



Facilitator to a panel of young advisers on a new grants programme

THE LISTENING FUND - PHASE TWO

The Listening Fund (www.thelisteningfund.org) is an England-wide partnership which aims to make the youth sector more accountable to those it exists to serve: young people. The first phase ran from 2018 to 2020 and focused on supporting change in adult-led organisations by investing in improvements to their listening policies, practices and cultures. The second phase, launching in 2021, will continue to support some adult-led organisations but it will also more directly empower young people.

We will do this in part by recruiting a group of paid young advisers. They will have significant influence on the Fund, including designing a strategy and recommending decisions for a large, discreet pot of funding. We want this funding to invest in the work that young people prioritise and we are open to challenging our thinking about traditional grant-making strategies, processes and recipients.

To support the young advisers, we (the Blgrave Trust, who lead on the management of The Listening Fund) are looking to appoint an skilled facilitator who can work with them as they help shape the Fund and its work. Please contact us for a copy of the brief for the young advisers (details below).

We anticipate that the work will begin in Spring 2021 and involve regular meetings with young advisers throughout the three years of the programme.

Desired criteria

We are looking for an independent facilitator who can support the advisers, so they can assert their views independently from The Listening Fund's funders and have equal power in the process. We want to work with someone who is willing to both stretch the Blgrave Trust's own thinking on this developing work whilst also supporting us as we learn together alongside the young people.

The right facilitator will be skilled at working with young people and ideally also have experience of working with funders - either directly or in/as a partner organisation. We are looking for someone who can stay the course of the 3-year programme if possible. You will bring your insight into the role of young people as changemakers in the world, and the evolving nature of philanthropy, to inform, develop and challenge the thinking of the advisers, whilst all the while being aware of how much influence you yourself hold. As we recruit a consciously diverse group of Young Advisers for this work, it is essential that you are skilled enough to hold this space for young people, allowing for difference of opinions, understanding different perspectives and forms of marginalisation and bringing an equity lens to the work. We welcome younger applicants, individuals from diverse communities and people who are activating their lived experience to help create change.



Additionally, you will be:

- Skilled and experienced in facilitating and supporting young people from all walks of life
- Committed to youth engagement and leadership
- Be comfortable working with uncertainty and responding flexibly to emerging issues
- Thorough and diligent in your approach.

And you will have:

- A love of creative methods for having meaningful, fun and energising conversations
- An awareness of how power and privilege dynamics and structural inequality play out in group conversations and a commitment to help the group work together and learn from each other
- An ability to create a safe, warm atmosphere where people can relate as people, not just in their assigned roles
- A willingness to support honest conversations and disagreement; recognising that surfacing and dealing with 'difficult' issues openly and with kindness can help deepen trust.
- A knowledge of different decision-making methods for the group to experiment with

Geography

The young advisers will be drawn from across England and we anticipate that meetings will be a mixture of online and in-person according to need and the situation with Covid-19.

Key tasks:

The facilitator's role will be to support the young people to play an equal and cohesive part alongside the Listening Fund's funders: currently The Blgrave Trust, Children in Need, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Tudor Trust, but with the potential of more partners joining the Fund.

These are some of the tasks we anticipate the Young Advisers will work on but they will be co-developed at the outset.

- Designing a grant-making strategy to spend at least £300,000 in accordance with The Listening Fund's aims and values
- Reviewing grant applications and helping us to decide which applications are successful
- Supporting our learning by helping us choose an organisation to lead this work and sharing reflections with them



- Talking to our partners about the panel's insights into the youth sector, and potentially speaking about the Fund at external events.

Terms

The role will be on a self-employed basis, so you will invoice Blagrove based on hours and tasks completed. Please let us know your hourly/daily rate; we anticipate paying up to £400 per day for your time.

Time frame and time commitments

The second phase of the Fund will run for three years from 2021 to 2024. The work with the young advisers will begin in Spring 2021.

The time commitment will vary with the demands of the work. At some points, we anticipate weekly meetings; at other points meetings might be monthly. To accommodate young people's other commitments, we expect all meetings will take place on weekends or in the evenings or over lunch.

We anticipate that the first six months will be particularly busy as it will involve the induction of the young advisers, the design of the funding strategy, and funding decisions – as well as reflection and learning throughout. Overall, we anticipate the role will need c.35 days of your time in the first year. The level of activity in the second and third years will depend to an extent on the decisions taken during year one and will therefore be agreed towards the end of 2021.

Contact

Please contact Edd Fry, The Listening Fund Manager, with any questions about the role: edd.fry@blagravetrust.org.

Applications should consist of a covering letter explaining your interest in and suitability for the role including a couple of recent examples of your facilitation work and two references. Please also include your C.V.

Applications close on 16th April 2021.