HOSPITAL ROOMS



OPPORTUNITY

COME WORK WITH US AS A PROJECT CURATOR, WEST YORKSHIRE



THE ROLE

Title: Project Curator, West Yorkshire

Reports to: Head of Curatorial, Tim Steer

Hours: 37.5 hours

Notice period: 2 months

Salary: £35,000-£38,000

Contract type: Fixed term- 18 months (5 days)

Place of work: In and around Bradford, on site at our partner hospitals, with occasional travel to London

Cover: Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq, Untitled, Sunflowers Court, Goodmayes Hospital, North East London NHS Foundation Trust. Photo © Hospital Rooms (Studio Damian Griffiths)
Recovery College. Photo © Hospital Rooms

Introduction to Hospital Rooms



Hospital Rooms co-founders: Niamh White and Tim A. Shaw

The arts and mental health charity Hospital Rooms was founded when artist Tim A Shaw and curator Niamh White's friend was sectioned and admitted to an NHS mental health hospital. They were shocked to find the hospital environment cold and clinical, especially at a time when she was so vulnerable. Having worked in the arts for 10 years, Tim A Shaw and Niamh White felt they had the skills and community to transform these spaces with unique and site-specific artworks.

Hospital Rooms envisions a world where abundant and meaningful creative opportunities are readily accessible to people with severe and enduring mental health diagnoses and where mental health hospital environments are inventive cultural spaces offering solace, comfort and dignity.

We work with established and emerging artists to radically transform clinical settings with world-leading contemporary art. We are a fast-paced, enthusiastic team with a knack for problem-solving, driven by a shared mission to blaze a creative path for others to follow. To thrive in this role, you will need to be highly self-motivated, committed to being a supportive and collegiate team member, and an open, effective communicator.

Liz Elton, Rosebud Centre. Photo © Hospital Rooms

Our Impact

Hospital Rooms has undertaken more than 20 acclaimed projects completed in some of the country's most challenging mental health settings. A roster of artists is carefully selected for each project according to the needs of each community. Our co-production process involves:

Research and Development - We learn our collaborators' needs, challenges, and preferences in crafting project aims, artist selection, and creative programme design.

Co-Production Workshops - Artist-led art workshops for service users and staff conjure new ideas about how mental health services should look and feel.

Installations - Artworks that are awe-inspiring and relevant to those who encounter them are fabricated.

Public Programme - Ambitious local and national public exhibitions celebrate the contributions of all those involved in our projects. We attract widespread national and international press coverage, including the Guardian, the New Yorker, the FT, and the BBC.

Legacy - Our Digital Art School and partnerships forged with local cultural organisations and artists provide ongoing artistic opportunities for service users and staff.

Impact Evaluation - Collaborations with The Baring Foundation, WHO, universities, and NHS partners support our efforts to evidence our impact and influence the wider sector.



Alvin Kofi, Sunflowers Court, Goodmayes Hospital, North East London NHS Foundation Trust.
Photo © Hospital Rooms (Studio Damian Griffiths)

Role Description

This is an exciting moment to join Hospital Rooms. As we mark ten years of bringing extraordinary art into mental health hospitals, we are starting some of our most ambitious programmes yet. In 2026 we ran a national open call, and NHS Trusts across the UK applied to work with us. We are looking for an imaginative and organised curator, based in or near Bradford, to lead the day-to-day delivery of our new projects in and around Bradford and Keighley.

The projects are varied in scale and setting. They include the refurbishment of existing mental health wards, new buildings where art can be part of the design from the start, and the possibility of working in hospital Emergency Departments, which are often the first place a person in a mental health crisis meets care. Artists will work with patients, families, staff, carers and local communities through programmes of workshops, and create permanent artworks shaped by those creative exchanges.

You will be the main point of contact for our hospital partners and artists. You will run each workshop programme and support artists as they shape their proposals in response to what they hear and make with people in the hospitals. You will then work with our production team to see each artwork installed. Publications, exhibitions and public events will share the story of te projects with Bradford and beyond.

The projects build on the momentum of Bradford's year as UK City of Culture, and are key pilots for our National Framework for Equal Access to the Arts in Mental Health Services. You will report to the Head of Curatorial and work alongside a Curatorial Assistant, with the support of the whole Hospital Rooms team. The mix of projects may develop over the course of the role, and any changes to your workload will be agreed with the Head of Curatorial.



Toby Ziegler, Sunflowers Court, Goodmayes Hospital, North East London NHS Foundation Trust.
Photo © Hospital Rooms (Studio Damian Griffiths)

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

Duties and Responsibilities

Project delivery

• Act as the main day-to-day contact for our NHS partners' project managers and clinical teams, and for local cultural and community partners. Keep the project plans, budgets and files up to date, and report progress monthly to the Head of Curatorial.

• Prepare reports and evidence for project milestones, steering group meetings and the Artwork Approval Group.

• Brief and supervise freelance staff, including workshop facilitators, and coordinate Curatorial Assistant's work on project tasks.

