

PROJECT MANAGER: COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2021

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OUTLINE OF BRIEF

To manage the successful delivery of five artist commissions which form the key component of Newhampton Arts Centre's Community Mapping Project.

CONTEXT

Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) is a community arts centre based in Whitmore Reans, a hyper-diverse area of considerable social deprivation on the edge of Wolverhampton city centre. NAC's programme has always embraced a mixture of the creative and community-focused. Amongst the 21 resident organisations onsite is a radio station, two recording studios, a group of visual artists but also adult day care. Regular classes weekly include dance, youth theatre and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Like all cultural organisations in the UK NAC was forced to shut its doors during the successive lockdowns in 2020-1. It is now in a phase of post-COVID recovery and is seeking to take this opportunity to redefine the role that it can play in improving the lives of the citizens of Whitmore Reans and Wolverhampton. We are sure that there is more that NAC could and should be doing. Rather than taking a decision ourselves we would like to find out more about what is needed by co-creating work with our local communities.

As an arts centre we want artists to lead this process of discovery and display, through the commissioning of 5 artists to work with groups in Whitmore Reans and through a process of discussion and co-creation make maps of communities, networks, activities and needs.

The project concludes with a public exhibition and 'town hall' event drawing the stakeholders together to debate and ultimately make recommendations to NAC as to what additional role(s) are most needed.





KEY DELIVERABLES IN THE ROLE

- Draw up the briefs for the 5 artist commissions and publicise them widely to ensure a high-quality field of applicants.
- Select five artists to fulfil the commissions with the CEO and Community Arts Development Officer.
- Match the five artists with five different community groups or networks based in Whitmore Reans
- Identify from each group a 'community ambassador' who could work alongside the artist to ensure that their commission is delivered in an appropriate, useful and sensitive way for the context.
- Support with the Community Arts Development Officer the community ambassadors.
- Support the artists to work with their chosen groups and co-create community maps. This support could include timetabling, sourcing appropriate venues, organising materials for sessions, and working on a specialist fabricating needed by the artists.
- Organise the final public exhibition, which will be held at NAC, and the 'town hall' event.
- Maintain all project records including monitoring and evaluation as required by NAC and by the key funding partner Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

An individual, team or organisation with experience of:

- Producing – working with artists from initial conception to finished work.
- Budgeting and Scheduling – ensuring that all involved adhere to agreed schedules and budgets.
- Community Engagement – ensuring that approaches taken to engage with groups and networks are appropriately communicated, accessible and relevant to these groups
- Event and exhibition organisation



TIMETABLE

The detailed timetable will be developed with the successful applicant but our outline is:

Early December: Appointment of Project Manager

December/early January 2021-2: Confirmation of artist commissions brief and timescales

January-February 2022: Advertisement of commissions and recruitment of artists.

March 2022-September 2022: Delivery of commissions through participative work with 5 community groups/networks.

October 2022 – 'Town Hall Event' and final reporting to NAC and stakeholders on a future role for NAC

FEE

For project management services NAC will pay a fee of £8000.00 (excl. VAT) representing approximately 1 day per week for 10 months. This is inclusive of all travel and accommodation costs for the Programme Manager.

The final project budget will be agreed with the Programme Manager but there is a budget of £25,000 for the 5 artist commissions.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS TENDER:

Please send your response which should form no more than 10 pages of A4. Your response should include:

- How you would create 5 varied artist commissions to produce a range of community maps.
- Your experience of producing and ensuring that artists are supported to create the highest quality work in the context they worked in.
- Your experience of co-creation and community-led artist work.
- Your experience of working as part of a team.

The closing date for tender responses is Friday 10 December at 5:00pm

Interviews will be (either live or via Zoom) on Thursday 16 December, please keep this date free.

If you would like an informal discussion about NAC, the Community Mapping project or the tender please email Trevelyan Wright, CEO on trevelyan@newhamptonarts.co.uk

APPENDIX: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY COMMUNITY MAPPING

As a community engagement process community mapping is about producing maps of a neighbourhood that involve residents, and which may feature assets typically missed by top-down mapping processes such as the Indices of Multiple Deprivation or Public Health surveys of neighbourhoods. These may feature deficits and needs, whereas community maps may draw together individual, community or institutional assets within a neighbourhood.

Map-making can be an artistic process and many artists have drawn on mapping imagery and used the idea of the map to convey ideas. Simon Patterson's *The Great Bear* (1992) takes the classic iconography of the London Underground Map and replaces the station and line names with categories of famous people, such as Engineers, Philosophers and Footballers.

Grayson Perry's *Map of an Englishman* (2004) draws on seventeenth-century cartography and also early medical diagrams to create a mental map of an imagined Englishman's state of mind.

Maps are a way of ordering and presenting information and the commissions do not have to look like a conventional cartographic representation of Whitmore Reans. They could use any media and could be designed to be listened to, walked around or touched as well as seen.

Artists that have experience of making their work from the collaborations where community are central will be key to the success of this project. The maps will be created in community engagement sessions and the coming together of all participants. The final form will be something/someone who is not engaged in the process can regard as artistic, creative and legible in terms of that collective map.

We want to generate new narratives and knowledge about Whitmore Reans – and in the process discover where the gaps and needs are that a future role for NAC might tackle.



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