

CALLING BLACKPOOL'S YOUTH ACTIVISTS!

**ARE YOU
BOTHERED BY SOMETHING
UNFAIR IN SOCIETY?
WANT TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT?**



Do you want to do GCSE drama but you're not allowed? Do you want better Sex Education including LGBTQIA+ representation? Do you have ideas about how to tackle climate change? Have your say - you're in charge.



Acknowledgement - this brief has been co-produced with contributions from Boingboing, Aunty Social, The Grand Theatre and HeadStart Blackpool. This is a new project and on reading these briefs, if you have suggestions for how we can improve them and/or the project - we would love to hear from you!

WHY WE WANT TO RUN AN ACTIVIST IN RESIDENCE PROJECT



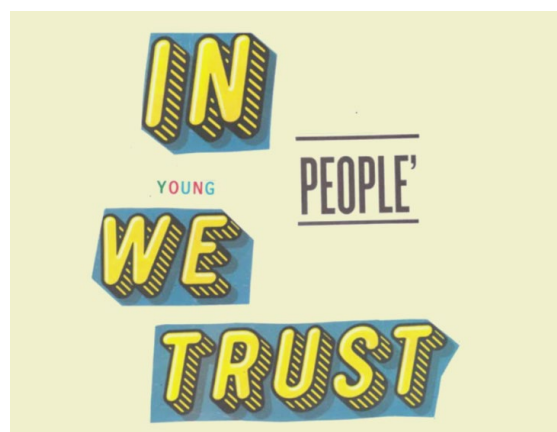
At Boingboing we research and practice resilience. Resilience is about overcoming difficulties, despite the odds being stacked against you. But we think resilience is more than that. It's about also changing the odds, so that the world we live in becomes a fairer place for everyone.

This is why we describe resilience as **beating the odds whilst also changing the odds**.

Often the odds are stacked against people due to the disadvantages they face, disadvantages that a lot of the time are the result of unfair systems in our society. This could be prejudice and discrimination due to poverty, having a disability, experiencing racism, being from our LGBTQ+ community or having experience of the criminal justice system (as just some examples). Changing these systems to make the world a fairer place is called social justice.

Boingboing and the Resilience Revolution is a community of people with a real mix of identities, many of us who have faced different forms of adversity throughout our lives - but what brings us together is our belief in the value of social justice and tackling inequality.

As part of the Resilience Revolution, we've been testing out different ways to bring this idea to life. We've learnt that activism has the power to build resilience and boost mental wellbeing, helping young activists to beat the odds. And by getting yourself heard, you can work to change the odds that are important to you.



WHAT'S A RESIDENCY?



A residency is a kind of partnership arrangement. For example, an art gallery might have a resident artist. This would mean that the artist partners with the gallery for a period of time, during which the gallery always showcases their work. In this example the art gallery is a 'host' organisation for the artist.

In the same way, an 'Activist in Residence' would partner with a host organisation to help develop and run their activist project. For example, an activist might be passionate about climate change, and work with a host transport company to campaign for greener transport options.

Here's a link to an animation about the project: <https://youtu.be/Efu0dGtqQiQ>



WHAT'S ON OFFER?



MATCHMAKING

All across Blackpool there are organisations who are proud to be part of the Resilience Revolution. We will work with you to find the right host for your project. This might be because they have the facilities, expertise, or audience that your project needs.



WILL I GET PAID?

Yes! Each residency includes a budget for your time, which we imagine will be up to £1000. We will work the detail of this out together and look at the time needed to undertake your residency using an hourly rate. Boingboing are registered with the Living Wage Foundation so we will use their figure of £9.50 per hour to calculate this.

You will be contracted by Boingboing to undertake your residency on a freelance basis. Don't worry if you haven't worked in this way before, we can support you set up.

There is another budget of up to £3000 to support each Activist in Residence project be a success. This might be for things like resources, travel, room hire, or paying a mentor. This budget will be held by Boingboing who will process and manage payments on behalf of the residency.

These amounts aren't set in stone. Maybe your project would need more of your time but not much in terms of resources. In this case we could have a conversation about how to best work out the funding.



