Dear Angela,

I hope you are well, I am writing to apply for the position of Community Arts Practitioner which I saw advertised on the Arts Council website. I am due to finish my Drama and Theatre Degree (BA Hons) in May with an expected 1:1 at York St John University. Through out my degree I have been involved with a variety of projects which have been used both outside and inside my degree.

I had a placement at Connaught Court for 3 months, which required me to run and facilitate workshops that worked closely with adults with dementia and reminiscent theatre. Through this experience, I was able to test my organisational and facilitation skills in order to engage the participants into a shared relational experience of creative engagement. During my time working with the residents at Connaught Court, my group and I created movement activities, read poetry and carried 1 to 1 discussion with the residents which used stimuli such as scent, touch, music and visual objects to act as a trigger to people’s memories and stories. These where later developed and put into an interactive performance which performed their stories back to them and used sensory stimuli such as music, singing, taste and touch to further engage the participants into the performance.

During my second year, I was invited to develop my skills as a performer and co-facilitator by joining Tagged, a theatre company, which specialises in body positivity and body image. Throughout this professional experience I have been involved with the adaptation, performance and the co-facilitation of workshops revolving around issues of body image to vulnerable groups of young people. This role has enabled me to invite young people aged between 12-16 into a theatre experience, which addresses the contempary issues of body image and also invites them to talk about their own experiences and opinions of body image.

Throughout my third-year projects, I carried out a module called Independent Practice and Research, which I completed with an overall 1:1. During this experience, I took on the role of a director and curator to make a piece of theatre called *When The Boat Comes In*. This project revolved around the fishing community, and the untold stories of a lost industry. This experience provided me with the skills to coordinate a project to a professional standard. I ensured that each session was planned accordingly, and that the relevant research, planning and resources were in place to effectively run workshops and create the work. Through this experience I have been able to establish myself as not only a theatre maker and facilitator, but a project manager as well. I had a responsibility to ensure that the needs of my cast where met during the creative process of the work, and to effectively manage my cast and use my organisational skills to the best of my ability.

Overall, I believe that I would be suitable for this role, as I believe I have the qualities and dedication needed to devise and deliver a wide range of visual arts activities for vulnerable children and older adults. This role would allow me to combine my experience working with young people and adults and use my skills of theatre making and facilitation in conjunction with one another. It is my passion to pursue a career in community art, as it is my passion to work with differentiating communities and engage with them through the arts. This role would also allow me to gain more experience and develop myself as a community art practitioner, an artist and as a facilitator.

Thank you for your consideration with my application, I hope to hear from you soon and speak with you further about my experiences within an interview environment.

Best wishes,

Jess Wilkins.