

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award- The Participatory Artist in Residence: Widening participation including addressing digital exclusion via co-creation in the sonic arts

Project Title			
The Participatory Artist in Residence: Widening participation including addressing digital exclusion via co-creation in the sonic arts			
LEAD INSTITUTION			
Name of HEI institution	De Montfort University		
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION			
Name of organisation	Phoenix (Leicester Arts Centre)		
Website URL	phoenix.org.uk		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT			
Project Overview			
<p>This is a high-impact project in which the traditional Artist in Residence (AiR) model is modernised and made relevant to 21st century circumstances through the notion of the Participatory Artist in Residence (PAiR). The PAiR will work with the Phoenix to widen both cultural access and engagement in the field of sonic art (the focus of the Music, Technology and Innovation – Institute for Sonic Creativity, MTI²). The institute has a long-standing partnership with Phoenix (Leicester Arts Centre), Leicester’s digital arts venue (and cinématèque). The aim of this PhD project is to have a PAiR in residence at Phoenix over a four-year period working with a variety of community partners. They will execute on-site and off-site projects (single/series of workshop) on a given theme of interest to Phoenix and/or the community organisation. Such projects may (but need not) lead to a shared public outcome. Traditional community arts residencies are one-off projects and therefore continuity and legacy are difficult to achieve. The proposed PAiR model tackles this by embedding the artist for four years, working to further the Phoenix’s existing outreach activities. The PAiR (candidate) will act both as artist and as facilitator and be involved in co-created works with specific diverse communities. (S)he will seize the unique opportunities sonic art grants such communities to transform their understanding of their lived environment. The PAiR ethos investigates forms of collaborative practice with varied communities, <i>in</i> these communities; and the PAiR model will itself be evaluated through case-study impact data. The project has both practical and critical elements; and the candidate needs to contextualise this PhD within established practice research methodologies. The critical evaluation of the resulting co-creational frameworks will then be evaluated for their transferability to other art forms and institutions. The project will be disseminated through conference presentation, publication and meeting with other venues in the UK and beyond.</p>			
Research Questions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What does the PAiR model bring to widening participation (inter)nationally? •What role does sonic art play in community development? •What value does the PAiR model have to learning and arts development generally? •How transferable are the co-creational templates emerging from the project to other art forms and venues? 			
Methodology			
The practice-informed methodology will involve working with varied Leicester communities to transform their relationship to their own environment through sonic art. The PAiR will:			

- Collaborate with the Phoenix and stakeholders on marketing/dissemination strategies.
- Collaborate with communities to produce transferable templates that model co-creation.
- Contextualise the project through scholarly investigation of past and current PAiR practices and their impact.
- Develop impact case studies of audience development and participation evaluating the process, product and value of the collaborative initiatives
- Collect qualitative and quantitative data project data with participants, host organisation and stakeholders via questionnaires.

Data et al: Data collection and evaluation involve established social science methods further developed by the MTI² (e.g., Weale 2006, Landy 2006) adapted both to project and Phoenix's needs. *Research Visits* will be undertaken to investigate outreach practices with relevant contemporary music ensembles and digital arts venues associated with Phoenix's networks.

Timetable: Y1: Train and embed artist in Phoenix's creative team and studio; collaborate with Phoenix to Target three communities from three contexts: schools, community centres including disadvantaged groups, the general public. Co-design and deliver small-scale activities with these groups that establish trust and mutual passion for transforming their relationship to their city through sound (10-15 participants in each group, with a diverse mixture of families, children, teenagers and adults). Start relevant data collection, review feedback and evaluation mechanisms. Study existing literature on PAiR practices.

Y2: Complete training and contextual studies; deliver community activities off-site activities due to lockdown. Undertake three full-scale co-created artworks driven by the interests of the respective groups. Create thesis structure.

Y3: Continue delivery of community programme culminating in presenting co-created artworks and performances at a large-scale festival/event both in community venues and at the Phoenix. Establish young artist groups at Phoenix to ensure long-term engagement. Analysis and evaluations; commence thesis and dissemination work.

Y4: Hold international conference on the PAiR model. Visit similar venues sharing project results and offering taster sessions. Disseminate final learning outcomes across various platforms/channels; complete thesis. Establish legacy for these Phoenix outreach initiatives.

Supervisory Team

The supervisory team will consist of Prof. Leigh Landy (De Montfort), Dr. John Richards (De Montfort).

The Successful candidate

The successful candidate will require a familiarity with the field of sonic arts, in particular with regard to co-creation in community contexts. You will normally possess a first degree (2:1 or above) as well as an MA or equivalent. Previous professional experience will also be an advantage.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Prof. Leigh Landy
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	llandy@dmu.ac.uk