



# Story Explorers & Escape Room Hosts

**z-arts.org**

335 Stretford Road,  
Hulme, Manchester,  
M15 5ZA

Registered charity 1093556

**Ask us a question or call for a chat.**

Get in touch in whichever way works best for you  
– or drop us a line and ask us to call you back.

**Email: [tabitha@z-arts.org](mailto:tabitha@z-arts.org)**

**Call: 0161 226 1912**



## **You must be:**

- 18 years and over
- Have experience and an interest in working with children and families.
- Have good availability, particularly at weekends and during school holidays.
- Be willing to obtain a DBS with Z-arts
- Be willing to attend training and review sessions.

**This role will be offered on a casual basis as per a rota and will be paid at £12.60 per hour, this is in line with the current Real Living Wage.**

**Our activities reflect our audiences, and we aim to represent all the different communities in our area.**

- Z-arts is an antiracist organisation.
  - We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind.
  - We practice inclusivity and accessibility and are learning how to embed trans-inclusivity across all we do.
  - Z-arts is welcoming to all people who do not discriminate against others.
  - We acknowledge all protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 – including age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation recognising socio-economic status and class as a thread that intersects all of these.
  - As a learning organisation, Z-arts is always open to change.
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- You can read more about what diversity means to Z-arts at: [www.z-arts.org/about-us/work-at-z-arts/](http://www.z-arts.org/about-us/work-at-z-arts/)

**We are committed to representing people with protected characteristics and welcome applications from everyone.**





# Welcome from our CEO



**Here's a BIG welcome to Z-arts - the UK's only dedicated arts centre for children and families.**

We pride ourselves on being welcoming and family-orientated, and I try to extend that to the whole team as well as to our visitors. Many organisations like to call themselves a family, but at Z-arts, we take it one step further!

I'm delighted you're interested in working with us. The staff here are an amazing bunch, full of vivacity and passion for the work we do and if you join us, you'll see for yourself that it's a great place to work. The children and the artists are all pretty inspiring too. Not that it's not hard work. We're a small team, and we expect you to go the extra mile.

The payback is that you'll learn loads, including skills that might not be on your job spec, make friends and enjoy a job that is the spice of life - variety - every day is guaranteed to be different.

You'll find my door is always open (there's often a tennis ball flying in and out of it for Siskin, the office dog to play with), so if you have any questions or great ideas to share, just ask. I hope you enjoy reading this pack, and are encouraged to make an application.

**We look forward to hearing from you soon!**



**Our beautiful Edwardian building!**



**Liz O'Neill CEO**



**Siskin - Apprentice CEO**

# About Z-arts



Z-arts is the UK's only dedicated arts centre for children and families, delivering a broad range of performing arts events, performances, exhibitions, activities, workshops and participatory opportunities.

## Our Mission

**To inspire and enable generations of young people from Manchester and beyond to use creativity to achieve their potential.**

- Z-arts uses creativity to inspire, enrich and enable children, young people, and families to reach their potential and be the agents of change in their own lives.
- In our arts centre in Hulme, in education, in communities, at home, and across networks.
- Developing Children, Young People, Educators, Artists, and Family-togetherness.

Based in Hulme, we are committed to supporting our local communities as well as reaching out across Greater Manchester and the North West. We operate from a large Edwardian building that includes a 230-seat theatre, gallery, recording studio, music room, dance studio, café, our brand-new children's library, escape room, and rehearsal/meeting rooms. But there is much more to what we do that is outside of the building.

**We lead networks:** Big Imaginations children's theatre network; MADE (Manchester Cultural Education Partnership); and the Manchester Family Arts Network.

We receive strategic funding from Manchester City Council, to lead on best practice for engaging children and young people in arts and culture. We are an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, leading and delivering the Big Imaginations regional network of children's theatre, programming, and commissioning relevant, diverse theatre for the modern family.

We lead the Manchester Cultural Education Partnership (MADE) Working Group, with a vision to make Manchester a beacon for creative education, where the arts add magic to life experiences and learning for everyone.





# About Z-arts



## What We Believe

### Our manifesto to our families...

Z-arts is a place to express yourself, celebrate your imagination, have fun, be entertained, and dream big! So, whatever your age and whether you're coming to see a show or make some amazing mini-masterpieces in one of our arts workshops, we hope you enjoy your visit to Z-arts and are inspired by your own creativity.

## History of Z-arts

*Pavarotti sang here. Warren Beatty used our building in his film Reds. And Benji Reid's Life of a B-Boy was born here, if there's one thing that's for sure it's that Z-arts has a fascinating and eventful history!*

[www.z-arts.org/about-us/our-history/](http://www.z-arts.org/about-us/our-history/)

Want to find out loads more about Z-arts?  
Head to our website...

[www.z-arts.org/about-us/](http://www.z-arts.org/about-us/)

You can also have a nosey at our social media channels if you fancy.



