

# **SQUIGGLY CAREERS: YOUR NEXT CHAPTER**

Presented by  
**Natalie Chan**



7 years experience in Fundraising from 2018-2023, started off as a Box Office/Front of House Assistant. Being let go by one employer during COVID, led me to use own initiative, apply for emergency funds.

Since 2020, alongside my main employment, I've always been applying funding to do projects on the side, at the time it was probably a combination of insecurity and determination to have diverse portfolio.

This also taught me to invest in myself, did Certificate of Fundraising with CIOF in 2021 with bursary from Arts Council England

- Winner of Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy's Giving Tuesday Competition
- Won Fringe First with my show 'This Is Not A Show About Hong Kong' at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022
- Raised investment and became Associate Producer for Best of Enemies, West End



Stepped into a Chief Executive role for a small charity championing East and Southeast Asian artists, Kakilang, in 2023 (when I was 27). Very eager to get going, but didn't know how to ask for support, and didn't make time to fully understand the board/CEO relationships. The role didn't work out after 9 months for me, and it was very tough, but I stayed on as a freelance project manager to finish two projects that I had initiated and fundraised for.

This is what I put in my CV: I evolved my accountability with the core team with a respectful, graceful, supportive approach, provided reassurance and stewardship to the project freelancers, partners and stakeholders through company changes. This evidences my exceptional producing and people skills, dynamic leadership beyond job-title, and high level of resilience and professionalism under complex circumstances.



Took on the Executive Director role for a small, grassroots arts and community venue, Streatham Space Project in April 2024. (3-4 days a week, with 1-2 days a week as a freelance project manager finishing things off for Kakilang).

Faced with an uncertain fundraising landscape, leadership meant emergency fundraising, accurate financial forecasts, responsible decision-making, looking after staff and stakeholders during programme wind down and eventual closure.



# Tips for job searching when you are feeling vulnerable

**1**

When at networking events, ask people open questions with curiosity (.e.g. What have you learned from that? instead of 'It must be very busy?') and really listen.

**2**

If possible, at networking events, make sure there's 1 or 2 trusted people who have your back, know how you are feeling. Or give yourself a time-limit, arrive late or leave early and don't be afraid to leave a conversation if it's triggering.

**3**

Practice humiliation for when asked at interview about why previous jobs ended the way they did. Focus on what you learned, did, what would you keep or do differently.



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**4**

**Ask previous employer for reference letter (if short stint/redundancy), and send it along with applications.**

**5**

**If I had time on my hands, I never felt 'too proud' or 'I am above it' to attend a training course (usually the job centre will have some on offer if you're on Universal Credit) or to speak to anyone. Those spaces were the perfect training ground for me to practice telling my story 'what do I do' or 'why am I here' - and that practice has translated well in job-interviews**

**6**

**Own your story and be really proud of your achievements, your courage. Know that it's not your fault and you're awesome, and know that all of the above are strategies to get you to the other side**