

KETTLE'S YARD

Artist Opportunity: Bridges Project Artist



Kettle's Yard, photo: Hufton + Crow



Bridges participant from year 1.

Kettle's Yard Community and Learning programme are commissioning a Project Artist for 10 months to create a programme of work for Bridges, an innovative programme supporting the personal and creative growth of young people.

This is a unique opportunity for an artist with a mature socially engaged practice aligned to the visual arts, working long term to develop an ambitious and innovative programme of work collaborating with young people to create stability, connection and wellbeing. This project aims to create bridges for young people, between themselves, their identity, their self-confidence, art as a wellbeing tool for discovery, and cultural venues in the city of Cambridge.

ABOUT BRIDGES

Bridges is a three-year programme for young people aged 14 – 19 years that asks the question: what and where do we connect to? The project aims for young people to take creative ownership of cultural spaces.

Further Information

This programme of activity begins in February 2026 and finishes in November 2026. This is a three-year programme of activity. This call out is for the Year 3 Project Artist and we wish for the proposed activity to reflect the ambition of a culminating year.

This project engages two groups of young people - both of whom the Project Artist will work with closely and collaboratively, but separately, consulting with the young people as to their connection and engagement in activities and ideas, informing next steps in the creative process.

Group 1

Group 1, funded by The Mildred Fund, is formed of 15 young women aged 14 – 16 years from North Cambridge Academy (currently Year 9). They were selected due to low self confidence and issues affecting their wellbeing. This is an established group, with group identity. New members from the academic year below may be invited to join, depending on numbers.

The Project Artist will run a weekly session with Group 1 at North Cambridge Academy 3-4.30pm on Thursdays during term time in the school classroom space. There may also be occasions where activity takes place during the school holidays, when appropriate. For example, in Year 1 the group enjoyed A Big Art Day Out – days out in Cambridgeshire and London exploring cultural venues and spaces they may not have been to before.

In Year 1 the group explored the experience of being a young teenage woman, asking the question: what and where do we connect to? The group answered that they connected to conversation and exploration into their identities as teenage young women that feel misunderstood and invisible.

In Year 2 the group explored what and where they connect to in Cambridge and their own internal worlds. They worked together to create hand painted tablecloths, dyed with natural pigments from the surrounding landscape. They also made clay vessels responding to tea service sets. Together they created an event in the Kettle's Yard house, resulting in a sound piece.

Group 2

Group 2, supported by the Kettle's Yard Patrons, is a Community Group of up to 15 young people aged 16-21 from Centre 33, an organisation who work to support young carers.

The young people have largely self-selected due to interest in the programme and identifying that art is and has been therapeutic for their wellbeing. This is a recently established group who have worked together for 6 sessions. New group members may join as others may age out of the programme.

The artist will deliver a monthly day long session throughout the 10 months on Saturdays, largely at Kettle's Yard in the Clore Learning Studio.

**The enquiry question for this project (both strands) is:
What and where do you connect to?**

THE IDEAL BRIDGES PROJECT ARTIST HAS:

- A demonstrable, ambitious and inclusive social arts practice
- An established and mature practice and strong organisational skills
- Experience of working with diverse communities and listening to their unique needs and aspirations whilst creating work with them in response to this.
- Demonstrable experience of successfully collaborating with young people to co-create an inspiring and engaging programme of work that improves wellbeing
- Successful experience of partnering with busy schools and institutions
- An arts practice rooted in or with evident connection to contemporary visual art
- A strong vision of process that enables opportunities for creative risk-taking
- A developed working understanding of collaboration and co-creation
- A willingness to collaborate and co-create with young people and ensure their agency is at the heart of activity
- Experience of art as a way of supporting wellbeing
- A creative, resilient, flexible and responsive approach
- A positive, calm and helpful manner
- A reliable and consistent approach
- Strong organisational skills, and who is motivated and able to keep to deadlines
- An interest in making Kettle's Yard relevant and responsive to the evolving nature of contemporary society in the city
- A willingness to participate in programme research and evaluation.



Bridges participants from year 1.

This project is inspired by Kettle's Yard's founders' ethos that art is in our everyday, as a "continuing way of life." Bridges intends to meaningfully connect with young people to support their personal and creative growth and development of self-agency over a sustained period. Through close engagement with artists and frequent links with Kettle's Yard, Bridges uses art as stepping-stones for discussion and connection with and between young people. Bridges will position art as an everyday tool for reflection, connection, and stability, aiming to sow the seeds to support young people's self-confidence and agency, developing ownership of the cultural capital of our city.

We welcome artists who:

- Work across a range of visual art approaches and who are inspired by the potential of young people co-creating work that leaves a legacy in the places they connect to most strongly.
- Are able to work with groups to produce termly outcomes or a single cumulative outcome, artworks that sit within or face outward from the school or Centre 33 and contribute positively to the wellbeing of current and future students and young carers.
- Are excited by the direction emerging from this year's group: a desire to focus inward on the school as a site of identity, connection and expression, and to explore how its visual identity and built environment might be transformed to represent who they are.
- Can sensitively hold a wellbeing-led visual arts process that is responsive, relational and grounded in co-creation, while also offering a clear creative structure that supports students to move towards tangible, meaningful outcomes.
- Can facilitate a process in which young people feel empowered not only as participants but as active transformers of their environment, shaping artworks that reflect their lived experience and connect to their sense of self and community.
- Understand how creative transformation of place can support wellbeing, belonging and identity, and is motivated by working with young people to reimagine the spaces they occupy every day.
- Have experience working within the built environment, including schools or public or community spaces, and is confident in co-designing permanent or semi-permanent artworks with young people.

