



Showtown's Funny Bones Residency

Residency dates- May 2024 - July 2024

Residency allowance: £9,200

Closing date: 8 May 2024

Interview date: 13 May 2024

Contract: May - July 2024

Showtown is inviting applications for a UK based practitioner working in a performance-based industry. We are interested in applicants who wish to:

- Develop their creative practice
- Engage with Blackpool communities, Showtown staff and volunteers
- Create a showcase for Blackpool Comedy Festival in July.

Background to the Showtown

We're Blackpool's brand new all-singing, all-dancing museum and you'll find us right in the heart of the Golden Mile, next door but one to Blackpool Tower!

Showtown is the ultimate celebration of Blackpool, the greatest seaside resort in the UK and world famous as a capital of entertainment. Our six galleries showcase the very best of the seaside, magic, circus, Illuminations, shows and dance.

Our ambition is to be the National centre of British popular entertainment. Showtown History Centre (which reopens later in 2024) is our living archive through which everyone can discover the untold stories of the town and its people.

www.showtownblackpool.co.uk



Showtown is looking for a 'funny person' who will research, develop and stage a new performance inspired by our 15-metre seaside panorama film in Showtown.

This 19-minute long film celebrates the people and events that have played a part in the story of Blackpool's beach, it's longest source of entertainment. This funny visual feast showcases familiar seaside situations, well-loved seaside archetypes, significant events, recognisable people and quintessential components of Blackpool's beach. From circus elephants bathing in the sea to shipwrecks and chiropody as entertainment, this snapshot has it all.

Taking inspiration from this piece of Blackpool history we would like the residency to explore these stories and, working with a Blackpool group, create a performance for the Blackpool Comedy Festival in July 2024. The format of this performance, the group and how you work with them is up for grabs!

This residency might suit someone who has cross disciplinary skills with experience of performance, producing shows (which could include street theatre, stand-up comedy, plays, comedy sketches etc) and working collaboratively with people.

During the residency we would like a fun training session of any shape and style for our Showtown staff and or volunteers. Showtown's team has just grown with the recruitment a group of 25 people as our new cast and crew. The crew give our visitors a warm and friendly welcome and make sure everything runs smoothly every step of the way. Our cast are found within the museum bringing characters from across the decades to life!

Project objectives

The project will aim to:

- Enable the residency performer to develop their talent
- Showtown staff and or volunteers will be trained
- Blackpool people taking part will feel more connected to Blackpool, its history and have increased pride in the town
- Create a Showtown inspired performance for Blackpool Comedy Festival in July
- People are excited about visiting Showtown both local residents and visitors alike
- Showtown will benefit from the PR and Marketing of the performance and the residency

Programme

Project timescale

The 23-day residence shall run from May – July 2024. Suggested timescale below:

Timescale	Day allocated	Milestone
May 2024	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and getting to know the team• Develop ideas
June 2023	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver training session to staff and volunteers• Work with Blackpool group to develop ideas for performance• Refine and rehearse
July 2023	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackpool Comedy Festival performance between 8-14 July

The final creation will be signed off by the Showtown team with a number of check in points along the way.

Budget

Professional fees @ £400 per day (inclusive of expenses, accommodation and travel etc)	£9200
--	--------------

Additional budget (to be spent by Showtown):

Venue hire: £800

Costumes and props: £500 (to be retained by Showtown)

Photography: £500

How to apply

Your submission must include:

Tell us what you would like to do within the scope of the brief. Keep it fun and engaging!

- A proposal (no more than two pages or 2 mins in video format) outlining your approach to using history as inspiration, what Blackpool group you would like to work with and how you would like to work with them and the type of performance you might create.
- Please also include evidence of relevant experience including details of or links to other performances.
- Two referees with whom you have worked on similar projects. Please ensure they are in a position to provide a reference for the team members you propose (if applicable) for this project.
- CVs may be attached in addition to your proposal.

For further information on the project or any enquiries regarding the role please contact Kerry Vasiliou on kerry.vasiliou@showtownblackpool.co.uk

Please submit your proposals to kerry.vasiliou@showtownblackpool.co.uk by midnight on 23 April 2024.

Selection process

The quotations will be selected based on the following criteria;

- Response to brief 60%
- Skills, knowledge and experience 40%

Assessment Criteria: Assessment of the extent to which the response demonstrates and evidences:

- Robust delivery proposal
- Previous experience and successful delivery
- Sector specific knowledge and experience
- Adequate resources / capacity to deliver the brief
- Clear and robust contingency plans to ensure continuity of service and sufficient cover
- Appropriate plans to manage and coordinate activity
- Quality commitment throughout proposal
- Appropriate consideration given to working and communicating effectively

You may be invited to attend an interview by the Showtown team. This will give the scoring panel the opportunity to re-visit your proposal and may result in the initial scoring being altered up or down as appropriate.

If you are successful at interview, you will be asked to complete a *Grounds for Exclusion, Form of Tender, Certificate of Non-Collusion and Non-Canvassing Information Provided In Confidence & Commercial Interests, Blackpool Council Supplier Charter*.

The Grounds for Exclusion have been designed to assess your organisation's suitability to deliver the Authority's contract requirements and will be evaluated on a pass / fail basis. If these mandatory criteria cannot be met bids will be classed as non-compliant and will be discounted. Only compliant bids will move to Quality and Pricing Scoring.

How we will evaluate your submission

Your proposal will be evaluated using scores that reflect the extent to which the responses address the published assessment criteria.

Scoring:

0	No response provided/ does not address any of the issues
1	Very poor response with minimal issues addressed
2	Poor response with few issues addressed
3	Satisfactory response with majority of issues addressed

4	Good response with all issues satisfactorily addressed
5	Outstanding innovative response

Due Diligence

The Preferred Bidder will be subject to a reality check i.e. this may involve (but not limited to): financial viability/risk checks (D&B), a site visit, checking references, checking capability and track record and, where appropriate, speaking to organisations who will be involved in supporting the Contractor e.g. sub-contractors, regulatory agencies, etc.

References will be sought as part of the Council's due diligence process. The Council reserves the right not to enter into a contract with the preferred bidder should any of the references prove unsatisfactory.

As part of the due diligence process, the Authority may obtain a credit rating report for the Preferred Bidder. The Authority reserves the right not to enter into a contract with the Preferred Bidder, should any of the financial assessments demonstrate an unsatisfactory financial standing.

The Funny Bones Residency is part of Showtown's Laughter Programme, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

