CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOTTERY FUNDED

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WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL CAVA COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION



APPLICATION PACK

Freelance Independent Chair: Rooted in Nuneaton & Bedworth CPP

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in becoming the Independent Chair of Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth. As one of twelve new Creative People and Places (CPP) projects funded by Arts Council England, Rooted marks a new chapter for Nuneaton and Bedworth, its people and place. Our shared mission is simple: to increase participation in arts and culture, especially among those least likely to take part, and to celebrate creativity as an essential part of everyday life.

What we are looking for

We are looking for an excellent individual who can fulfil the role of Independent Chair for our consortium as we embark on Phase 1 of our programme (2026-29).

We are looking for someone to lead/chair the consortium, a strong champion with a commitment to people, creativity and place. Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth are looking for someone who has previous experience of chairing strategic partnerships and extensive understanding of good governance. As a chair you will have experience of community, business, arts or non-profit settings and be an excellent communicator and facilitator.

The deadline for applications: 9am 30th November 2026
Interviews will be held on the 7th December 2026



ABOUT ROOTED IN NUNEATON & BEDWORTH

Creative People and Places (CPP) is an Arts Council England (ACE) initiative designed to increase participation in the arts in areas where people are least involved. Each programme is unique to its place, shaped by local people and partnerships, and focused on long-term, community-led change. At its heart, CPP champions cultural democracy: supporting communities to make, share and experience creativity on their own terms, so that art becomes a part of everyday life.

Rooted is one of twelve new CPP programmes. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough was eligible to apply for CPP funding in this round, and the Consortium came together to develop a compelling application that identified local need and established a strong framework which you will take forward.

The programme will receive £750,000 from ACE over three years, 2026-2029, with additional match-funding confirmed from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. It also benefits from in-kind support from across the Consortium, including resources, infrastructure, financial systems, and executive support by the Consortium Lead, Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA).



ABOUT NUNEATON & BEDWORTH

Nuneaton and Bedworth is a proud, post-industrial borough in north Warwickshire, located in the heart of the West Midlands with strong transport links to Coventry, Birmingham and Leicester. With a population of around 135,000, it is made up of the market towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth and the large village of Bulkington.

Historically shaped by coal mining, textiles and manufacturing, the area retains a strong working-class identity, deep community roots and a powerful sense of local pride. Famously the birthplace of creative giants like George Eliot and Ken Loach, it is known for its longstanding civic traditions and community spirit.

The borough is home to a predominantly White British population alongside growing and established communities, including residents with South Asian heritage and a significant Nepalese community. While many neighbourhoods demonstrate resilience and strong social networks, parts of the borough experience higher levels of socio-economic deprivation, with lower than average incomes and historically limited access to arts and cultural provision. The area presents both opportunity and responsibility: an area rich in stories, heritage and community energy, where creativity can strengthen belonging, amplify under-represented voices, and contribute meaningfully to local regeneration and wellbeing.



ABOUT THE ROLE

We are looking for someone to be a freelance **Independent Chair of the Consortium**. A strong champion with a commitment to people, creativity and place. Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth are looking for someone who has previous experience of chairing strategic partnerships and extensive understanding of good governance.

As Chair, you will lead quarterly consortium meetings and where agreed additional meetings, this role will provide support to the Programme Director.

You will be both our critical friend and advocate for the Rooted CPP in Nuneaton and Bedworth in its early stages of development in this new programme delivery.



ABOUT CAVA

Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) is hosting the Rooted programme. CAVA is the local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector infrastructure organisation for Warwickshire and Solihull, providing vital support to the volunteers, groups, organisations, social enterprises and charities who are working to strengthen all our communities.

Every year our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers help lever in significant investment into the area. In 2024/25 the collective value of funding secured for the VCFSE sector was nearly £6m, and the economic value volunteering opportunities we brokered was just under £5m. We are committed to providing all our services locally and accessibly, whether a group or individual need support accessing volunteering opportunities, developing a community group, accessing funding or strengthening governance, we have a local office and dedicated team within easy access.

CAVA is charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, no. 06531268. Registered charity number 1123402.

THE CONSORTIUM

You'll work with the Consortium, who each bring experience, insight and commitment to Nuneaton and Bedworth's communities.

- Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) – lead organisation and accountable body.
- Warwickshire County Council, Libraries NPO – the only library service in the West Midlands to have NPO status, and are funded by ACE to develop a bold, innovative, and dynamic offer that promotes libraries as places for communities to experience, access and co-create art, culture and heritage.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – have adopted an Arts and Cultural Strategy for 2023-28, which echoes our CPP aspirations to raise civic pride and enhance cultural engagement opportunities. Also, a recently funded ACE 'Priority Place', bringing experience in monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Nuneaton Arts CIO – an established trustee-led organisation, committed to supporting community-led activity, and responsible for 'The Abbey', Nuneaton's only dedicated theatre space.
- Nuneaton Muslim Women's Group – As a grassroots community organisation, their role focuses on ensuring that community voice is heard, with an ability to show support for community-led activity and that residents remain a key part of decision-making.

Shared Responsibilities of the Consortium:

- To ensure that the agreed programme is delivered within budget and in accordance with the aims and core principles in the Business Plan.
- To model and advocate for effective collaboration and partnership in the development, administration and management of cultural activities, and in their cultural practice within the borough.
- To advocate and be in support of the programme delivery

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Post Title	Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth - Independent Chair
Responsible To	Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth Programme Director and The Consortium
Days	Approx 10-12 days across each year (incl meetings, events and preparatory / debrief work). This includes 4 x 2-hour consortium meetings and a full-day planning meeting per year. Meetings are held in person and online.
Location	Online or In person meeting (these will take place in Nuneaton and Bedworth)
Duration	Fixed Term to 15th May 2029
Fee:	A renumeration of £300 day rate, together with reimbursement of reasonable travel and subsistence expenses. The annual amount recognises the time commitment associated with providing independent leadership and oversight to the programme partnership.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Key responsibilities of the role of Chair:

- The Freelance Chair will act as an advocate for Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth within the community and the wider arts and cultural sectors.
- To help build relationships with key stakeholders, including Arts Council England, funders, artists and community groups.
- Act as representative for the Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth programme at public events, community meetings, and networking opportunities.
- Chair the quarterly meetings and away days.
- Provide clear leadership to the Consortium, working with the Programme Director to ensure effective governance and strategic direction.
- Support the development and monitoring of the programme's Business Plan and performance targets.
- Work collaboratively with Rooted in Nuneaton and Bedworth's Programme Director to ensure strong oversight.
- Ensure the Consortium operates effectively, demonstrating a breadth of skills and community representation.
- Enable and oversee the process of decision-making, conflict resolution and actual or perceived conflicts of interest as they arise (we have developed a conflict of interest policy).
- Work with the Consortium to support the recruitment of new members
- Have a good financial oversight and accountability for the programme.
- Provide support and guidance to the Programme Director, acting as a critical friend.
- Monitor risk management processes and ensure appropriate mitigations are in place.
- Be a point of contact for Arts Council England on behlaf on the consortium.

PERSON SPECIFCATION

Essential qualities:

- Strong understanding of governance and strategic planning.
- An experienced facilitator able to guide productive meetings, and support the consortium and leadership team in taking balanced and objective decisions
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Ability to act with integrity, diplomacy, and impartiality.
- Highly organised and able to make effective use of Consortium time with ability to ensure appropriate follow-up to Consortium decisions.
- Able to maintain an independent perspective with no conflicts of interest.
- A good facilitator to draw together different perspectives and develop clear actions.
- Experience of being a trustee, board or a committee member.

Desirable qualities:

- Proven leadership experience in community, arts, or non-profit settings
- Experience of chairing a board / committee.
- Strong understanding of Nuneaton and Bedworth and its communities.
- An understanding of the potential impact of creative engagement for communities.

Duration: Minimum 3 years (15th May 2029)



HOW TO APPLY

CAVA is an equal opportunities employer – 'Putting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into Practice'. We value diversity in our workforce and positively encourage applicants from all sections of the community.

Please send your CV and a covering letter (of no more than 2 sides of A4 or 4 min video / audio file) demonstrating your skills and interest in this role.

If you would like an informal chat about the role, please email our Programme Director to arrange a call lou.lomas@wcava.org.uk.

All applications must be sent to: recruitment@wcava.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 30th November 2026 by 10am
Interviews will be held on the 7th December 2026

We recognise that some communities are under-represented within the cultural sector and within our own organisation.

- Working class background
- Global Majority (including people who identify as Black, Asian, mixed heritage or from other racially minoritised backgrounds)
- Disabled (including D/deaf, neurodivergent and people with long-term health conditions)



PHOTO CREDITS

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