



Burnley Culture Makers

Volunteer Role Description | Burnley Leisure and Culture | Year of Culture 2027

Three roles. One team. One mission - to put Burnley residents at the heart of planning and delivering the most exciting thing to happen in this town in a generation.

We are recruiting 90 Culture Makers across three roles. These role descriptions set out what we need from each and what we will give back in return. Every role is a volunteer position, fully supported by Burnley Leisure and Culture, Culture Burnley and the Year of Culture team.

Priority will be given to applicants from Burnley postcodes.

Role 1 - Culture Maker -Creative

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Volunteer · 12-Month Position · Reviewed Annually

About the Role

Culture Maker Creatives are the grafters and the makers - the people who show up, roll their sleeves up and make things actually happen. You are on the ground, putting up the tent, running the workshop, supporting the artist and making every event feel brilliant for the people who come through the door.

You will work hands-on with artists and facilitators to deliver creative workshops and experiences, and you will work closely with Culture Maker Organisers to bring their carefully laid plans to life. No two days will look the same. No prior experience in arts or culture is needed - just energy, enthusiasm and a love of Burnley.

Is This You?

A Culture Maker Creative is someone who loves making things. They might be a crafter, a builder, a gardener, a cook - someone who gets satisfaction from doing something with their hands and standing back to look at what they've made. They're not always the loudest in the room but they are always the most useful. They're the one their friends call when something needs doing. They're comfortable working alongside artists because they understand what it means to make something from nothing. They don't need to be in the spotlight. They just need to be part of something real.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Develop the creative concept and artistic direction of neighbourhood cultural moments.
- Collaborate with commissioned artists and local producers to make things happen.
- Create the visual and aesthetic identity of programme activity in your ward.
- Run creative workshops for other Culture Makers and the wider community.
- Set up and take down event infrastructure - tents, gazebos, stages, signage and equipment.
- Document the programme through your own creative practice.
- Make the message of the programme visible and felt in public spaces.

- Work closely with Culture Maker Organisers to bring carefully laid plans to life.
- Help design and develop the neighbourhood commissioning pot - choosing and working with artists on funded local projects.

YOUR FOUR DUTIES

Whatever your role, every Culture Maker carries these four duties into every happening for Burnley 2027 Year of Culture.

Open the Door - find the people in your community who have been told culture is not for them. Go and tell them it is.

Set Up the Party - be the person who gets there first. Do the work that makes arrival possible: the logistics, the relationships, the planning that happens before anyone else shows up.

Host the Party - when you are at an event, you are never just an audience member. Notice who is standing alone. Make the introduction. Be the warmth that makes a space feel safe.

Pack Up After It - capture what happened, feed back what worked, follow up with the people who seemed interested. This is what makes Culture Makers cumulative rather than a series of one-off events.

The Bigger Picture

Burnley Culture Makers are already in post across all fifteen wards of Burnley and Padiham. Together they are the team deciding what happens in their communities - choosing and recruiting artists, shaping neighbourhood cultural plans, and delivering extraordinary cultural experiences across Burnley in 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Each neighbourhood area has access to a commissioning pot - a small fund for Culture Makers to bring in an artist and deliver a real local creative project entirely on their own terms.

Priority will be given to Burnley postcode residents.

This is a volunteer role run by Burnley Leisure and Culture, supported by Culture Burnley and the Year of Culture team, and funded in Phase Two by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The role runs for a minimum of 12 months with a view to being extended.

What You'll Get

- A welcome into the BLC and Culture Maker family.
- Two complimentary theatre tickets per season to performances at Burnley Mechanics.
- Discounts at all Burnley Leisure and Culture hospitality sites.
- Invitations to BLC staff events and social gatherings throughout the year.
- All expenses paid visits to cultural events and institutions across the UK.
- All out-of-pocket expenses covered - travel and meals for all Culture Maker activity.
- Access support fund - if you have care needs or access requirements, we will cover them so nothing stands in your way.
- Free wraparound training - cultural programming, event management, community engagement and more.
- Group mentorship and ongoing support from the Burnley Leisure and Culture team and Year of Culture partners.
- Wellbeing sessions throughout the year.
- The chance to develop funded community projects and see your ideas come to life.
- A Burnley Leisure and Culture gym membership (£9.99/month) after 3 months of service.
- Membership of the Community Advisory Panel for Burnley 2027 Year of Culture.
- Public liability insurance cover while volunteering, provided by Burnley Leisure and Culture.

Requirements

- Enhanced DBS check - organised and fully paid for by Burnley Leisure and Culture.
- Time commitment of approximately 10 hours per month on average, including: a full group meeting with all Culture Makers monthly (around 2 hours); bi-weekly gatherings with your local group (around 4 hours); and additional time for training, cultural visits and community project work (varies month to month).
- Active participation in the Culture Makers WhatsApp group.
- Commitment to maintaining confidentiality of individuals and project-related information.
- A genuine passion for Burnley and its communities - no prior experience in arts, culture or volunteering is necessary.

How to Apply



To find out more or have an informal chat, contact: *Alicia Foley*
- AFoley@burnley.gov.uk

To express interest, complete the application form at:
<https://forms.gle/9eiSPapjLjgULL1V9>

Or via the QR code

There is no closing date for this role - Join us when you can!
Applications welcome from all ages 16+