



Even Here, Even Now

Creative Advocacy Group Job Pack

October 2026 - May 2027 | Fee: £2,450 (£350 per month)

3 x 6 month freelance contracts

Purpose

As part of Even Here, Even Now, Shetland Arts will work with artists across Scotland's islands to establish a Creative Advocacy Group.

The group will bring together island-based creative practitioners who are passionate about championing culture and creativity in rural island life.

The Creative Advocacy Group will:

- Increase the representation and voice of island-based creatives on local, regional and national committees, boards and trusts
- Support the co-creation of projects and activity between artists and communities that build resilience, strengthen relationships and increase confidence to contribute to local, regional and national conversations
- Advocate for the value of creative practice within rural and island communities
- Help shape the future direction of the **Even Here, Even Now** programme

The group will work together through a combination of:

- Regular online meetings with fellow group members
- In-person meetings within each island area
- Advocacy activity on behalf of the Even Here Even Now project, including at events, meetings and discussions. These opportunities may be organised by project partners or developed collaboratively by the Creative Advocacy Group members and Shetland Arts



The roles

We are now looking for three freelance artists to become the founding members of the Even Here, Even Now Creative Advocacy Group.

The first phase of the Creative Advocacy Group will include one member in each of the following island groups:

- **Orkney** (in partnership with The Pier Arts Centre)
- **Outer Hebrides** (in partnership with An Lanntair and Taigh Chearsabhagh)
- **Shetland** (in partnership with Shetland Arts)

As a Creative Advocacy Group member, you will:

- Attend and help shape bi-monthly online Advocacy Group meetings
- Share knowledge, experience and ideas with fellow artists
- Represent the interests of island-based artists in discussions with organisations and decision-makers
- Attend local, regional or national meetings and events where appropriate
- Advocate for the value of artists and creative practice in island communities
- Build relationships between artists, communities and organisations
- Help develop future opportunities for advocacy within the Even Here, Even Now programme
- Shape and define what the Artist Advocacy Group will be and how it will work

Most meetings will take place online, as well as in-person meetings and events.

These freelance roles will run from **October to May**. This role is 10 hours a month, including preparing, delivering and attending meetings.

The group will begin with three members and grow to six, from islands across Scotland.

Please note: There is no travel and accommodation budget. We do have an Access Costs budget.

Who you are



We're looking for experienced island-based creative practitioners who are interested in participatory practice, collaboration and advocacy.

You don't need previous advocacy experience, but you should be interested in using your voice to support artists and strengthen your community.

You'll ideally be able to demonstrate:

- A reflective approach to your creative practice
 - Experience of delivering participatory or community-based creative activity
 - A commitment to inclusive and accessible practice
 - Excellent communication and relationship-building skills
 - Experience of working collaboratively
 - An understanding of the opportunities and challenges of living and working as an artist in an island community
 - An interest in representing and advocating for fellow artists
 - An understanding of where and what meetings could be of benefit for the group to attend
 - Experience of shaping delivery and arriving at collective decisions
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Overview

Shetland Arts has received funding from Creative Scotland's Culture Collective Fund and the Scottish Government to support Even Here, Even Now.

Even Here, Even Now has Island based artists at its core, delivering work in and with their communities and advocating for the work happening in rural, island communities, forming a network.

It will deliver on inter-island connectivity across cultural sectors, providing support and funding for:

- Development of island based creative practitioners
- Showcase events nationally in Scotland
- Facilitating connections between island-based artists
- Advocacy of island-based artists and their work across our islands, highlighting their value within our communities and beyond.

To deliver this, we have several roles and opportunities across the coming years, including, but not limited to:

- Delivery of a Mainland Showcase
- Participation of a PRACTICE lab
- Artist Associate roles
- Creative Advocacy Group member roles
- International Opportunities
- Arts Marketing roles

All roles are delivered on a freelance basis.



How to apply

Please fill in the application form and send it to *Kathryn.Gordon@shetlandarts.org*.

Deadline for applications: Monday 31 August.

Your application will be scored by a panel, against the criteria given in the “who you are” section of the job pack.

Interviews will happen in September.

If you have any questions about the role or would prefer to submit the application in an alternative format, please contact Kathryn.Gordon@shetlandarts.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

