

NICOLA BENGE - PROJECT MANAGER

I am a professional project manager and producer, with extensive experience devising, facilitating and delivering cultural projects across sectors including educational, health, heritage and the arts.

My work involves collaboration and design with partners to manage projects, activities and events for successful delivery. In these roles, I am confident, well-networked, and skilled in engaging creatively with development, fundraising, partnerships and products.

I am accomplished in supporting and motivating organisations and groups through participation and outreach, whilst managing programmes to improve cultural heritage, engagement, and support social development.

This involves developing and collating existing information and materials, whilst forming a strategy to encourage the celebration and promotion of arts and heritage and cultural quarters.

One of my professional aims is to create new events and themes to showcase this heritage with dynamic schemes to engage audiences.

Through my work, I aim to encourage participation and outreach through projects involving reminiscence, oral history, and archive material to involve a wide range of communities in creative activities.

I am successful in fulfilling outcomes through exhibitions, resources and events for national organisations and charities, using these skills and my enthusiasm and focus to inform my work as a producer.

EMPLOYMENT

SINCE 2003
ARTS FACILITATOR/
PROJECT COORDINATOR

I plan and deliver multi-disciplinary workshops and themes, creating murals, textiles, books, performances and exhibitions for community projects and clients.

I work with diverse communities including schools, young people, Third Age, people on probation, Travellers, Deaf and Disabled groups, BME groups, and asylum seekers.

I train volunteers and other arts workers in the skills necessary to plan and deliver art, heritage and reminiscence workshops. I also create reminiscence related crafts with community groups.

Clients:
Bow Arts Trust, Cultural Co-operation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Scarman Trust, Creative Partnerships, Arts Council, Adur District Council, Chichester Festivities, Camden Council, Royal Voluntary Service, Kingston Green Fair, South Bank Mosaics, WOMAD, The Rock Garden (India), Same Sky, Save the World Club

SINCE 2005
PROJECT MANAGER

I work as a project manager for diverse organisations and charities, setting up and managing reminiscence, intergenerational activities, oral history, art, and heritage projects with wide ranging groups and clients.

Other roles include training and coordinating volunteers, project planning, engaging freelancers, facilitating steering groups, encouraging outreach, and partnerships with libraries, museums, archives and hospitals. I also coordinate community history websites.

I devise and deliver sessions as reminiscence facilitator with intergenerational groups. Current responsibilities include: Creating exhibitions, resources, project planning, and community engagement.

Currently I am outreach Programme Coordinator for Fabrica gallery, Heritage Manager for Polka Children's Theatre, and Creative Director for Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage.

Clients:
Polka Theatre, Age Exchange, Brighton Festival, V&A Museum, RVS, Brent Council, NHS, English Heritage, Independent Lives, Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage, Collected Works, Fabrica, QueenSpark Books, Brighton Dome, Equal Arts

SINCE 2000
EDITOR & ADMINISTRATOR

I edited the professional nationwide political publication Parliamentary Companion for Parliamentary Monitoring Services, and also Pimiento Verde, a Spanish language journal spotlighting community issues.

I have researched and written fact sheets for the campaigning organisation No Borders about asylum and immigration.

I currently edit project based arts and heritage books, exhibitions and resources for community interest company Strike a Light, and previously for social care charity WRVS, English Heritage, and disability charity Independent Lives for the *Speaking up for Disability* project. I also write articles and reviews for a Brighton newspaper.

Clients:
Parliamentary Monitoring Services, Pimiento Verde, No Borders, WRVS, English Heritage, Queenspark Books, Independent Lives, Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage, Brighton & Hove News, Oral History Society

EDUCATION

- 2010 - 2011 *Postgraduate Certificate in Arts and Heritage Management* - London Metropolitan University
- 2006–2007 *Carnival Arts course* - Southwark College
- 2005–2006 *Artist Educator Diploma* - Cultural Cooperation, London
- 2005 *Reminiscence Training* - Age Exchange
- 2004–2005 *NVQ L4 F.E. Teaching* - Hackney Community College, London
- 2003–2006 *Mosaic Arts* - Tower Hamlets College, London/SWC, Kingston
- 1998–1999 *University Exchange* - University of California, Sacramento
- 1995–1999 *BA (Hons) American & Cultural Studies with Art History* Kent University/Middlesex University, London

I have also attended many other courses including oral history training, dementia training, working as a community artist, working with young, and vulnerable people, and project management skills.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Clear, current enhanced DBS check
Completed a Child Protection course
Certified in First Aid and Children's First Aid
Current Health & Safety Certificate
Public Liability Insurance up to £5 million
I speak fluent Spanish
Full, clean UK driving license

REFERENCES upon request