**Background**

The Place Bedford are seeking a Design professional with experience of immersive design/set dressing/interior decoration to help support them with their Game Play Festival project.

Throughout one weekend, Game Play Festival takes over all of The Place Bedford and delivers a festival focusing on games and gaming culture. While some elements target different age ranges, the Festival is aimed at school-aged young people, their families and adults interested in the different facets of gaming.

**Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, Game Play Festival will be happening in Spring 2023 and 2024.**

**About the role**

We are looking to work with someone who will help decorate the public spaces where the festival takes place, so that Game Play makes a physical impact on our building. We want something that is different from the everyday layout of The Place, and something that is fun, youth-friendly & immersive - in line with the theme of the festival.

The Place Bedford is a multi-purpose, multi-arts centre and, as such, we have a number of spaces that are used for a variety of regular activities. During the festival these will, for the most part, be dedicated to one aspect or type of gameplay. So strong themes will be encouraged.

We anticipate that this role will be of interest to someone with a background in set dressing/creative design or someone who has experience designing for Immersive Theatre performances. Perhaps you’ve worked in theatre, television or film? Perhaps you have a design background or have worked in festival design before? Or maybe you’re an experienced Interior Designer and are looking at something a bit different to widen your portfolio?

**The Task**

The Place Bedford has 6 spaces across the venue that we’re looking to install temporary dressing. As well as the delivery fee, a budget is provided to help dress the venue.

We are looking for someone who can work with our team to discuss our current festival delivery ideas across our spaces, then develop a simple design concept for each space and lead on the purchasing and installation of those spaces in the lead up to the festival. It is not expected that the designer would be solely responsible for purchasing and installation elements, as the festival/venue team will also support this work, but they will be expected to oversee these elements and take responsibility for the final sign off.

The designer will also be expected to work closely with the Project Manager in order to ensure they are working with the budget provided.

We haven’t worked with a designer or set dresser before in this kind of capacity, so we are looking for someone who has a clear understanding of what the role entails, and who can take the lead on delivering it.

**Our ideas**

We’re keen on the 2023 installation to be reused for 2024 and future iterations of the festival. We also want to keep in line with our “green venue” guidelines, so ideally we would like to not send anything to landfill, and shop locally as much as possible.

The festival focuses largely on retro concepts such as old computer game consoles, tabletop games, pen & paper games etc., so we would like the design to reflect this in interesting ways, especially if it involves reusing/upcycling equipment and game components.

We would also love to temporarily replace our venue signage with Game Play relevant signs, in order to highlight how the festival is taking over the building.

**Other information**

Bedford Players Trust are keen to develop an ongoing relationship with a designer/set dresser to help with the delivery of similar projects in the future. We are especially keen to reach local creatives from these fields.

**APPLICATION IS BY CV, INTRODUCTORY COVER LETTER & ATTACHED PORTFOLIO**

**Please send applications to** **gameplay@theplacebedford.org.uk**

**The Deadline for applicants is 13th January 2023**

**If you have further questions please contact: Project Lead - Alex Levene (al@theplacebedford.org.uk)**

**Job Description**

**Festival DECORATOR & DRESSER:**

**The Set Decorator is responsible to the Project Manager (Alex Levene) for the co-ordination and realization of:**

* **Visual design and creative boards**
* **Oversee & lead on installation of dressing in all festival spaces;**
* **Oversee the ordering, construction and/or delivery of all festival space dressings, in coordination with with Festival delivery team;**
* **Creating a simple inventory of set dressings to help with purchasing and end of project stock take;**
* **Monitoring the dispersal of the assigned Set Decorating budget;**
* **Delegation of work for the efficient delivery of the project;**
* **Completion of decorated spaces, ready for general public access, prior to the beginning of the festival at 4pm on Friday 31st March 2022.**

**Total fee: £1000 flat fee (inc VAT)**

**Materials Budget (£800)**

This will cover ½ day initial meeting and site visit. 2 days planning & designs. 2 days purchasing and oversight, and 1 day installation on site.

**Start Date - 1st Feb 2023** (to allow time for pre-event design & discussions)

**Festival Set Up dates -** 29th and 30th of March 2023

**Festival Delivery -** 31st March to 2nd April 2023

Terms: Fee Payment in 2 parts, on receipt of an invoice, 1 part at start of the engagement, 1 part after the project delivery completion. Materials Budget paid in 2 steps after the Initial Project Meeting (where designer agrees to take responsibility for purchasing items)

N.B. A full Consultancy Agreement will be defined with the successful applicant - with specific terms and deliverables agreed between both parties.