• Plan your time across projects, agreeing priorities with the Head of Curatorial

Research and co-production

• Lead research at hospital sites, including research workshops with service users and staff, and draft the Research and Development reports. Research artists and propose project artists.

• Manage the co-production programme of artist-led workshops: adapt the approach for different healthcare settings, brief artists, attend sessions in person, build attendance and lead debriefs.

• Run sessions for NHS staff such as creative training.

Artworks and sharing the story

• Support artists to develop proposals in response to the workshops, and lead proposal meetings with the production team.

• Act as the main contact for each hospital through installation, and be on site for key installation days.

• Draft text panels, artwork descriptions and publication content in plain, accessible language. Help plan the project publication, exhibition and public event for each project.

• Lead data collection for evaluation with the Head of Impact, and contribute to the artwork handover pack.

Safe, inclusive and sustainable practice

• Uphold safe practice and follow the safeguarding procedures of Hospital Rooms and hospital sites, for children, young people and adults, reporting concerns promptly.

• Support Hospital Rooms' Anti-Racism and Sustainability objectives, including our partner Trusts' PCREF plan, accessible workshops and low-waste working.

• Take part in team meetings and training, and support Hospital Rooms events and fundraisers.

Experience and skills

Experience

• Experience of curating or producing artist commissions, exhibitions or participatory arts projects.

• Experience of leading collaborative or community-based cultural projects.
Experience of working with marginalised and diverse communities, making sure their voices and needs are heard, prioritised and centred.

• Experience of managing project budgets and timelines.

• Knowledge of contemporary art and an active interest in arts and mental health.

• Experience of working in health, hospital or other clinical settings (desirable).

• A cultural network in Bradford, West Yorkshire or the North of England (desirable).

• Experience of supervising assistants, freelancers or volunteers (desirable).

• A degree in an arts-related subject is not essential if you can show equivalent professional experience.

Skills

• Clear spoken and written communication, with the ability to write for varied audiences.

• Ability to build trusting relationships with participants, NHS staff, artists and partners.

• Ability to work in complex and sensitive environments with professionalism, sensitivity and resilience.

• Strong planning and organisation, with a calm approach to deadlines.

• Tact and diplomacy with collaborators and stakeholders.

• Confidence with Microsoft 365 and the ability to learn new systems.

Benefits and compensation

Hospital Rooms is a friendly and creative team. We offer our team:
• 23 days holiday per year plus bank holidays
• 3 mental health days per year
• Access to a health and wellbeing programme, including therapy and counselling
• Team outings to art exhibitions and cultural events
• Investment in personalised training and skills development

Emotional and Wellbeing Support

While the vast majority of our visits to hospitals are very positive experiences, we recognise that our work takes place in unusual and potentially challenging environments, and that we have a duty of care to provide you with emotional and wellbeing support while working with us.

Before visiting any of the services we work with or attending a workshop, Hospital Rooms will brief you thoroughly on what to expect from being in that particular setting. Throughout the project, there will be a variety of options to provide you with support, whatever your circumstances or needs.

Your line manager will be available to talk to you within the working week about anything that is troubling you, whether directly or indirectly related to the project. You will also have access to the 24-hour helpline and a counselling service that is available to our staff.

HOW TO APPLY AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

To apply for this role, please submit the following:

- **CV:** At most, two A4 sides.
- **Covering Letter:** A brief note (this can be included in the body of your email and can be in audio or video format if preferred). Email your application to **hr@hospital-rooms.com**
- **Please self-describe any barriers** you feel you have faced in gaining access to the arts sector as part of the 'cover letter' section of the application to help us understand your achievements in context.

Key Dates:

- **Application Deadline:** 4 January, 2027
- **Interview Dates:** week commencing 11 January

Interview Process

The interview process will take place in two stages:

First Interview

- **Who:** Tim Steer, Head of Curatorial + Matilda Hartley, Senior project Curator
- **Where:** online
- **Duration:** 45 minutes

Second Interview

- **Who:** Tim Steer, Head of Curatorial + Tim A Shaw, Co-Founder
- **Where:** In person, Bradford area (venue confirmed with shortlisted candidates). Reasonable travel expenses covered by Hospital Rooms.
- **Duration:** 45 minutes

We understand that schedules can be demanding, so we are happy to accommodate evening or early morning interviews. If you require this, please let us know in your application.



Christian Marclay, room 9, Sandwell, CAMHS, © Hospital Rooms. Photography Patrick Dandy

Anti-Racism and Inclusion

Hospital Rooms is committed to being an inclusive workplace. We welcome applications from individuals of all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, abilities, and medical conditions. As part of our ongoing pledge to promote anti-racism, we strive to reflect these values in our programmes, workplace culture, and the diversity of our team, service users, and audiences. Equity and inclusion are central to our mission. We especially encourage applications from individuals from under-represented groups as we embark on this next chapter of Hospital Rooms' history.

Accessibility

If you need any support completing your application or navigating the interview process, please contact Zarina Kazi at zarina@hospital-rooms.com to discuss how we can assist you.

