

COMMUNITY MAPPING EVALUATION

July 2022

NAC, Dunkley Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 4AN

T: 07967 187822 / 01902 427033

E: jenny@curiosityproductions.co.uk

Whitmore Reans Re-mapped Evaluation Brief – Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Brief Outline

Newhampton Arts Centre is seeking to commission a consultant to carry out evaluation of a creative community mapping project - Whitmore Reans Re-mapped.

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 creative and community-focused activity. Amongst the 21 resident organisations onsite is a radio station, two recording studios, a group of visual artists and 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 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 community sharing event drawing the stakeholders together to debate and ultimately make recommendations to NAC as to what additional role(s) are most needed. Curiosity Productions are managing this project on behalf of NAC. This project has been funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Creative 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 will not necessarily look like a conventional cartographic representation of Whitmore Reans. They will use a variety of media and could be designed to be listened to, walked around or touched as well as seen. The maps will be created in community engagement sessions and the coming together of all participants. The final form will be something that 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.

The Evaluation Brief

We are looking for an evaluation process that will enable us to understand how the work undertaken has enabled us to progress towards the project's key outcomes.

NAC set the following outcomes for the community mapping project:

- 1) A network of local residents created that are actively involved in shaping the future programme of NAC and its community engagement activity.
- 2) Develop new ways that communities come together and improve the quality of where they live.
- 3) To have defined an additional and ambitious role NAC can play in the communities it serves as part of the city's wider recovery.

There are progress indicators under the each of these outcomes which are quantitative but these key outcomes are descriptive (what happened during the project that might lead to these outcomes) and qualitative:

•What did the participants and artists involved value about these activities?

•What did they learn through taking part in these activities, particularly about how communities can express thoughts, needs and wishes in terms of improving the quality of where they live?

We imagine that data will be gathered primarily through participant/artist interviews, together with observation of sessions, particularly the final community sharing event. Baseline pre-project and post-project surveying would be very useful. We would be interested in a broader facilitated discussion with project participants, NAC users, and local residents attending the community sharing event.

From this evaluation process we imagine that there will be findings and recommendations, both about the process of engaging with local communities through artists, about how NAC can build on the project's outcomes to define a new and ambitious role in its local communities, and about how it can co-produce work to fulfil this role with the communities who could benefit from it.

Time frame

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| 11 th July 5pm | Application deadline |
| W/C 18 th July | Shortlisted applicants' interviews |
| July – October | Project delivery |
| 24 th – 30 th October | Final exhibition |
| 28 th October | Community sharing event |
| Mid November | First draft of evaluation report delivered. |
| Mid December | Final evaluation report signed off. |

Fees

£4000 to include VAT, materials and expenses.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please send your CV and a short cover letter outlining your approach to the evaluation of this project. Please state:

- ▶ Why you would like to work on this project with us
- ▶ Information about your previous evaluation experience (this could include links to previous work etc)
- ▶ What approach you will take to this commission
- ▶ What experience you have of working with community engaged projects, ideally with a co-creation approach
- ▶ Let us know if you have a DBS registered on the update service

Deadline to apply: 5pm Monday 11th July 2022

Please send your application to: hello@curiosityproductions.co.uk

Further information: If you have any enquiries about applying for this project, please contact Jenny Smith on jenny@curiosityproductions.co.uk

or call 07967 187822 / 01902 427033

Further Information About The Project

Groups and Project Partners

We are working with five groups who are connected to Whitmore Reans, as residents and/or through local partner organisations. The five groups are:

The Good Shepherd

The artist will work with a group of service users from the Good Shepherd, who provide a regular food service in the city and, more recently, have expanded the support they offer to include a day centre, meaningful activity programme, Housing First service and private sector supported lettings scheme. They also host a multi-agency hub bringing together a wide range of agencies including health, education, training, and support services.

This year is the organisations' 50th Anniversary and they are interested in exploring film as a potential artform for this project and linking it to their 50th anniversary celebrations.

Gatis Community Space (Acts of Random Caring CIC)

The artist will work with local people of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in celebrating the skills and talents of people living in Whitmore Reans.

Acts of Random Caring CIC better known as ARCCIC (formerly Gatis Gardeners) was established in December 2013, to support the local community by creating a hub on a well known and loved site. A site known as Gatis Community Space that is open to and welcomes all.

They are particularly interested in 'lighting up' Whitmore Reans, exploring light and digital technology, and connecting this project to their lantern parade planned for October half term.

African Caribbean Community Initiative (ACCI)

The artist will work with service members at ACCI. The African Caribbean Community Initiative (ACCI) aims to provide a culturally safe service that will meet the needs of the African and Caribbean community and their families affected by mental ill health. They strive to develop a better quality of life for their service members through; the Wellbeing Hub Day Centre, Outreach Support, Supported Housing, Housing Advice and Counselling & Therapeutic Services.

Refugee & Migrant Centre (RMC) and Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary

The artist will work with refugees and migrants who have settled or been temporarily housed in Whitmore Reans, where there is a large amount of temporary accommodation. The majority of participants will have English as a second language.

The Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) provides free casework, advice and guidance on immigration, housing/homelessness/destitution, welfare, education and health. Alongside this, RMC also provide English classes, dedicated support with citizenship and employment and run Afghan and Syrian Resettlement Schemes.

Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary is led by a group of volunteers committed to ensuring Wolverhampton is a place of welcome and safety. They run a weekly drop-in centre, occasional community events and activities, and support Schools of Sanctuary.

Families group

The artist will work with a group of families with children mainly under the age of 11, many of whom have accessed the Holiday Activities & Food programme at Newhampton Arts Centre during school holidays. Many of the families have English as a second language and some of them are recent migrants finding their feet in the community.

The Artists

GeoTone

GeoTone will be working with Gatis Community Space (Acts of Random Caring CIC). GeoTone is an arts and technology social enterprise for creating and sharing innovative audio experiences with people who are disadvantaged, disabled, elderly, or live in remote locations.

Kupid Val-Essoné

Kupid will be working with African Caribbean Community Initiative. Kupid is a Senior Coach, SE Mentor, Author, Childcare Practitioner, TEDx Speaker, Recording & Performing Artist, Events Organiser, Spoken Word artist, Father, Plant Enthusiast and so much more.

Tess Radcliffe

Tess will be working with The Good Shepherd and the families group at NAC. Tess is digital artist based in Walsall in the Black Country, working with film, moving image, audio, and photography. Her work explores landscapes in their broadest form, and with an emphasis on local and overlooked areas. She is particularly interested in places and spaces where nature/wildlife intersects and interacts with local suburban, urban, and industrial spaces, and places.

Vimal Korpai

Vimal will be working with Refugee & Migrant Centre and Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary. Vimal is a creative whose work has included film, theatre, education, health, wellbeing and storytelling. Vimal has recently been developing and creating walking tours with a difference. His tours visit areas which are perceived as socially economically deprived, but from the tours you soon find out how rich they are with history and local people's stories, giving you the opportunity to visit spaces you would not normally visit.



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