

A quick guide to mentoring with Arts Emergency

WHAT // The Arts Emergency Mentoring Programme

- Arts Emergency was set up in 2013 by activist Neil Griffiths and comedian Josie Long to address widening inequalities in the arts and humanities caused by austerity
- The mentoring programme supports young people ages 16-18 from London, Brighton, Manchester, and Merseyside who dream of a career in the creative or cultural industries but do not have the connections or knowledge required to take their first steps
- Mentoring lasts one year. Mentors and mentees meet for a minimum of one hour at least once a month to work together on developing goals, plans, skills, and confidence
- Mentors may also support their mentee in other ways e.g. CV or portfolio review, securing relevant work experience, or using the Arts Emergency Wish List to find useful connections
- Throughout the mentoring year, mentoring pairs are supported by the Arts Emergency team, who check in regularly and are always available to handle safeguarding, help with session ideas, guidance, or resources, and generally facilitate the relationship
- After their mentoring year, young people become part of the Young Community, with continued access to the Wish List, Coaching programme, and exclusive resources and paid opportunities until they turn 26

HOW // The registration process

- Step 1: Fill out the form on the Arts Emergency website
- Step 2: Book and attend a free online or in-person training session
- Step 3: Return two references
- Step 4: If your experience and interests align with the requirements of a young person, you will be matched and introduced to your mentee
- Step 5: If you are not matched you will still be a registered mentor and will be automatically invited to mentor in subsequent years

WHEN // The timelines and deadlines

- To be considered for the 2024 Mentoring Programme, registration forms must be completed by 30 September 2023
- Training will take place throughout September and October 2023, both online and in-person
- Matching will happen from November to December 2023
- Meet your mentee in January 2024

WHO // The people involved

- Mentors = Generous, passionate, kind people who work in the arts, humanities, cultural or creative industries
- Mentees = Bright, curious, talented young people from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds who dream of a creative or academic career
- The Arts Emergency Team = A group of committed, energetic, determined people who want to change the future of the cultural and creative industries in the UK. They are based across the UK, with local Programme Officers managing each regional hub

WHERE // Locations

- Arts Emergency projects run in London, Brighton, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside
- Mentors should be based within commutable distance from one of those hubs as in-person meetings are encouraged
- Pilot locations are trialled, and new hubs are opened as soon as there is enough local support and the charity's funding has grown enough to appoint a dedicated local Programmes Officer

WHY // The impact, benefits, and ideas behind it all

- Every young person deserves the opportunity to be creative, curious, and change the world. Talent is everywhere but opportunities are too often limited to those with connections, those with money, or those with existing cultural capital
- Mentoring provides a young person with:
 - someone professional they can ask the so-called "silly" questions
 - someone in their corner who can say 'you've got this'
 - a more experienced outside eye on their goals and work
 - the kind of support their more privileged peers get from family connections, private tutors, school alumni networks and other support systems

One young person who has been mentored said:

“Through mentoring I've been able to become more confident in myself, my skills and I've been able to openly talk about my creative ideas with my mentor. My sessions with my mentor are so insightful, they're just beautiful conversations because I'm able to talk freely to her about all the thoughts I might not be able to talk to other people about, because they wouldn't understand...And she's always there to give me a different perspective because...she has some experiences that are very different to mine and I can share my experiences with her as well. I'm able to talk freely about my artistic projects without any judgement... it's been a very freeing experience.”

- Nana

Mentors have said:

“Seeing her find her own path through the maze - and hopefully dropping some breadcrumbs for her - was amazing to see. Honestly, it's energised me. The emphasis is usually (and rightly) on how mentoring helps the mentees, but I can genuinely say that I think my mentee inspired and motivated me, perhaps without realising, as much as I helped her!” - Dan

“I'm proud to be a mentor and would encourage anyone who can to consider it. Of course, it is about helping your mentee but I would also emphasise that it is not a one-way street. In my experience, it is inspiring and restorative to bear witness to a young person's passion and drive.” - Mathew

“It's great to work with a young person who is very driven and bright. I never really had any mentoring help, I had to navigate everything largely by myself... so it's been nice to be able to pass on some of the knowledge I've accrued in the last seven years.”

- Reni

- Arts Emergency's 2022 Impact Report says that:
 - 96% of mentees said they had learned new things that helped them feel more prepared for the future
 - 93% of mentees said they understood more about the world of work by the end of their mentoring year
 - 79% of mentees said they'd met helpful people through their mentor, Arts Emergency or the newsletter
 - 98% of mentors and 99% of mentees would recommend Arts Emergency mentoring to other people.
- The future is another place: change who's supported to break into the cultural and creative sectors and you change the sectors - and society - for the better
- From journalism to landscape architecture to directing, the less we allow the arts to become a playground for rich people's children, the more vibrant and relevant they will be

USEFUL INFO // Links, contacts and more!

- To register as a mentor for the first time, [click here](#) (or use your bespoke link to re-register)
- To learn more about mentoring [visit this page](#)
- For questions about mentoring email mentoring@arts-emergency.org
- For general questions about Arts Emergency email info@arts-emergency.org
- To mention Arts Emergency on social media tag [@artsemergency](#)
- To donate to Arts Emergency [visit this page](#)