WHO IS THIS FOR?

This is for anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Blackpool aged 16-24 who is bothered about something unfair in society, wants to do something about it, and is looking for support to make a change. You don't need any qualifications or experience in this sort of thing - just an idea and the drive to take action.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?



MENTORING

We will have regular check-ins throughout your project to make sure you're happy and that everything is on track. We'll offer advice and help find solutions for challenges you might encounter.



WHERE WILL I BE WORKING?

Blackpool, at least at first – but who knows where it might take you!?



PLANNING

Tell us about your hope for change and we will work with you to iron out any details you're unsure about. Not sure about what your project will cost? No problem - let's figure it out together. What's the plan, Stan?



HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? WHAT'S THE COMMITMENT?

A residency can last up to 4 months, but it could be shorter depending on how much time you have available each week. The amount of time you work on the project will be down to you and what you want to achieve, alongside what your host organisation is able to offer.



WHO WILL I BE WORKING WITH?

Your residency will be with a host organisation who will work with you on your project. Maybe you've got an idea to involve other young people in your project - if so, let's talk it through and see if we can make it work!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED:



The Activist in Residence scheme is something new we're co-producing. We are anticipating 2 residencies in this initial round and are hoping to get started with them at the end of October. To figure out who we will be able to work with, we'll need to consider a few things:

- How clearly your hope for change aligns with our aims of social justice and tackling inequality.
- How clearly you're able to tell us how your hope for change will have an impact.
- How realistic your hope for change is within the timeframe.
- How realistic your hope for change is within the budget.
- How well we can match you with a host organisation that can offer what your residency needs.
- What your motivation is.

So, if you're interested you need to pitch your Hope For Change to us. We have created a simple form (which you can find here: <https://www.boingboing.org.uk/activist-in-residence-project/>) which gives some ideas about the kinds of things we need you to tell us about. You can fill in the form if you like, or you could tell us some other way. For example, you could make a poster instead, or a recording (video or just audio, whatever suits you). Be as creative as you like, but make sure you cover the following points:

1. Tell us about your hope for change and how this would contribute to making the world a fairer place and tackle social injustice.
2. Tell us about what kind of support you might need from a host organisation (don't worry about identifying an organisation yet - we can do that together).
3. Tell us about what interests you about being an Activist in Residence.

Where to send your hope for change and who to contact if you have any questions:

Caroline:

Caroline@boingboing.org.uk
07904557484

OR

Henry:

Henry@boingboing.org.uk
07999467704



NEED SOME INSPIRATION?



Here are some example answers that might be included in an application:

1. The social injustice I want to tackle is the tax system, and how big multinational corporations are allowed to get away with paying so little tax, while at the same time people on benefits are scrutinised and made to feel like they're the cheats. I want to write a short play, and then travel to London to perform it outside the Houses of Parliament during the holidays when there will be as many people around to see it as possible. I want to attract as much attention as possible, force people to confront these issues, and maybe even get some coverage in papers or on TV.
2. I would need some support in writing the play and also in directing it. I have written a play before, and I have some good ideas for this one but I would like to work with someone to get it as good as possible. I would also need a space to practice the play and also a few young people to act in it.
3. I am interested in being an activist in residence because I have been on benefits before and have experienced prejudice in the media and in public attitudes. It makes me angry that so much fuss is made about so little money that goes on benefits when compared to the huge sums of money that big corporations make and get away with not paying in tax. A tiny amount of money makes a huge difference to someone living in poverty, but billionaires are allowed to accumulate more and more because they have the ear of politicians. It's just wrong.

Find out more about social justice, inequality, and some work we've been doing:

- [What is equality and social justice? BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Centre of Resilience for Social Justice](#)
- [Boingboing blog page](#)

Here are some links to other activist projects:

- [#YoungAndBlack campaign - UK Youth](#)
- [Examples of youth social action | YSA Toolkit \(careersandenterprise.co.uk\)](#)
- [Activism \(roundhouse.org.uk\)](#)