@z.artsmcr



@zartsmcr



@Z\_arts\_mcr



Search for Z-arts



# Working at Z-arts



**We believe that theatre and the arts are for everyone.**

They are inspiring, immersive, and magical, and we want to share the joy of creativity, imagination, and storytelling with children and families in Greater Manchester and beyond.



## Our Values

welcoming

forward-thinking

inclusive

engaging

vibrant

fun

A recent staff workshop identified 'inclusive' and 'fun' being our primary values.

## It's sometimes all hands on deck!

**Z-arts has a relatively small team with lots on the agenda that we aim to get our teeth stuck into! This sometimes means that it's all hands on deck - so be sure you're up for doing a little bit of everything.**

We need you to get involved to help support our organisation and the amazing work we do. Getting involved varies from, giving a wave to our social media channels, welcoming a school to our building, being a budding steward, or helping out the Box Office team over the festive period.

We work collaboratively across our teams and alongside the many networks we lead.





# Working at Z-arts



## Diversity

**We've recently been working on our new diversity manifesto. Here's a snippet below.**

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**As a **learning organisation**, Z-arts is always open to change.**

**You can read more about what diversity means to Z-arts at:**

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## Our Recruitment Policy

Z-arts have a recruitment policy in place to ensure job applicants are considered equally and fairly, and are not discriminated against based on their race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, disability, or age.

You can find out more about our **Unconscious Bias Recruitment Policy** [here](#). Z-arts also have a Safer Recruitment Policy which takes this further and ensures we are keeping children safe, this applies to all staff, freelancers, volunteers and placements.



**Our building is located at:**

**Z-arts  
335 Stretford Road,  
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**Our registered charity no. is:  
1093556**

# Working at Z-arts



## What the team say!

Don't just take our word for it, see what our staff have to say about working at Z-arts.

I love working at Z-arts! Each day is new and exciting - full of colour, joy, and creativity! Being a parent and working here is also great as my kids love Z-arts. We get a free Family Membership and are the first to see all the fabulous shows and exhibitions on offer!

- **Janine, Resident Visual Artist**



Part of Z-arts' remit is working with children and families, encouraging artistic fun and exploring the joy of just playing. The best thing is, that the remit doesn't stop at participants but also extends to the staff here. And their commitment to this honestly creates such a supportive, professional, productive, and most importantly fun working environment! And it's such a joy to be part of this! It allows you to be a big kid while being a grown-up. - **Isah, MADE Administrator**

Since joining Z-arts 20 years ago, I have never enjoyed a job so much. I thoroughly love working in such a dynamic organisation and doing the work I do. Z-arts has continued to grow and prosper over the years and we thoroughly deserve the praise we get from both parents and their children. I really take pride in seeing some of the shy young people developing and becoming more confident by attending our creative workshops. It is fantastic that I still get a buzz out of coming into work each day.

- **Paul, Deputy House Manager**

Working at Z-arts is so refreshing! It's brilliant to work somewhere where there is such a hive of creative minds and new ideas are met with, 'let's give it a go!' Z-arts are all about supporting the community and the whole family and this extends to the staff too. Having a young family, working at Z-arts allows me to work around family commitments and are genuine about being a supportive workplace for flexible working. - **Hannah, Creative Schools Project Coordinator**





# What our families say!



Z-arts has given my daughter the opportunity to be a dancer and performer, which otherwise I feel she would have missed out on due to our financial situation. It is an amazing place and I don't know what we would have done if we hadn't found it.

- Parent



I love coming to Z-arts because the activities and classes here allow me to express my personality and open my mind to the world of creativity.

- Bright Sparks Member

Z-arts has made arts and theatre particularly accessible to my family, it's been inclusive to my child with SEN and recaptured my love for the arts.

- Parent

Z-arts are really inclusive with our ideas. It makes us feel like we really fit in... our ideas want to be heard and our ideas really matter.

- Parent



# How to apply

To apply or to arrange an informal chat about either role, please email:  
[tabitha@z-arts.org](mailto:tabitha@z-arts.org)

## Include:

- Your CV or Spotlight link
- Information about your creative practice

**Deadline: Friday 9 January 2026**

## Important Dates

- Auditions: Friday 30 January 2026, 4–6pm
- Story Explorer & Escape Room Host Training: w/c 2 February 2026
- Adventures in Wonderland Quest Training: Saturday 14 February 2026

**Successful applicants will be invited to audition and interview, with the expectation of starting in February 2026.**



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## Thank you for taking the time to read our application pack!

This recruitment pack is brand new! It's a work in progress and a learning document for us to update and make even better in due course.

**So, if you have any feedback on the content, layout, or anything at all, we'd love to hear what you think.**

Please email [marketing@z-arts.org](mailto:marketing@z-arts.org) - we're all ears!

