

Invitation to Tender: Creative Civic Change

We are seeking a skilled, innovative and experienced individual, organisation or partnership to develop and take a lead on the evaluation of the Creative Civic Change programme. The budget for this evaluation is up to £150,000 and the deadline for applications is 12 midnight on the 5th April.

About Creative Civic Change

Creative Civic Change is a partnership between Local Trust, the National Lottery Community Fund, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. It supports sixteen communities across England to use the power of the arts and creativity to create meaningful civic change in their areas. Residents are in the lead every step of the way. Whatever the local priorities, the programme will help communities use creative methods to achieve them. Over the next three years the programme will provide each community with funding of between £50,000 and £200,000 in addition to a substantial programme of support, including networking, mentoring, peer-to-peer support and skills development.



The programme partners - Local Trust, the National Lottery Community Fund, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - share the belief that the arts and

creativity can be harnessed to engage, inspire and mobilise communities. Together they want to showcase the difference that can be made when communities are in the lead of creative processes.

Strategic Aims

At the heart of this programme is a shared desire to create a deeper knowledge and understanding of what community-led cultural activity looks like in action.

The programme wants to achieve three main things:

1. Improvements for the communities involved.

Creative Civic Change aims to support communities to achieve the goals they set for their local area. These goals are many and varied but include; improving public space, creating community hubs, reducing loneliness and isolation, and many more.

Through the three years of activity we hope that each area will build stronger and more resilient communities that can continue this work for years to come. Success would see each of the sixteen communities;

- Increase in confidence and capability to take the lead;
- Build strong local and national networks;
- Engage with arts and creativity to social ends;
- Create sustainable working groups;
- Engage with a wider section of their community than previously.

2. Benefits for Artists and Arts Organisations

Created partly in response to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's *Inquiry into the Civic Role of the Arts*, Creative Civic Change aims to explore the civic role of the arts, artists and arts organisations. The programme partners are interested in the dynamic between artists and arts organisations and communities when communities take the lead. We hope this programme will challenge top-down modes of engagement and push artists and arts organisations to work in a new way with communities in which power is shared and respective expertise is highly valued.

Artists and arts organisations will be involved at every level of the programme, both within the communities themselves, and as part of the national support programme.

Success would be;

- Individual artists working with communities in a more equal way.
- Communities feeling more confident to commission artists, and to take the lead when they do.
- National and regional arts organisations being more open to work with communities on communities' own terms.

3. Influence

The programme funders hope that this programme will have a significant influence on arts funders, community funders, the arts sector, and policy makers, encouraging them to take a less top-down approach to community arts projects.

There is also an ambition to influence other place-based funding programmes and programmes focused on supporting and building the capacity of communities (including the Big Local programme) developing learning in order to collectively demonstrate that resident-led creativity should be at the heart of any strategy to make communities thrive.

Success in influencing would mean;

- More arts-based funders willing to invest in socially-oriented projects
- More general funders willing to invest in arts-based projects
- A community-led or resident-led approach given prominence in future arts policy.
- Creativity acknowledged in future community policy.

Evaluation Objectives

Creative Civic Change partners wish to appoint an evaluator/evaluation team that will help us achieve these strategic aims. The successful candidate will be required to;

- work alongside each of the 16 communities awarded funding to shape the evaluation process and support them in identifying and capturing the social, economic or environmental change they wish to bring about;

- enable Creative Civic Change partners to recognise and understand the particular characteristics and challenges of a creative programme that puts communities in the lead and capture any emerging differences in delivery, achievements and potential sustainability;
- tell the story of Creative Civic Change as a whole, drawing together lessons from each of the 16 communities and providing the quantitative and qualitative data that will allow us to influence arts policy and funding practice.

As this is a three-year pilot programme, we expect the evaluation process will be predominately developmental, iterative and formative, with learning constantly feeding back into the programme. Innovative methodologies and approaches will be welcomed.

With this in mind, evaluation work has been divided into three strands.

