

STORYHOUSE



Visitor Experience
Team Member
Recruitment Pack

Antigone, 2021, Mark
McNulty



Storyhouse, 2017, Becci Lane

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Welcome from the CEO

Storyhouse is one of the UK's foremost cultural charities; its home in Chester incorporates a library, theatres, and a cinema. It is also an acclaimed theatre producer and runs the country's most successful regional open-air theatre in the city's Grosvenor Park, as well as the innovative Moonlight Flicks open-air cinema each year.

Storyhouse plays an important part of cultural life in Chester and continues to be a beacon of inspiration for many other cities and towns for the role it has played in social and economic regeneration, its successful and unique integration of world-class theatre, cinema, and library facilities, as well as its bold, exciting, diverse, and award-winning programming.

It is also a great place to work. We offer a flexible and supportive working environment, value experience as well as skills and qualifications, and work to ensure everyone in the organisation is aware of our equality and diversity commitments. We want to support all staff to fulfil their potential and enjoy a happy and healthy workplace.

We hope you decide to join us,

Annabel.





Chester Disability Pride Parade, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Story

You can find a bit about who we are on our [website](#), discover more about our innovative home and how it came to be in [this case study](#) by Arts Council England, or read about our renowned library in this [blog](#) by the DCMS's library team.

Above all, Storyhouse is a creative community. As a diverse cultural organisation, our home is one of the country's most successful cultural buildings housing a cinema, theatres and a library. Last year we welcomed 800,000 people through our doors. We are both a community hub and combined arts producer.

Our library attracts international recognition, known for its seamless integration, and boasts the longest opening hours of any UK public library.

In 2023-24, we supported 5,768 young people to connect and create, ran 180 free rhyme-time sessions, created 423 magical performances indoors and outdoors, sold 108,298 theatre tickets and hosted a total of 1,618 cinema screenings.

Visits are roughly split into thirds between event attendances, library users, and wider participation. We enjoyed the support of over 14k volunteer hours and 1,328 different individuals were involved in making and supporting our work.

Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which we founded in 2010, is the UK's largest regional open-air theatre, welcoming over 25,000 every summer.



This House is Your House

We've become vital part of the region's cultural landscape and a place of safety and support for the community - especially for young people, giving them a space where they can reimagine their place in the world.

Over 40 community groups use us as a base for creative activity each month, including LGBTQIA+ and disability groups, refugee integration activities, mental health support sessions, and groups combatting social exclusion by age.

We work extensively with young people and provide a range of different programmes, from youth theatre and our young company, to young leaders, young programmers, and our many schools and education programmes. Throughout our work we collaborate with local partners throughout to ensure we are reaching the people that would usually have the least opportunity to participate.

Across everything we do, we work to give people the power to build their own creative communities through inspiring stories and shared creative experiences: this house is your house.

As we blend theatre, library, restaurant and cinema services, we share inspiring stories and stage creative events which empower people to nurture their creativity and bring together communities. Through our work, we hope to build a more connected, inclusive and creative community network.

The more open we are to the true and rich diversity of our communities, the more vividly we fulfil our purpose. More engagement from more of our communities will make more of Storyhouse.

We are committed to creating a team which is representative of our communities and to bringing together those with a variety of skills and experiences to help shape what we do and how we work.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Strategy...

Storyhouse is about to enter an exciting new phase in our evolution as we look to develop our programmes, based on a new strategic plan, to deliver world class arts and meet community needs.

Our Vision:

Here at Storyhouse, culture is owned by everyone.

Our Mission:

We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Our Values:

LISTEN CLOSELY.

True empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view.

LOOK AROUND.

Opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.

SPEAK UP.

Not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.

STAND UP.

Debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.

REACH OUT.

Diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023,
Mark McNulty



Our Resources

Storyhouse is a medium-sized charity with approximately 140 staff and a gross revenue of over £6 million per year. The charity is financially stable, with a number of steady revenue streams, including a 20-year lease and contract for services with the local authority (Cheshire West and Chester) and NPO funding from Arts Council England for 2023 to 2026. Revenue from commercial activities is also essential to the charity's financial stability, and over 57% of its revenue is earned.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries: Storyhouse Production Company Limited - creating and staging Storyhouse Originals theatre productions - and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited - providing a range of catering, retail, cinema, receiving theatre and commercial services.

Despite our financial stability, like all other charities our resources are being eroded by rising costs caused by inflation and higher energy prices, and as a result of the continued cost of living crisis, demand for free-to-access services (such as warm spaces) is increasing.

Our Building

The original parts of Storyhouse were constructed as an art deco Odeon cinema in 1936, and have been restored, extended and renovated into a library, two state of the art theatres, a cinema, restaurant, and two bars.

