

2024 UK Creative Community Fellows

Meet the Fellows



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Meet the Fellows

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Sylvain Ayité
Edinburgh



Alice Briggs
Aberystwyth



Adam Olalekan Dosunmu Slater | Nottingham



Rosanagh Fuller
Broadstairs



Gabriella Gay
Staffordshire



Maria Gonzalez
London



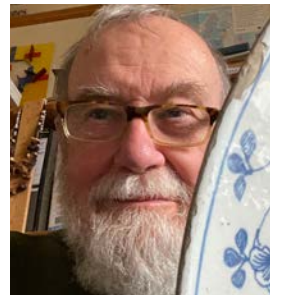
Sophie Gresswell
Bolsover



Sharon Hockin
Ripon



Jafar Iqbal
Cardiff



Tom Jones
Birmingham



Cat McGill
Leek



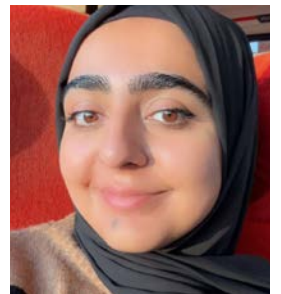
Lucie De Lacy Moore
Chesterfield



William Rees
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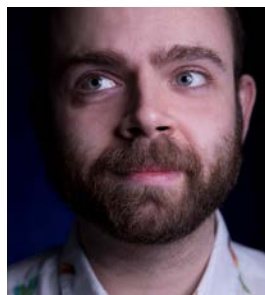
Catherine Robson
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Sylvain Ayité

He/Him

Edinburgh

Sylvain is a versatile professional with many passions, working as a community development worker, psychotherapist, and singer-songwriter. His approach is rooted in authenticity, a profound reverence for human bonds, nurturing positivity, and a deep understanding of human struggles and resilience. He holds a postgraduate diploma in counselling and psychotherapy from the University of Abertay, Dundee, and a diploma in Radio Broadcasting from Edinburgh College.


He is a dedicated foot soldier, constantly seeking opportunities to harness artistic expression as a catalyst for positive change within communities, collaborating with third sector agencies and mainstream health services. Sylvain was instrumental in founding Men in Mind, one of Scotland's earliest men's mental health services. His efforts have been pivotal in increasing awareness around mental health, combating stigma, and introducing creative approaches to tackle mental health issues. As a recovery worker for Change Grow Live, Sylvain witnesses the damage that drug addiction inflicts on his community and addresses it hands-on.

In his counselling and psychotherapeutic work, Sylvain operates from a place of genuine passion, aiming to facilitate spiritual growth alongside psychological healing. His focus is on guiding individuals towards achieving lasting, positive transformation.

Alice Briggs

Aberystwyth

She/Her

A portrait of Alice Briggs, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a pink top and a colorful, patterned cardigan. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression.

Alice Briggs is a place based facilitator, artist and curator from Mid Wales. Her creative practice draws inspiration from connection to nature working with communities, care, belonging ‘perthyn’ and the landscape. Her participatory practice is focused on learning and sharing through co-design and collaborative site responsive approaches to develop projects with, and for communities using creative workshops, performance walks and research into local heritage, ecologies and land use. Alice has over twenty years experience working in museums, heritage and the arts, but also as an arts and health practitioner with a particular focus on older people and dementia sufferers.

Alice creates work with different materials, often found in the landscape around her. She is drawn to study aspects of family history, using objects and costume belonging to her grandmother to create performance and to transform everyday familial items. Her role as a mother and a daughter seep into her work through fairytales, folk tales and the importance of care.



Adam Olalekan Dosunmu Slater

Nottingham

He/Him

Nextdoor Nature has been an initiative from the Wildlife Trusts that has created community organiser roles across the regional Trusts in the UK. In Derbyshire, the Nextdoor Nature project has targeted the areas of Normanton, Arboretum and Normanton.

The main role for Adam has been supporting communities with their ideas for green projects, these include things like community gardens, for charities who want to improve access to green space or education for groups looking to appreciate the natural world.

Youth ownership over their community has been a key goal of the initiative with the Green Corridor project allowing young people to takeover and transform their local green spaces. Projects like the mural on Normanton Road have seen the children at the Pakistan Community Centre get the chance to co create the designs with a local artist. Others, like Society Place, have given local school children the chance to redesign a walkway in the ir neighbourhood.

As the two-year project comes to an end, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been able to connect with and co create with numerous groups within Derby city and hope this work can continue with the support of the NAS network.

