist to commit to that program once confirmed.
- Availability to attend WEYA training intensives in February 2021.
- A passion for working with young artists aged 14 - 30
- A willingness to share your skills with other artists, and to learn new skills in return.
- A valid Working with Children's Check, or a willingness to get one.

How to apply:

To express your interest in joining the WEYA Crew as a Support Artist, please send us your CV and a cover letter outlining why you're interested in becoming a Support Artist and why you would be great at it. Please send your applications to our General Manager Khalid Warsame (khalid@westernedge.org.au).

If you have any questions at all about the position, please get in touch! You can email co-Artistic Directors Tariro Mavondo (tariro@westernedge.org.au) and Penny Harpham (penny@westernedge.org.au) or give us a call on 03 8658 4052.

And if you're not sure you meet all the requirements, please get in touch and let's have a chat about it. You'll be working within an amazing team of artists, and everyone will have their own strengths and areas for improvement – you might be just the person we're looking for!