The larger theatre is an 800-seat proscenium arch stage. With state-of-the-art facilities, its auditorium spreads across three tiers: stalls, circle and gallery. This same theatre converts into a 500-seat thrust stage (with the audience wrapping around three sides of the stage). In this format, the auditorium spreads across two tiers, with intimate seating putting the audience right in amongst the action.

On top of the building sits the Garret Theatre and Bar. This 150-seat black-box theatre is a flexible, fully-equipped performance, rehearsal, or workshop space. It is designed to be full of work made by local creative companies, individuals, and community groups, as well as a space we hire to companies and individuals.

The 100-seat boutique cinema is designed to honour the original Odeon's history as a cinema in 1936. With red velvet, soft, sunken seating, it is a beautiful event space.

The library spreads right through the building, with a dedicated family-friendly area (with wet play, storytelling room, and arts and crafts) in The Den and extensive book-stocks covering the walls throughout Storyhouse offering opportunities for studying, learning, and research.



The Role

As a Visitor Experience Assistant, you will play a pivotal role in ensuring that every guest at Storyhouse enjoys a safe, welcoming, and memorable visit. This is a highly visible, customer-facing role where your ability to communicate warmly and confidently with the public will be essential. You will be the first point of contact for many visitors, offering assistance, answering questions, and representing the venue with professionalism and care. At the same time, you will be responsible for maintaining a secure and well-managed environment, helping to monitor activity within the building and responding calmly and effectively to any issues that may arise. Your presence will contribute to the smooth operation of daily activities and events, supporting an inclusive, accessible, and enjoyable experience for all. This role requires a flexible, proactive approach and a genuine enthusiasm for working with people in a busy, public setting. A background in customer service, security, or visitor engagement is beneficial but not essential—what matters most is your ability to create a positive impression and respond to the needs of others with empathy and confidence.



Role and Responsibilities

You will

Visitor engagement:

- Provide excellent customer service by assisting visitors with enquiries, directions, and general information.
- Proactively engage with guests to enhance their overall experience, addressing concerns and resolving issues promptly.
- Lead on audience management for performances in the Main House, Garret Theatre and outdoor venues on a shift basis.
- Be main point of contact for volunteers on shift for events, hosting volunteering briefings and assisting them with any issues that may arise, on a shift basis.

Emergency response:

- Act as a first responder in emergency situations, following established procedures for evacuations and crisis management.
- Collaborate with local authorities and emergency services when required.

Security oversight:

- Conduct routine patrols to monitor and ensure the security of the Storyhouse building.
- Enforce security protocols, policies, and procedures to safeguard guests, staff, and assets.
- Respond promptly to security incidents, assess situations, and take appropriate actions.

Crowd control:

- Monitor and manage crowd flow during peak times, ensuring a smooth and safe experience for all visitors.
- Coordinate with other team members to implement crowd control measures as needed.

Role and Responsibilities (continued)

Surveillance:

- Utilise surveillance equipment to monitor various areas of the building, identifying and addressing any potential security risks.
- Report any suspicious activities and conduct investigations as necessary.

Collaboration:

- Work closely with other visitor experience team members volunteers, and Storyhouse staff to ensure a cohesive approach to safety and visitor experience.
- Communicate effectively with management regarding security updates and incidents.
- Liaise with theatre management, event organizers, local authorities to ensure the smooth running of the commercial events within Storyhouse.

Skills & Experience

Background in leading or supporting front-of-house teams within hospitality or customer service environments

Comfortable working in fast-paced, high-pressure settings

Skilled in resolving customer issues and handling challenging situations professionally

Proven ability to oversee and support large, dynamic teams effectively

Knowledge of legal guidelines for area security and public safety (desirable)

Positive and approachable attitude

SIA badge in door supervision (desirable)

First aid qualification (desirable)

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Ability to work from own initiative and make quick decisions

Excellent surveillance and observation skills

Ability to work with a range of diverse people and support customers with any access requirements

Opportunity and Staff Benefits

Title: Visitor Experience Team Member

Reports to: Visitor Experience Supervisors

Salary: £12.97 per hour

Contract: 24 hours per week

30 days annual leave per year, including bank holidays, increasing annually up to a maximum of 3 extra days

Birthday leave

A defined contribution pension scheme or a People's Pension scheme

Employee Assistance Programme, including Medicash

Cycle to Work and Travel to Work schemes

Hybrid working practices and flexible working requests available from day one

Discounted gym membership schemes

Complimentary tickets and discounts on food and drink

Company sick pay after qualifying service

Application Process

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter expressing interest in the role and a CV demonstrating relevant experience online at:
www.storyhouse.com/jobs/

Applications should be submitted on or before Friday 6th June 2025 with interviews being from week commencing the 9th June. We will review applications and interview suitable applicants as they are received.

For an informal discussion about the role or support in the application process, please contact our Head of People, Emma Hutt at peopleteam@storyhouse.com.

No agencies please.



Faustus That Damned Woman, 2023,
Mark McNulty



GDPR

Personal Data Notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

STORYHOUSE