Rosanagh Fuller

Broadstairs

She/Her

Rosanagh Fuller is CEO of arts and gender equality charity Power of Women Thanet. She has over fifteen years' experience in creating learning, experiential and immersive programmes for adults, families, schools, community groups and governments. Her experience in designing, delivering, and evaluating programmes has resulted in working with Historic Royal Palaces, Sky, Marks & Spencer, Nike, The Royal Collection, East End Women's Museum, and the V&A. Rosanagh also worked for the Centre for Foreign Policy on their nuclear disarmament programme alongside foreign policy-makers in Mexico and South Africa. She is passionate about the arts, intersectional feminism and sea swimming as a cure all. Rosanagh is a Sagittarian with a love of horror films, Elvis and books that leave you broken, who's on a mission to make the arts accessible and action-inspired.



Gabriella Gay

Staffordshire

She/Her

Gabriella Gay is a Trinidad born page-stage poet, artist, vintage dealer, teacher, PhD researcher and creative producer based in Staffordshire. She is regularly commissioned to perform, write, organise events and facilitate workshops for a wide range of organisations including the BBC, the NHS and The National Theatre. She is the founding member of Stoke's Roaming Poets and Kwanzaa Collective UK * - an association of artists, activists and academics of colour.

Gabriella 's PhD 'Staffordshire's Colonial Connections: Re-imagining Black voices from the archival debris' critically and creatively explores the silences, fragments and records of Black women and men who lived in Staffordshire.

Gabriella is an associate artist at B-arts, Restoke, and a trustee of the New Vic Theatre. She is the current artistic director of Six Towns Carnival. Gabriella has made numerous TV and radio appearances and her poetry features on buildings, in shows, exhibitions, advertisements and the Visit Stoke official video. Underlying all of Gabriella's written, performed, and socially engaged work, is the power of building strong connections and community.





María González

London

She/Her

María González is a London-based creative producer and facilitator. Originally from Spain, she made London her home seventeen years ago after studies in Art History and Art Education. Frustrated by the impenetrable institutional artworld, she decided she could most effectively make a difference from the outside. In 2010 she founded Lon-art Creative, a women-led organisation aiming to raise awareness about social issues through the arts, her first project being alternative tours at the National Gallery, focusing on the representation of women through art history.

In 2018 she and her team created Sheroes, a collaborative project bringing together UK and international artists, feminist organisations, institutions and the general public. Reflecting upon the comparative lack of female role models in society, Sheroes is a platform for the public and artists to share hidden herstories through visual art, workshops and talks. Maria co-curated six Sheroes exhibitions between 2018 and 2021. Each exhibition included a series of talks, workshops and events to attract a wide audience and explore different avenues to engage with the topic.

Maria is also a qualified teacher, delivering the primary languages curriculum to state schools.



Sophie Gresswell

Bolsover

She/Her

Sophie Gresswell is a multi-disciplinary artist exploring identity and belonging, with particular interest in interconnected 'living' heritage. Sophie's interest stems from personal experiences of mixed heritage, particularly stories of her maternal grandparents from St Helena Island, and District 6, Cape Town. Through her work Sophie aims to visualise a connection between us which transcends our individual lifespan, and amplifies the way our human stories intersect through generations, cultures and history to bring us to the current moment in time, and inform the very people we are today. She is also a believer in socially engaged arts practice, and has experience in facilitating community workshops which inform immersive projects and exhibitions.

Sharon Hockin

Ripon

She/Her

Sharon is a committed and conscientious visual arts facilitator. With over 25 years' experience she has delivered art workshops in schools, community centres, clubs and at fetes and festivals. Sharon creates bespoke sessions ranging from one day workshops to 10-week programmes and has used the visual arts to explore themes such as wellbeing, transition, displacement and self-confidence. She has worked with pupil premium and children in care in primary and secondary settings and has recently worked on a refugee programme and with a mental health charity.

Sharon has also worked with individuals to develop practical skills, knowledge and to experience the sheer joy of making and creating. Sharon is very passionate about the arts believing that everyone must have the chance to discover, investigate, question, create and communicate ideas and experiences through observing and interpreting the world around us and to realise personal intentions and have a voice. Her personal pedagogy has been to use the arts as a forum to empower, building self-confidence, self-worth, and a strong sense of self.