The successful candidate(s) will be required to complete a Standard DBS check, organised by Hospital Rooms. These are treated in the strictest confidence and a former criminal record does not automatically exclude you from this role.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Our vision is for Hospital Rooms to be a successful, caring and welcoming place for our staff and the communities we serve. We are committed to a culture where respect and understanding is fostered and the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances are positively valued.

You can read our Equality & Diversity policy **HERE.**

Monitoring

Our Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form helps to keep us accountable for this vision, helping us to improve our recruitment practices continually, understand the composition of our existing and prospective workforce, and redress areas of under-representation. Hospital Rooms needs your help and cooperation, but filling in this form is voluntary.

Please note that responses are anonymous, and any information you share in this survey will not impact any decisions about your appointment or progression.

In accordance with data protection principles, we take care to ensure that all applicant data is appropriately and securely stored and handled. This form will be kept separate from the selection process and will be deleted six months after the closing date for the role you have applied for.

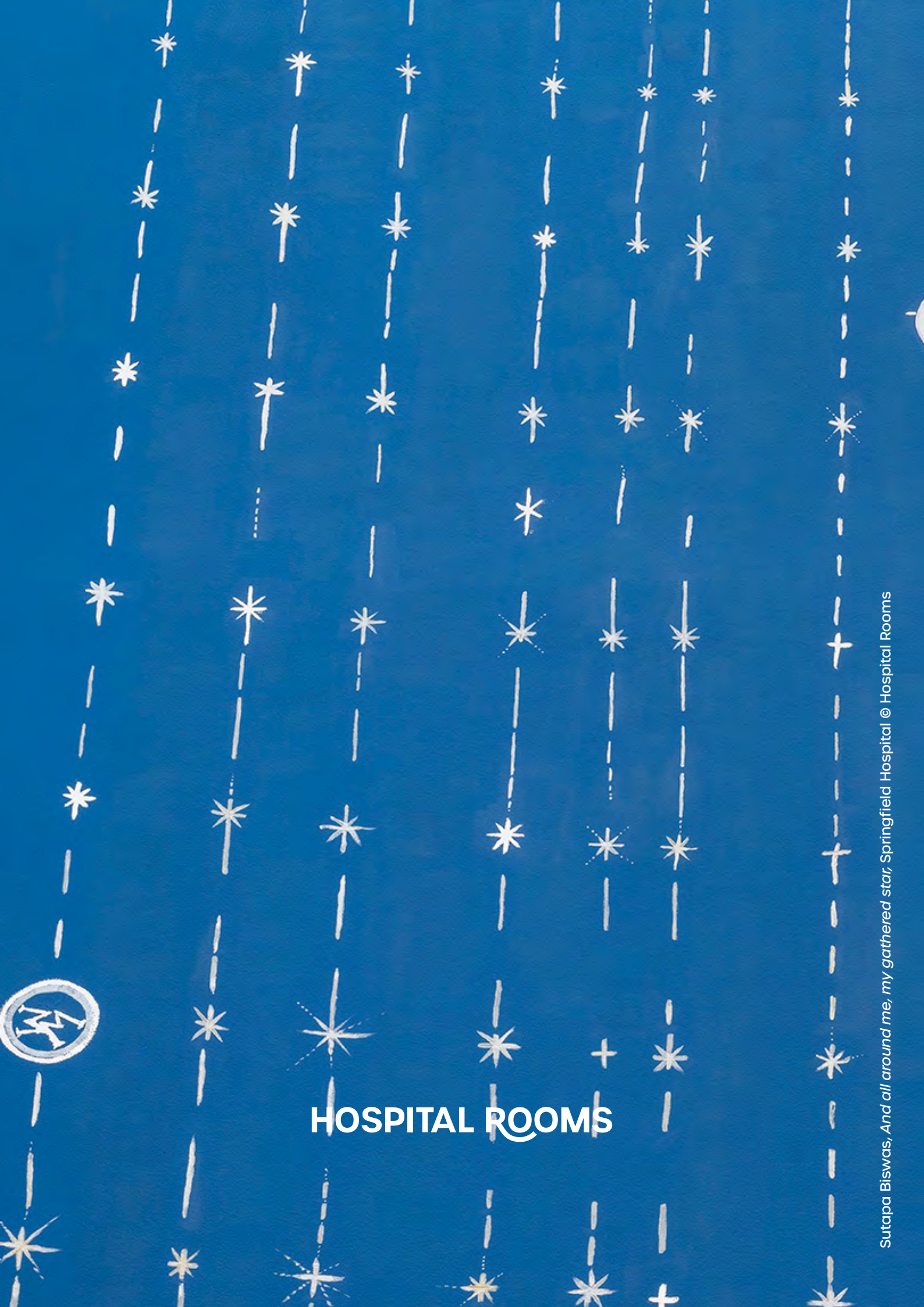
Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form **HERE**

Need further information?

If you need any support completing your application, navigating the interview process, or have questions about the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, please contact Zarina Kazi at ***zarina@hospital-rooms.com*** to discuss how we can assist you.



Alvin Kofi, 136 Suite, Longreach House, Cornwall



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Sutapa Biswas, *And all around me, my gathered star*, Springfield Hospital © Hospital Rooms