

# COLLECTIVE



Lead Play Artist

Job Pack 2026

Collective are looking to hire a freelance Lead Play Artist to develop and deliver four exciting Play events, responding to our 2026 programme.

We have built a successful Play programme with both returning and new families taking part in fun and experimental artist-led Play workshops. The workshops encourage children to engage with Collective's contemporary exhibitions and historic site while giving them the freedom to enjoy making imaginative art with a wide range of materials.

We are looking for someone with:

- Some experience of running art workshops with children of primary school age
- A passion for creative play, and supporting children to access art from an early age

Collective strives to ensure that our opportunities are accessible to all. If you have any questions, please contact us at [recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art](mailto:recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art) and we will direct your question to the best person to answer it.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 23 March at 5pm.**

This job pack provides the following information to help you apply for the job:

- About Collective
- Collective's 2026 programme
- Job Description (overview, person specification)
- Access and How to Apply

## About Collective

- Who we are: Collective is a free contemporary art centre that commissions and presents new work by emerging and established artists.
- Where we are: Our galleries, library, retail and catering offer are housed in the restored City Observatory on Calton Hill, an iconic and storied site that combines remarkable architecture, green space, and panoramic views of the city.
- What we do: We run exhibitions, learning programmes, events, and engagement activities, supporting artists while welcoming a wide and diverse public.
- Our values: We believe in the public value of our work and in being bold, inclusive, collaborative and experimental.
- Our business model: Collective is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, which since 2018, has incorporated a wholly owned trading subsidiary, allowing us to run a 'mixed economy' model, balancing public funding, philanthropy and self-generated income, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organisation in delivering its mission. The Trading Company gifts 100% of its surplus to the charity.
- To read more about our Mission, Vision and Values and current and historic programmes please visit our [website](#).

## 2026 Programme

### [Paloma Proudfoot](#)

Working across sculpture and performance, Proudfoot reimagines histories and contemporary culture to examine the female body and voice. Proudfoot's engaging ceramic friezes combine historic references such as the 19th century French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot's use of hypnosis to examine 'hysteria' in women with current explorations into women's voices as technological 'puppets' such as Siri and Alexa.

### [Katie Paterson](#)

Katie Paterson's exhibition *Afterlife* brings together nearly 200 amulets in a sculptural installation. Amulets are miniature talismanic objects, typically carved in stone. Appearing across millennia and cultures, they are small enough to be held in the hand or worn, and are generally considered protective.

*Afterlife* reimagines this tradition. Working with museums around the world, Paterson has recreated amulets civilisations across the globe using materials sourced from endangered landscapes and fragile ecosystems, to serve as a bridge between past and present.

### [Collective Gala Day](#)

The Collective Gala invites audiences of all ages to experience Collective's unique site on Calton Hill and engage with our wide-ranging programmes. The event offers the opportunity to explore newly commissioned artworks, join behind-the-scenes tours, shop with local makers and enjoy creative play sessions for children.

### [Time + Space](#)

Time + Space is Collective's new open programme for early career artists in Scotland, and sits at the core of our mission and creative vision. The programme builds on the success of our previous programmes, Satellites (2014-2024) and New Work Scotland (2000-2013).

The inaugural 2026 Group Exhibition artists are: Huss Al-Chokhdar, Hetal Chudasama, Gianni Espora, Abi Lewis.

## Job Description

- Job Title: Lead Play Artist
- Fee: £4,320 (12 days work at £360 per day)
- Duration: Planning and delivery of four Play events in 2026  
Paloma Proudfoot, Play Sunday, **3 May**  
Katie Paterson, Play Saturday, **19 July**  
Collective Gala, Open Play drop in and procession, **5 September**  
Time and Space open call group show, Play Saturday, **10 October**
- Reports to: Programme Manager
- Working Hours: Freelance to deliver the above Play events. Pay includes 2 days preparation for each event.
- Location: Collective  
City Observatory & City Dome  
38 Calton Hill  
Edinburgh  
EH7 5AA
- To Apply: Please fill in the application form via Submittable, where you will need to upload a CV (written or audio), and answer two short questions. We are using Submittable to anonymise the first stage of shortlisting, seeking to minimise unconscious bias in the selection process. Please do not include your name on your CV and application answers to ensure the process is anonymised. Contact [recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art](mailto:recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art) if you require assistance with the application process.
- Closing Date: **Monday 23 March at 5pm**
- Interviews: **Week commencing 30 March**

## Overview

Our well-established Play programme creates accessible opportunities for families and primary school children to participate in creative workshops designed and led by artists, and exploring different themes relating to our exhibitions and historic site. Previous Play sessions have included casting spells with witches' bottles and imagining an alternative Edinburgh.

Over Collective's 2026 artistic programme, the Play artist will develop and deliver three Play workshops responding to our exhibitions and one drop-in session for our annual Gala. Each workshop will be supported by two Play Assistants.



## Person Specification

Knowledge, Skills, Experience

Essential:

- Interest in contemporary art and heritage learning
- Experience in running children's art workshops
- Interest in child-led approaches to play and loose parts play
- Imaginative approaches to delivering creative learning
- A commitment to access and inclusion

Desirable:

- Experience of managing a small team to run art workshops
- Expertise in areas such as gardening and /or outdoor education
- Experience of managing a materials budget
- Good written and verbal communication to write copy and explain workshop ideas

Personal Qualities and Attitude:

- Commitment to attend and lead each Play event
- Well organised with excellent timekeeping
- Confident and friendly approach to working with a wide range of people
- Good communication skills with the ability to work independently
- Comfortable working outdoors in all seasons

The selected artist will receive:

- £4320 artist fee
- Use of Collective's Play materials plus additional £500 materials budget
- Professional documentation of selected workshops
- A full Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) disclosure check
- Access to the PAM Wellbeing Employee Assistance Package: an independent service available to all employees at Collective offering free and confidential health and wellbeing support.

## **Access and How to Apply**

### **Access**

Collective strives to ensure that our opportunities are accessible to all and recognises that disabilities and restraints on an individual's capacity take many forms and are not always visible. As part of the application process, we invite applicants to complete or adapt the Access Document template available on our website.

### **Access Fund**

A small fund of up to £150 is available for individuals who need support in the completion of their written application. This fund could be used to support applicants who identify as having disabilities or caring responsibilities. Funds can be used toward costs such as additional support in the form of a scribe, proof-reader or assistant, childcare or support with care. Please get in touch to discuss your needs via [recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art](mailto:recruitment@collective-edinburgh.art) or 0131 556 1264.

### **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging**

Collective believes that a greater diversity of views, skills, and lived experience will help generate better ideas, and will lead to better working. We encourage a diverse range of backgrounds in our staff team, in particular, members with lived experience of socioeconomic disadvantage, or inequality relating to protected characteristics including:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

### **How to Apply**

Please fill in the application form via Submittable, where you will need to upload a CV (written or audio), and answer two short questions. The deadline for applications is 23 March 5pm.

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