**About Aspire**

*aspire* is a skills-driven professional development course designed for artists, curators and arts professionals, delivered by industry experts to further your career in contemporary visual arts. Join a community of creative professionals, foster new relationships with prospective project partners and acquire practical experience by curating a Communal Space exhibition at a reputable National Portfolio Organisation.

**Course Leader**

Ricardo Reverón Blanco

Ricardo Reverón Blanco is an author, curator and art writer. He is Curator & Programme Manager at Aspex Portsmouth and the co-founder of UnderExposed, a photography platform and collective dedicated to encouraging artistic collaboration. Ricardo has worked on a plethora of curatorial projects and publications, including Photoworks’ From Little Acorns - Festival in a Box, Johnny Pitts’ solo exhibition Home is not a Place at Graves Gallery, Light which was exhibited at Peckham 24 (2021)

**Course Facilitators**

Leo Burtin

Leo Burtin is a lecturer in Cultural Business and Management at the University for the Creative Arts. His pedagogical practice focuses on enabling creative people to develop business acumen, with a particular focus on developing skills in fundraising, financial management, organisational and creative development. He has 15 years of professional experience as a creative producer and artistic director, working across the visual arts, performance and community arts sectors. With a focus on talent and community development, his work within the field of creative careers and creative enterprise seeks to nurture strategic insight and proactive practical support to bolster artistic ambition.

Kirstie Banks

Kirstie Banks is Marketing and Communications Manager at Aspex Portsmouth. She started her career as a communications intern and her determination and inquisitiveness to grow professionally has seen her work her way up as a self-taught arts marketeer to her current position at Aspex, where she oversees the development and delivery of the organisation’s multifaceted marketing strategy. Kirstie is a passionate advocate for the development of a more inclusive and accessible visual arts sector.

**Aspire Timeline**

**1 August 2024**

Expressions of Interest Open

**14 August 2024**

Aspire available to purchase

Bursary Applications Open

**9 September 2024**

Bursary Applications Close

**16 September 2024**

Bursary Recipients Selected

**20 September 2024**

Payment Deadline\*

\*Paid places for aspire will close at midnight on 19th August

**Course Overview**

Please find the overview of the content covered in aspire. Aspire will be delivered in person in Aspex Portsmouth’s Communal Space on a monthly basis from 1-4 pm, culminating in the installation and opening of a Communal Space exhibition in March 2025.

**8 October**

**Fundraising for your Project with Leo Burtin**

Participants will look at the various approaches to fundraising, from individual giving to grant applications.

**Topics include:**

* Giving versus bidding
* Fundraising Events
* Arts Council Applications
* Individual giving
* Managing donor relationships

**12 November**

**Fundraising for your Project with Ricardo Reverón Blanco**

In this masterclass, you will cover a range of concepts that provide a broad understanding of project management and budgeting.

**Topics include:**

* Forecasting Budgets
* Event design and conceptualisation
* Risk management
* Tools for planning and managing events

**10 December**

**Curatorial Masterclass with Ricardo Reveron Blanco**

This masterclass will detail how to coordinate exhibitions and deliver it from developing a concept to the final interpretation panel.

**You will learn how to:**

* Conceptualise an Idea
* Gather the work necessary to exhibit
* Manage consent forms
* Install
* Write an interpretation panel

**7 January**

**Arts Facilitation Practice with Ricardo Reveron Blanco**

Learn strategies and techniques to encourage community participation in projects, events and activities.

**Topics include:**

* Building trust with the community
* Effective communication strategies
* Engagement tools and techniques
* Arts Facilitation as methodology
* Measuring and evaluating engagement
* Overcoming challenges
* Case studies and best practices

**11 February**

**Promoting you own Work with Kirstie Banks**

This workshop is designed to equip you with the tools needed to create and manage successful marketing campaigns and develop a distinct brand and visual identity.

**You will learn how to:**

* Develop and deliver a digital campaign
* Create a distinct brand/visual identity
* Audience development
* Understand and apply digital marketing trends
* Social media for artists/arts professionals
* Content creation and storytelling

**11 March**

**Curatorial Masterclass with Ricardo Reveron Blanco**

In the final curatorial masterclass gets hand on with the installation and realisation of a communal space exhibition.

**You will learn how to:**

* Conceptualise an Idea
* Gather the work necessary to exhibit
* Manage consent forms
* Install
* Write an interpretation panel

**Communal Space Exhibition Opens**

**Frequently asked questions**

**When does the course start?**

Course Starts : October 2024

Course Ends : March 2025

**How many places are there?**

Aspire has 15 places, with 3 spaces reserved for participants on a bursary.

Paid places will be given on a first come, first served basis

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**How do I sign up?**

To reserve your place in the 2024 course, please complete your booking by

**Friday 20 September**

**Where do I pay?**

The full course payment of **£360** can be made via ArtTickets (supported by Artfund). If paying the fee in one instalment is of difficulty for you, please contact [ricardo@aspex.org.uk](mailto:ricardo@aspex.org.uk)

**Can I get a bursary?**

Each year, we provide three Aspire bursaries to support emerging curators and artistic practitioners from underserved social and economic backgrounds. These bursaries cover the full cost of the course and are awarded through an application process aligned with the Social Mobility

Commission’s guidelines.

**We strongly encourage applications from individuals who may:**

* Have a disability
* Belong to the global majority
* Come from a lower-income background
* Possess protected characteristics that are underrepresented in the creative sector

Our goal is to create an inclusive environment that fosters diverse voices and perspectives within the arts.

**Find Out More**

Find out more about Aspex and our over 40 years of history by visiting our website or follow us on social media.

www.aspex.org.uk

@aspexportsmouth

**Have further questions?**

If you have any further questions regarding any part of the aspire course, please email [ricardo@aspex.org.uk](mailto:ricardo@aspex.org.uk).

**Visit Aspex**

The Vulcan Building

Gunwharf Quays

Portsmouth PO1 3BF