





Creative Spaces is The Stove Network's long running and much loved creative development programme that supports emerging creatives across Dumfries & Galloway.

Since 2021, Creative Spaces has offered young people time, space and support to grow as individuals and practitioners, while contributing to creative work rooted in The Stove Network's values. It's not just a route into the creative industries, it's an invitation to think differently about culture, place and power.

Through Creative Spaces, participants explore how creativity connects to social justice, human rights, environmentalism, placemaking and everyday life. As Associates, young people work inside a values-led organisation, gaining confidence, skills and networks while shaping real projects that matter to communities across the region.

Youth voice isn't an add-on here – it's central. The lived experiences, ideas and perspectives of Associates help shape The Stove Network's work and its impact on Dumfries & Galloway.



Creative Spaces exists to support and celebrate creativity in young people across Dumfries & Galloway. We do this by creating inclusive, paid opportunities to explore and develop creative practice.

Our aims to amplify voices that are often unheard, and support young people to play an active role in shaping the cultural life of the region.

We believe creativity belongs to everyone – and that when young people are trusted, supported and properly paid for their work, they can help imagine and build fairer, more vibrant places.



# CREATIVE SPACES ASSOCIATES 2026

In 2026, Creative Spaces will offer three paid, 10-month Associate placements at 2 days per week. Each Associate will be embedded within a specific programme strand of The Stove Network. This means deeper learning, clearer focus and more opportunity to influence real projects.

All Associates will:

- Be paid for their time and creative work: monthly payment of £753.20 - based on a commitment of approximately 80 days over the 10 months (8 days per calendar month at a day rate of £94.15/d)

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- Be part of The Stove Network's creative associate team, with a dedicated working space at The Stove

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- Have at least 1 regular day every week working in the office, along with the other Associates. The second day will be more flexible - this will be agreed upon by the Associates and the relevant Stove team

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- Be line-managed by The Stove Network's Creative Producer

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- Receive ongoing support and mentoring, including an external mentor focused on their individual development

You don't need formal qualifications or a polished portfolio. We're interested in your ideas, your curiosity and your willingness to learn.

# CREATIVE ASSOCIATE: WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL

This role is for someone interested in wildlife, ecology, the natural world, and is curious about how art and culture can engage with environmental issues.



You'll develop a creative line of work connected to the Wild Goose Festival, working with creative practitioners, partners and young people throughout the year. This role will contribute creatively to the development of outreach and education programmes in schools, with partners and with the Wild Goose Festival delivery team.

This role suits someone who cares deeply about the natural world, who has a passion for inspiring the imaginations of young people and families, and can work effectively as part of a team. A background or interest in writing or storytelling, performance, music or sound might suit this role.

You're welcome to apply whatever your creative practice.

# CREATIVE ASSOCIATE: THE PRINT HOUSE

This role is for someone with an interest in print, creative writing, design, illustration or comics.



You'll learn how The Stove's Print House operates, work alongside the development of community programmes from concept through to delivery, whilst growing your creative practice. You'll work particularly closely with the 'Off the Margin' programme, supporting creative projects with marginalised and under-represented communities.

This role suits someone who enjoys making, learning by doing, and using creativity to widen access and participation.

You're welcome to apply whatever your creative practice.

# CREATIVE ASSOCIATE: WHAT WE DO NOW

This role is ideal for someone with a strong connection to Dumfries & Galloway beyond Dumfries town centre, and an interest in public art, social geography and local decision-making.



Embedded within the What We Do Now programme, you'll explore creative placemaking as a practical way of working – collaborating with communities and contributing to projects rooted in real places.

This role suits someone who has exceptional communication skills, can listen deeply and let that listening inform a creative process. You should enjoy working with others and building relationships. A background or interest in socially-engaged practice might suit this role.

You're welcome to apply whatever your creative practice.

# WHO CAN APPLY?

Creative Spaces is open to young people (aged 18-30) based in or with a strong connection to Dumfries & Galloway.\*

We actively encourage applications from people who are under-represented in the creative sector, including those from working-class backgrounds, rural communities, disabled people and those with lived experience of marginalisation.

If you're curious, motivated and excited by the idea of developing your creativity while contributing to meaningful cultural work – we'd love to hear from you.

You should:

- Be engaging, adaptable & creative
- Have a keen interest in or experience of working with others
- Have the ability and discipline to manage your own workflow
- Have basic IT skills
- Have excellent communication skills

\*If you live outside of the region, please state this in your application, and note that travel expenses are not covered as part of the role.

## KEY DATES & NEXT STEPS

Wednesday 18th February [Open Information Session \(Online\)](#)

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Thursday 19th February [Open Information Session \(In Person\)](#)

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Friday 6th March Application Deadline

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Thursday 19th March Interview Day 1

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Friday 20th March Interview Day 2

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Monday 30th March Start Date

The Stove team will be reviewing applications w/c Monday 9th March. Candidates will be informed of decision by Friday 13th March.

# HOW TO APPLY

We invite you to be creative with your application and have fun with it. You may submit your application in one of the following formats:

- A covering letter (maximum 500 words)
- A video (maximum 3 minutes)
- A voice note

Your application should respond to the question:

“Why do you feel that a Creative Spaces Associate role is the right opportunity for you right now?”

Please also indicate which of the three Associate roles you feel would be the best fit for you, and briefly explain why:

- What We Do Now
- Wild Goose Festival
- Print House

While your application will be considered for all three roles, it is helpful for us to understand your preference. You may also choose to include an idea for a specific project, such as a workshop, event, or creative output, that connects to one of these roles.

In addition to your creative response, please include a CV or text sheet containing:

- Your name and contact details
- Up to five examples of recent work (this may include images, videos, or written descriptions)

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Please email your application to [info@thestove.org](mailto:info@thestove.org) with the subject line “Creative Spaces Associate”. The maximum total file size is 10MB.

## ACCESSIBILITY & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

We are committed to creating an inclusive and accessible programme for everyone. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences, and are happy to discuss any access requirements or adjustments needed to support people to apply and participate fully. Applicants will be invited to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, collected anonymously to help us monitor and improve inclusion across our work.