

# EMMA COOKSON

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New York, NY

## PROFILE

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Arts & culture professional with demonstrable experience developing & leading cultural programmes & services to improve access & engagement and support placemaking, health & wellbeing and capacity building within local communities.

## KEY SKILLS

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- Leading creative teams
- Strategic planning, organization development & change management
- High quality public arts programming & commissioning
- Audience & artist development
- Partnership & consortium working & stakeholder management
- Fundraising: grant applications & bid writing
- Financial management
- Highly efficient and organized

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Freelance Arts & Culture Specialist

March 2020 – present

Arts & culture consultancy services.

I worked with a range of stakeholders & partners to programme 46 author events for the [2020 Richmond Lit Fest](#).

Currently developing a new ten-year Cultural Strategy for the LB of Richmond upon Thames.

### London Borough Richmond upon Thames

#### Arts Service Manager

June 2019 – Feb 2020

Responsible for the strategic direction & management of a dynamic outer London borough arts service with 3 public gallery spaces, a varied programme of arts engagement & participation activity, 18 FTE staff members & a £600k annual budget.

Achievements include leading a service re-design & staffing restructure & building relationships with key stakeholders & partners, including leadership & governance of the [West London Museums Group](#); Richmond's Arts Advisory forum & advising Councillors & senior management.

#### Arts Festivals Manager

Oct 2012 – June 2019

Developed and delivered a portfolio of high-quality arts programmes with a focus on diversifying & developing artists & audiences to improve access & engagement. [Arts Professional article](#)

Achievements include leadership of the popular [Richmond Lit Fest](#); co-developing & managing the £1.2 million Consortium led [The Streets / Discover Your High Street](#) programme & securing & managing income from major UK funding bodies including Arts Council England & National Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### Arts Events & Development Assistant

Jan 2012 – Oct 2012

Supporting the development, programming, marketing and delivery of a diverse range of arts programmes for the borough, including dance, outdoor arts & music events.

## **British Council**

### **Edinburgh Showcase Project Manager**

**Feb 2011 – Jan 2012**

Managing the British Council's prestigious showcase of UK theatre and dance (2011).

Responsibilities include coordinating 250+ international delegates and over 50 UK artists and companies, maintaining relationships with key stakeholders and external partners and organizing logistics.

### **Drama & Dance Project Assistant**

**March 2008 – Feb 2011**

Management and administration of performing arts projects & international theatre & dance tours, with colleagues in North America & Canada; Australia & New Zealand; South East Europe and East Asia in line with the British Council's cultural programme. Responsibilities include handling partnerships & sponsorship arrangements, liaising with regional partners, promoters and global colleagues & developing and sustaining relationships with the British performing arts constituency.

## **EDUCATION**

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**ILM Diploma (Level 5) for Leaders & Managers: Distinction**

2018 –2020

**BA First Class (Hons) Drama with English, Loughborough University**

2003 – 2006

## **RELEVANT TRAINING & CPD**

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Hiring Diverse Teams ▪ Association of Cultural Enterprise Institute

Aug 2020

Finance for Arts Leaders ▪ Clore Leadership

July 2020

What is Governance ▪ Clore Leadership

July 2020

Coaching & Mentoring ▪ Association of Cultural Enterprise Institute

May 2020

Creative Strategic Planning ▪ London Museum Development

Nov 2019

Audience Development ▪ West London Museums Group

Sep 2019

Level 1 Safeguarding Children ▪ LB Richmond upon Thames

Oct 2018

Managing Difficult Conversations ▪ LB Richmond upon Thames

Sep 2018