

Wild at Heart

Community Arts

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Lead Facilitating Artist (Songwriting) – Contract Position
Reports to: Managing Director, through the Arts Program Manager
Date: December 2019

Wild At Heart Community Arts

Wild At Heart Community Arts provides opportunities for people with lived experience of mental illness, disability and disadvantage to work with professional artists to tell their stories through music and arts making, to belong to a community of fellow artists and engage with broader society through their artistic work.

Life Is A Song is Wild At Heart's state-wide songwriting program. The program presents workshops, events, community and music industry activities to support songwriters to create original work, record and perform their songs. The program aims to improve participant's personal well being, community connections and life opportunities.

Songwriting and Music Program

Wild at Heart's South Melbourne songwriting program supports a vibrant community of over 30 songwriters. The weekly workshop program is a safe and friendly environment where participants learn skills in songwriting, music and music industry including how to record and prepare songs for performance, broadcast and online distribution.

A team of musician mentors and volunteers work with participants to develop individual songwriting, group participation and peer leadership. The program supports artists to create links with the local music industry through open mics, self produced gigs, live music venues, festivals, opportunities for further music study and employment.

Lead Facilitating Artist Role

Working with the direction of the Managing Director and Program Manager, the Facilitating Artist will lead a team of songwriting mentors to deliver the South Melbourne *Life Is A Song* program. They will design and implement a workshop program and activities to achieve the program's values, goals and objectives. They will facilitate a safe community environment in which people feel empowered as artists and contributors.

Employment Basis

The position is offered as contract position until December 2020, with continuation beyond this date depending on performance and funding. Weekly workshops are held on Wednesday afternoons in South Melbourne, with additional time for preparation work. Some flexibility of work hours will be required for performance events and related program activities.

Pay Rate

A competitive and attractive rate of pay will be negotiated with the successful applicant, based on experience, qualifications and prevailing market rates.

Key responsibilities

The Facilitating Artist will:

- be responsible for the design and implementation of program activities to achieve the program goals and objectives
- lead the weekly songwriting workshops

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- lead a team of songwriting mentors and volunteers to support participants to tell their stories through songwriting and to gain skills in all related music, ensemble and industry based skills
- facilitate a safe, friendly, creative space in which people are empowered as artists and contributors.
- facilitate opportunities for public performance, broadcast and online presentation of artists' work
- facilitate social and professional opportunities for artists in the music industry and broader community

Key Selection Criteria

Essential

1. A minimum of 3 years facilitation and teaching experience within community arts or equivalent settings
2. Established songwriting practice and music industry experience, or equivalent directly transferable skills and knowledge. Sound knowledge of songwriting craft, music theory and how to teach this in a non-accredited training setting. High level competence on an accompaniment instrument (guitar, keyboard)
3. Education and training qualifications, skills and/or experience in the delivery of programs designed for skills transfer and development
4. Excellent capacity to relate to people who have lived experience of mental illness, disability or disadvantage and empower peer led community development
5. Excellent networks within all or some of the disability, mental health, music industry, community arts, government and funding sectors.
6. Current Victorian drivers license and own vehicle
7. Current First Aid qualifications, Police Check and Working With Children card

Highly desirable

1. Tertiary level music qualification
2. Computer music production across a range of musical styles, sound engineering and recording skills

Persons with a disability or mental illness who meet the above selection criteria are encouraged to apply.

Employment is subject to documentary evidence of work rights in Australia and provision of current Police Check and Working With Children Check. A pre-employment medical check may be requested at the discretion of Wild At Heart.