



Showtown's Funny Bones Residency

Residency dates: Jan – Mar 2025

Residency allowance: £7,816

Closing date: 22 Nov 2024

Interview date: 29 Nov 2024

Contract: Jan 24 – Mar 25

Showtown is inviting applications for a UK based professional working in a performance-based industry interested in making people laugh.

During the residency you would:

- Develop an outdoor comedy tour of Blackpool with Showtown and our volunteer guides
- Develop a performance for a Showtown audience
- Develop a performance-style training session

Background to the Showtown

We're Blackpool's brand new all-singing, all-dancing museum and you'll find us right in the heart of the Golden Mile, next door but one to Blackpool Tower!

Showtown is the ultimate celebration of Blackpool, the greatest seaside resort in the UK and world famous as a capital of entertainment. Our six galleries showcase the very best of the seaside, magic, circus, Illuminations, shows and dance.

www.showtownblackpool.co.uk



Brief

Showtown is looking for a funny person/people who will research, develop and script a new comedy tour of Blackpool alongside our Showtown volunteers. In a similar way to Bizarre Bath, we are looking to develop a tour which illuminates our fascinating built heritage and, in some cases, unusual history.

Whilst on your residency you will have access to the museum displays for research and inspiration to develop a performance for a Showtown audience. This could be any shape or size and for any specific audience type for example; families, adults, young people etc.

We would also like you to develop a performance-style training session inspired by what you learn whilst on your residency. This could be for any group of people within Blackpool and would teach people a skill connected to Blackpool's entertainment history.

This residency might suit someone who has cross disciplinary skills with experience of performance, producing shows (which could include street theatre, stand-up comedy, plays, comedy sketches etc) and working collaboratively with people.

Project objectives

- Enable the residency performer to develop their talent and practice with a showcase event for Showtown
- 40 people from Blackpool will attend a performance style training session
- People are excited about visiting Showtown both local residents and visitors alike
- Blackpool people taking part will feel more connected to Blackpool, its history and have increased pride in the town

Programme

The 26 day residence shall run from Jan – Mar 25. Suggested timescale below:

Timescale	No of Days	Milestone
Jan 25	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with Showtown team.• Research time. Getting to know the volunteers and Blackpool history
Feb 25	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with Showtown team.• Develop ideas for tour, performance and training session• Deliver the training session in Blackpool• Refine and rehearse tour and performance
Mar 25	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with Showtown team.• Deliver the comedy tour for our volunteers and Youth Academy and train vols ready to deliver tour• Deliver a performance for Showtown• Evaluation meeting

The final creation of the tour, performance and training session will be signed off by the Showtown team with a number of check in points along the way.

Budget

Professional fees @ £300 per day (inclusive of expenses, accommodation and travel etc)	£7,816 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First payment £3000 in December• Second payment £4816 in March
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Additional budget (to be spent by Showtown):

Marketing: £800

Materials: £500

Photography: £500

How to apply

Your submission must include:

- Tell us what you would like to do within the scope of the brief. Keep it fun and engaging!
- A proposal (no more than two pages or 2 mins in video format) outlining your approach to using history as inspiration for a performance and how you might approach developing a tour and training session.
- Please also include evidence of relevant experience including details of or links to other performances.
- Two referees with whom you have worked on similar projects. Please ensure they are in a position to provide a reference for the team members you propose (if applicable) for this project.
- CVs may be attached in addition to your proposal.

Please submit your proposal to kerry.vasiliou@showtownblackpool.co.uk by midnight on 22 Nov 2024.

Selection process

The quotations will be selected based on the following criteria;

- Response to brief 60%
- Skills, knowledge and experience 40%

Assessment Criteria: Assessment of the extent to which the response demonstrates and evidences:

- Robust delivery proposal
- Previous experience and successful delivery
- Sector specific knowledge and experience
- Adequate resources / capacity to deliver the brief
- Clear and robust contingency plans to ensure continuity of service and sufficient cover
- Appropriate plans to manage and coordinate activity
- Quality commitment throughout proposal
- Appropriate consideration given to working and communicating effectively

You may be invited to attend an interview by the Showtown team. This will give the scoring panel the opportunity to re-visit your proposal and may result in the initial scoring being altered up or down as appropriate.

If you are successful at interview, you will be asked to complete a *Grounds for Exclusion, Form of Tender, Certificate of Non-Collusion and Non-Canvassing Information Provided In Confidence & Commercial Interests, Blackpool Council Supplier Charter*.

The Grounds for Exclusion have been designed to assess your organisation's suitability to deliver the Authority's contract requirements and will be evaluated on a pass / fail basis. If these mandatory criteria cannot be met bids will be classed as non-compliant and will be discounted. Only compliant bids will move to Quality and Pricing Scoring.

How we will evaluate your submission

Your proposal will be evaluated using scores that reflect the extent to which the responses address the published assessment criteria.

Scoring:

0	No response provided/ does not address any of the issues
1	Very poor response with minimal issues addressed
2	Poor response with few issues addressed
3	Satisfactory response with majority of issues addressed
4	Good response with all issues satisfactorily addressed
5	Outstanding innovative response

Due Diligence

The Preferred Bidder will be subject to a reality check i.e. this may involve (but not limited to): financial viability/risk checks (D&B), a site visit, checking references, checking capability and track record and, where appropriate, speaking to organisations who will be involved in supporting the Contractor e.g. sub-contractors, regulatory agencies, etc.

References will be sought as part of the Council's due diligence process. The Council reserves the right not to enter into a contract with the preferred bidder should any of the references prove unsatisfactory.

As part of the due diligence process, the Authority may obtain a credit rating report for the Preferred Bidder. The Authority reserves the right not to enter into a contract with the Preferred Bidder, should any of the financial assessments demonstrate an unsatisfactory financial standing.

The Funny Bones Residency is part of Showtown's Laughter Programme, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.