Sharon currently works with adults delivering an inclusive arts programme for a charity where she coaches individuals to develop their personal creative practice. She promotes professional development and strives for equity and inclusivity for the artists she works with and fosters outreach. She is always looking to forge links, partnerships and collaborations with the local community, businesses, galleries and museums. She co created and curated Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre first .artmaker symposium and festival in 2022 which celebrates the visual and performing arts after becoming disillusioned with the many barriers that neuro-divergent and artists with disabilities face in seeking forums and venues for their work.

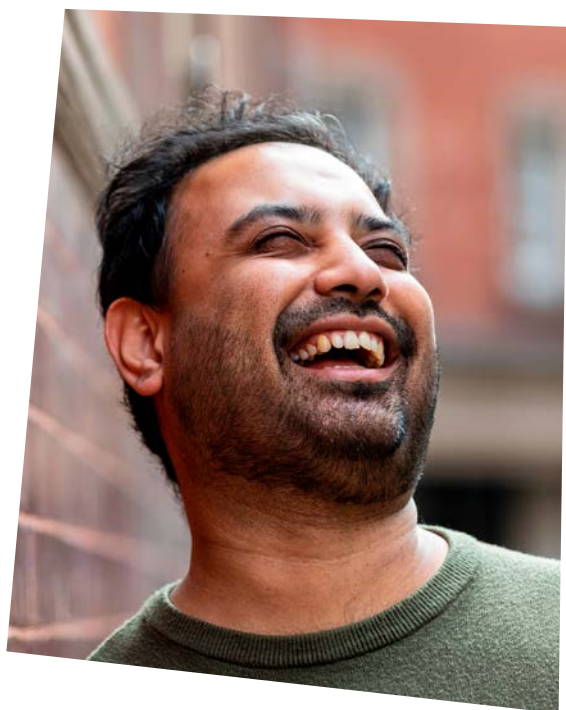


Jafar Iqbal

Cardiff

He/Him

Originally from London, Jafar is a British Asian theatre producer and freelance creative who now lives and works in beautiful Cymru. As well as his role as Producer for the award-winning The Other Room Theatre, Jafar works extensively as a freelance producer. Amongst his freelance projects are a queer wrestling musical, a solo show about sex and shame, and a piece of new writing about the relationship between grief and nature. Before becoming a producer, he was one of Wales' most prominent theatre critics and arts activists, speaking publicly about inequalities in the arts sector. He's not always trying to destroy the system though (he says). He's already an accidental polyglot, but is now trying to learn Welsh, whilst also trying to learn how to swim. He has an unhealthy obsession with podcasts (so much so that he made one himself), and one of his simple joys is watching a movie on the big screen. After almost two decades working in the arts, Jafar is extremely excited about the possibilities that this programme will unlock, and he can't wait to get started.





Tom Jones

He/Him

Birmingham

Tom is fortunate to have been born (1943) a Capricorn/Aquarius and brought up on the edge of the Lincolnshire fens with flat unforgiving spaces on one side and gentle rolling hills on other. His childhood was coloured in equal measure by inherited rural traditions and the acquired attitudes of small town suburbia. His youth was dominated by creatively challenging values generated by post-war austerity whilst knuckling down to the seasonal and practical necessities of farm life.. Consequently, he is inherently hybrid and delights in being so. Having escaped to art school, he found a surprisingly exclusive approach that seeped into the whole art world., He spent most of his career fighting art school from the inside and, on so-called retirement in 2008, set about transferring his acquired knowledge , skills and experience to re-shaping what we mean by community arts.



Cat McGill

She/They

Leek

Cat McGill is an autistic musician, composer, and event producer. Specialising in inclusion and access, over the years Cat's work taken her all over the UK; from teaching signed songs at the Royal Albert Hall and the arrival of the Paralympic flame in 2012, to performing and teaching in Special Schools, curating inclusive community music projects, and running the UK's first Makaton-friendly folk festival. Cat founded Live to your Living Room in 2020 as a way of connecting audiences with live music during the pandemic, and providing an income for performing artists. In 2021, Cat was awarded a British Empire Medal for Services to the Arts during the pandemic, as well as a Women in Live Music Award for Event Manager of the Year.



Lucie De Lacy Moore

Chesterfield

She/Her

Lucie De Lacy is engagement and projects coordinator at the LEVEL Centre in Rowsley, Derbyshire. LEVEL is an award-winning contemporary art centre and charity that hosts a year-round programme of visual art exhibitions and digital installations, alongside artist residencies and creative workshops for disabled adults and young people. Lucie looks after workshops, projects, and outreach facilitation for LEVEL with a rounded programme of activity that supports disabled participants to explore the breadth and depth of their creativity.

