**Mr. Nijah Paul-Henry**

Leicester | 07531175604 | nijahpaulhenry@gmail.com

Fundraising & Communications Strategist with over five years of experience in the VCSE sector and over a decade in digital marketing and communications, securing over £500,000 in funding through strategic grant applications. Known for building strong funder relationships, crafting compelling cases for support, and aligning organisational goals with funding opportunities.

CAREER HISTORY

**Local Grantmaking** October 2024 – Present

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation/Temporary

While exploring my next opportunity in Fundraising and Communications, I have supported a local grant-giving organisation with their Grant Management Systems' digital transformation and contributed to grant administration, application assessments, and enhanced communications strategies.

**Head of Fundraising & Communications** April 2024 – September 2024

Mobiloo CIC, Remote/Fixed Term Contract

* Lead fundraising and communications efforts, reporting to the Founding Director and Director of Innovation & Production, shaping strategies to support Mobiloo’s mission and create a lasting impact.
* Developed strategies to secure investment over the next year from angel investors, corporate partnerships, and other sources to ensure the continuity and expansion of services.
* Collaborated closely with team members and managed the Community Manager & Social Media Executive to support our mission as part of the newly revamped communications strategy.

**Digital Communications / Funding Officer** December 2022 – April 2024

The National Lottery Community Fund, Birmingham

* Assessed and managed grants within the Awards for All programme, contributing to the annual allocation of approximately £100m across over 10,000 grants to community groups.
* Enhanced the CEO’s social media presence through content development, photography, and videography at project visits while creating strategic communications across channels to highlight the impact of funded community projects.
* Served as a regional lead for the Phoenix Way Programme, a participatory grant-making initiative with a £50m ringfenced fund for racially minoritised groups, conducting stakeholder interactions and mapping exercises with regional funding officers.
* Led the Windrush 75 campaign by developing equitable practices, culturally tailored messaging, and sensitive language guidance, awarding over 100 grants totalling nearly £1 million.
* Led the Ethical AI and XR Working Group at senior management's request to assess AI's impact on the organisation and the charitable sector, focusing on ethical AI, driving strategic transformation, and earning the Extra Mile Award for exceptional contributions.

**Freelance VCSE Fundraising & Communications Consultant** January 2019 – Present

Various Organisations, Primarily Leicester

* Secured over £500,000 in funding for nonprofit organisations by researching grants, writing compelling applications, advising on fundraising strategies, and enhancing financial sustainability through budgeting and revenue diversification.
* Built and maintained relationships with trusts and foundations, ensuring alignment with organisational goals through engagement with funding officers and strategic planning.
* Leveraged expertise in strategic digital communications for Voluntary Action LeicesterShire’s £4 million employability project, including strategy development, graphic design, and impactful marketing workshops.
* Provided workshops and consultations to racial minority-led organisations during and after COVID-19, including developing strategic marketing plans with audits, campaigns, and training and leading brand development initiatives to create impactful strategies and drive digital transformation.

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**A longstanding commitment to EDI:**

* Expert People’s Panel Member for Health Innovation East Midlands from 2024 to Present: I review Equality Analysis documents, contribute to panel discussions, and advocate for equitable health initiatives.
* Chair of the REACH (Race, Ethnicity And Cultural Heritage) Staff Network at The National Lottery Community Fund from 2023 to 2024: I championed workplace equality for over 100 racially and ethnically minoritised colleagues, served on the EDI Colleague Forum, and delivered cultural awareness sessions during Black History Month to more than 200 colleagues.

**Media & Marketing:**

* Owner and Operator of a Professional Photography and Videography business from 2012 to 2022: I specialised in corporate, wedding, and event photography, building a reputation for delivering trusted, high-quality services to diverse clients across industries.
* Freelance Marketing Specialist at various creative advertising agencies in London from 2012 to 2019: I managed high-profile brands such as Channel 4 and John Lewis, delivering impactful paid and organic digital marketing campaigns designed to generate leads and drive engagement.

**EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) - Creative Advertising (2:1) at *Buckinghamshire New University*

**SVI** Level 1 Social Value Associate 2024

* Member of the International Association for Community Development
* Individual Member of Chartered Institute of Fundraising