As this is the culminating, celebratory year of Bridges, we are seeking an artist who can bring the enquiry question what and where do we connect to? to a meaningful and visible conclusion. The selected artist will be someone who can hold the values and methodology of the project, with wellbeing, care, co-creation and student agency at the centre, whilst also guiding the groups towards the creation of artworks that have a lasting presence within their everyday environments.



HOW TO APPLY

Please submit one PDF file titled LastName_FirstName including:

- A one-page A4 CV;
 - Details of two referees;
 - And answering the following questions:
1. Please outline your overall project vision – directly responding to the enquiry question
 2. Your planned approach for Group 1
 3. Your planned approach for Group 2
 4. Please outline how your creative practice and experience make you the right person for this role, including evidencing information about your reliability and organisational skills.
 5. Please outline your approach to self-reflective practice
- Please also feel free to include two examples of relevant recent creative projects with young people or communities that clearly explain how the work was co-created with young people. You may also include one example of your own art practice.
 - Please do not send additional catalogues or other material in the post as it will not be reviewed or returned.
 - Please submit your application to hjw68@cam.ac.uk with the subject line: Bridges Artist Opportunity.

Deadline for applications: **12pm, 9 January 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please note that the office at Kettle's Yard will be closed between 22 December 2025–5 January 2026 and no one will be able to respond to any queries arising during this time.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 17 January 2026.

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We welcome applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process, and will make adjustments to enable candidates to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to ensure they have all necessary support during the project. If you would like to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact us on:

Hannah Jane Walker, Young People's Programme Coordinator: hjw68@cam.ac.uk
Karen Thomas, Community Manager: karen@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk | 01223 748100

SELECTION PROCESS

Longlisted artists will be invited to prepare and talk through a pre-prepared creative task and attend an initial online interview to answer questions. This will be on 22 and 23 January 2026 TBC. We will then shortlist again and the final 2 x shortlisted artists will be invited to deliver a 30 minute creative workshop for young people. Feedback from the participants will feed into the final selection. This will be on 29 January 2026.

There will be a fee for being part of the interview process. We ask that longlisted candidates also hold the workshop date if successful. There will be a stipend for the unsuccessful candidates for holding the 29 January date of £50. There is a fee for delivering the workshop, plus a contribution towards travel expenses, for the final 2 x shortlisted candidates.

KEY 2026 DATES

Strand 1: North Cambridge Academy

Half day sessions: 3–4.45pm

Student information: Group of young people, female identifying, age 14-16, some new to the group, some from the project year before

Group size: 10-15 young people

5, 12, 19 & 26 March, 16, 23 & 30 April. 7, 14 & 21 May. 4, 11, 18 & 25 June, 2 & 16 July
3, 10, 17 & 24 September, 1, 8, 15 & 22 October, 5, 12, 19 & 26 November, 3 December

Plus planning time – 66.6 hours (approx. 9.5 days)

Plus evaluation time – 16 hours (approx. 1.8 days)

Please note:

26 November - outcome celebration launch day event

3 December - outcome session with students led by artist

Strand 2: Young Adult Carers – Centre 33

Student information: Age 16-21, some new to the group, some from the previous cohort

Group size: 10–15 people

14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 13 & 27 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October,
14 November

Plus planning time – 33 hours (approx. 3.5 days)

Plus evaluation time – 16 hours (approx. 1.8 days)

Please note:

14 November - outcome celebration event launch day

PROJECT ARTIST FEES

- Artist delivery fee: £7,500
- Artist planning & meeting time: £1,000
- Artist evaluation : £500

TOTAL artist fees available £9,000

- Artist travel: 40 journeys max spend per journey £45 - £1,800
- There is also budget available for material costs per session £30 per session x 40 sessions £1,200
- There is budget for the full cost of production, fabrication, and installation of final project out comes of up to £2,000 in total across both groups (this might include people time, materials, transport)
- Interview fees
 - Longlisted artists will be paid £100 for attending the interview and preparing the task
 - Artists not successful after the interview stage will be paid a £50 stipend for holding the trial workshop date
 - Final 2 x shortlisted artists will be paid £130 for delivering a 30-minute workshop as part of the interview process, and up to £45 in travel expenses.

Please note that Kettle's Yard is unable to provide a permanent studio space for the course of the project due to the busy delivery schedules of both the school and Kettle's Yard.

ABOUT KETTLE'S YARD

Kettle's Yard, part of the University of Cambridge, is a leading gallery and unique house with a remarkable collection of 20th-century art. Its founders Jim and Helen Ede believed in art's ability to transform lives, a vision upheld today through critically acclaimed exhibitions, pioneering community and learning programmes, and research of the highest quality. Our aim is to offer an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone who visits. Find out more and get involved at:

www.kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk

ABOUT NORTH CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY

North Cambridge Academy (NCA) is a secondary school with academy status, located in North Cambridge. It is part of the Meridian Multi-Academy trust. Kettle's Yard has partnered with NCA since 2015 and students have collaborated with artists including Johann Arrens, Harold Offeh, Ai Weiwei and Issam Kourbaj. North Cambridge Academy serves a rich and diverse community. North Cambridge Academy aims to teach all students the values of being Hard-Working, Ambitious, Creative, Confident and Kind. NCA has a strong ethos of support and nurture, and our staff work tirelessly every day to support all students to be and achieve their best.

<https://northcambridgeacademy.org>

ABOUT THE MILDRED FUND

The Mildred Fund provides support for art-based creative learning for 14-19 year-olds across the UK. In the current social and economic climate there is a critical need to support young people's creativity, self-confidence, agency and ability to connect with others, enabling them to envision a better future and navigate its challenges. The Fund has a focus on art and creativity supporting mental health and wellbeing.