Formerly Lucie was creative director at a content marketing agency, and outreach lead at an international opera festival. In her personal time, she's a horticulturist in training, and part of the management team of RFM (Radio Free Matlock) – an independent, volunteer-led station with a studio in Vanishing Point Records in Chesterfield.

William Rees

London

He/Him

I'm a curator and arts producer based in Ealing. I have been working closely with Ealing Council on projects relating to their collection of Martinware ceramics, with this project awarded funding from Arts Council England, Art Fund and Henry Moore Foundation.



Catherine Robson

Crawleyside

She/Her

Catherine has worked in the non-profit arts sector for 18 years. Most of this time was spent with New Writing North, the literary development agency for the North East where she began as an administrator and eventually became Senior Operations Manager. She went on to become Operations Director for Theatre Hullabaloo, the only purpose built children's theatre north of London. In both these roles, Catherine developed skills in charity finance, HR, operations, strategic planning and policy, evaluation and reporting, events management and organisational development.

In 2021 she co-founded Weardale Together, a Community Interest Company dedicated to supporting wellbeing in the remote rural area of Weardale in the North Pennines, where she lives with her husband and two boys. She is a keen gardener, reader and fair-weather outdoor swimmer!





Nadia Saeed

Leeds

She/Her

Nadia is Translation and International Officer at human rights and literature charity English PEN. She administrates its various translation grants and co-edits PEN Transmissions, an international magazine for writers, where she hopes to celebrate diaspora voices from across the UK. She is based in Yorkshire and credits her previous work in publishing and theatre for her passion for bringing people together through writing and storytelling. She graduated from the University of York with a BA in English and Linguistics and received the Diana Award for active campaigner for her work with the Leeds Youth Council.



Aisling Serrant

Manchester

She/Her

Aisling Serrant is Cultural Producer at Bradford Council where she works on a range of events and projects, including a city-wide street art project, outdoor arts festival and light festival. She particularly cares about community engagement, collaboration and participatory practice.

Aisling previously worked as Learning and Participation Manager at UNBOXED and Engagement Manager at the Museum of London. During her time at the Museum of London she set up a programme of community festivals, developed the museum's Engagement Charter in collaboration with local partners, and led a number of community collecting projects. She is also a Trustee of The Peace Museum in Bradford. Aisling believes in the power of culture and heritage for driving positive social change and her work always strives to do so.



Dan Webber

Codnor

He/Him

Dan Webber (he/him) is an award-winning LGBTQ+ poet, promoter and producer based in Derby.

He has appeared at festivals across the country including Glastonbury Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Timber Festival. He performed as part of the 25th Birthday Celebrations for Leicester Comedy Festival and was named BBC Local Poet for Derby, for National Poetry Day in 2016.

Collections include 'Genre Fluid' (2019) and 'The Derby Witness' (2022) both published by Big White Shed and held within The National Poetry Library. A stage-show version of Genre Fluid toured between 2019 and 2020 and was named Best Solo Show at Morecambe Digital Fringe in August 2020.

Commissions include 'The Derby Witness' a poetry and street art project for Derby Feste, 'Whispers From The Woods', a poetry and nature trail produced with Arts Melbourne for The National Forest, '15st 9lbs at time of writing' for SHOUT Festival, Birmingham, '322 Ways of Escape' for the 30th anniversary celebrations for The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, and 'Boys' a queer reimaging of 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' as part of 1623 Theatre's Queer Folio Project.

Dan is currently the Outreach Coordinator for the Nottingham Queer Arts Collective and Co-Director of Derby Poetry Festival.



Finn White

He/Him

Bristol

Finn has worked in museums and heritage for over ten years where he has co-produced exhibitions, projects and learning programmes with underrepresented communities and young people. He advocates for change within the sector and runs programmes that put youth and community voice at the centre of decision-making.

He's currently Participation Manager at Historic England where, among other things, he oversees a programme that engages young people with their local history, develops approaches to using heritage for wellbeing purposes and promotes participatory practice across the organisation. Finn is passionate about social prescribing and exploring how arts and heritage sectors can connect with health and support services to help improve mental and physical wellbeing.

Prior to working in the arts and heritage sector, Finn spent nearly a decade working with teenage and adult migrants and refugees in colleges and schools. When visiting galleries and museums with these groups, Finn realised two things: firstly, that these spaces are often hopelessly unprepared to welcome people with social, cultural, financial and linguistic barriers to engagement, and secondly that he'd really quite like to work in the arts. These experiences have influenced everything he's done since.



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