Supportive

- To create a series of workshops and other skills development opportunities for the communities; enabling them to engage in shaping and informing their own evaluation processes and developing their skills and competences in this field.
- To support communities to develop their reflective practice; finding creative and imaginative ways to enable them to capture the stories and learning emerging from their participation in the programme and feed this back into their process and activities.
- To establish a framework which will enable the effective collection of data from communities locally to feed into the central evaluation.

Identifying Learning

- To identify key learning that is emerging, especially around what people are doing, or could do differently and create (5 or 6) regular, accessible and meaningful reports that will enable communities and partners to identify and understand any key themes and shared challenges.
- To identify any possible improvements to the support package provided through the programme, and make appropriate recommendations to ensure it remains responsive to the needs of the communities.

- To develop and deliver innovative methods of capturing and sharing the stories and learning emerging from the 16 communities. Including case studies, engaging reports and resources that can be shared with arts and non-arts funders interested in working with communities to take the lead

Evaluative and Comparative

- To design and implement an evaluation framework for the three years of the Creative Civic Change Programme that captures the progress and development of each of the 16 participating communities against their own identified aims and outcomes as well as helping partners to understand the possible wider impacts of the programme.
- To evaluate the immediate and long-term impacts of the programme on the artists, and arts and cultural organisations engaged in enabling and supporting communities to take the lead.
- To compare and draw common lessons from the progress of all the communities on the effects of putting residents in the lead in using the arts and creativity to create civic change in their areas.

Budget

There is a budget of up to **£150,000** available for this 3-year evaluation. To be divided appropriately across the three strands. i.e Supporting Communities, Identifying Learning and Evaluative and Comparative.

The partners recognise one individual or organisation may not feel equally able to deliver all three strands and are therefore be happy to accept applications from a group of individuals or partner organisations. We will want one of these individuals or organisations to be identified as the lead contact.

Skills and Experience

- Relevant experience delivering collaborative, iterative and progress-based evaluation processes.
- Relevant experience working with communities to support and develop their own learning and skills development in the context of evaluation.
- Experience of developing more accessible and visual approaches to the sharing of stories and learning.
- Basic knowledge of community-led and arts-based funding programmes and research projects both nationally and internationally.
- Experience of planning and producing impact reports, drawing out common lessons and making recommendations.

Proposal

Please include the following information within your proposal, clearly setting out responses following the numbering below:

1. A detailed description of how you would approach the work and deliver the support, including the outcomes of your support and what CCC areas would get out of working with you; how you would manage limited volunteer capacity in areas; suggestions for evaluation and learning questions and proposed outputs.
2. A description of your knowledge and experience of the volunteering and community sector and how you will use it to work with CCC areas.
3. A timeline for the work, indicating when you would plan to deliver different activities. This should include key milestones in the project and deliverables against each of these. We will welcome submissions that allow for a planning and development period.
4. A detailed budget for the three-year period including all costs, expenses and VAT, specifying all day rates, the number of days proposed and the cost of particular activities.
5. Details of the staffing you propose. A description of the team's skills which outlines how you meet the skills requirements. Please include CVs.
6. Details of how you will project manage the commission and quality assure your work.

7. The contact details of two previous or current clients with direct knowledge or experience of your work relevant to this brief. Please specify how the referees know your work and if they can be contacted by us straightaway.
8. An overview of your experience and/or your organisation: charity, company or other reference or registration number; summary annual income and expenditure for the 2018-2019 financial year; projected income for 2019-2020; membership of trade bodies, kite marks or awards relevant to this contract.
9. A statement on how you would ensure compliance with GDPR regulations
10. Any other relevant information that will assist us in our decision.
11. Your contact details, including email address and phone number.

Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and fonts should be a minimum of size 12.

For further information please contact Programme Coordinator Grace Bremner at grace.bremner@localtrust.org.uk

Interviews

Interviews will take place on **Friday 26th April** and **Thursday 2nd of May** at the Local Trust, CAN Mezzanine, 7-14 Great Dover St, SE1 4YR.

