

Creative Aid
Evaluation Opportunity
A partnership project between Blue Cabin
and Nepacs



**CREATIVE
AID**

1. Purpose

[Blue Cabin](#) and [Nepacs](#) have secured funding from The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for a 3-year project (2022-25) in Deerbolt prison. The project is called [Creative Aid](#). The Creative Aid team is looking for an external Evaluator (an individual or an organisation) for this project, to be available as soon as possible until 31st December 2025.

“[Art is] Helping you talk when no-one else is around. It's an expression in many ways.”
(Care Leaver, Deerbolt Prison)

2. Background

Blue Cabin and Nepacs have been working in partnership since 2020 with the hope of securing funding for a project targeting Care Leavers (young men aged 18 - 24) in Deerbolt Prison.

A creative consultation project took place in December 2020 with 12 young men, during lockdown. The findings from the consultation project can be found [here](#) and directly informed our successful [video application](#) to The National Lottery.

The short-term aims of the Creative Aid project are to support participants to:

- develop their confidence and sense of pride, wellbeing and emotional literacy
- explore their life stories and develop their relationships with others, including family members, and peers in Deerbolt
- develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the arts
- achieve an Arts Award accreditation.

And the long-term aims are that Creative Aid participants:

- are recognised as artists and feel a sense of belonging in society
- make pro-social choices, to refrain from reoffending, and engage in positive activities (both while serving their prison sentence and on release)
- increase their confidence to access the ‘arts’ in the community
- use their [Arts Award](#) achievement to lead onto further education or employment opportunities
- experience improved relationships with family members, and significant others.

3. Desired outcomes

The young men in Deerbolt prison told us that they wanted to:

- explore their life stories
- develop their relationships with others, including family members and peers in Deerbolt
- have opportunities to co-create work for exhibitions, performances and screenings
- be able to gift some of the things they create to others

We have a draft story of change, which can be accessed [here](#).

The Evaluator's methodologies will need to take account of the information provided in sections 1, 2 and 3 of this document, in order to support the Creative Aid team to set up a process to ensure all the necessary data, participant's stories and organisational learning is gathered, reflected upon and shared throughout the project.

4. Essential skills and attributes

We are looking for the following key skills and qualities in an evaluator:

Desirable

- a) Experience of carrying out evaluations for of the creative and cultural sector
- b) Experience of carrying out evaluations using relational practice and trauma informed practice
- c) Knowledge of Arts Award

Essential

- d) A proven track record of evaluating and monitoring projects in prisons
- e) A proven track record of evaluating projects with care experienced people
- f) A proven track record of evaluating creative projects
- g) Experience of evaluating a partnership project
- h) A proven track record of co-production methodologies

- i) Awareness of contemporary issues and practices in community-led arts projects, and how notions of 'excellence' and 'innovation' can be defined within this context
- j) A willingness and ability to work in a custodial setting

A Commitment to Safeguarding

Blue Cabin believes that all children and young people have the right to grow up in a safe and caring environment, which includes the right to protection from all types of abuse. They have the right to expect that adults in positions of responsibility do everything possible to uphold these rights.

The successful evaluator will be required to have a DBS check to an appropriate level.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Blue Cabin is committed to encouraging equality and diversity and promoting a culture that actively values difference and recognises that people from different backgrounds and experiences will bring valuable insights to the workplace and enhance the way we work. We aim to be an inclusive organisation, where diversity is valued, respected and built upon and aim to recruit and retain a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

5. Required outputs of the evaluation

- Updating the story of change and creating a clear, accessible, and comprehensive impact / evaluation framework
- Creating a series of evaluation methodologies and tools that are responsive to the setting and participants, and using these throughout the programme to capture stories and data. We are particularly interested in the use of creative evaluation tools for this project.
- Regularly reporting in a timely way to the Creative Aid team
- Producing short monitoring reports every 6 months. These reports will feed into the 6 monthly programme updates to The National Lottery
- Producing a short midpoint evaluation report, identifying progress, learning, challenges

- Producing a final report to be shared with The National Lottery and on Blue Cabin and Nepacs websites and social media channels
- Producing a series of creative outputs which articulate the stories of the participants
- Designing and delivering a comprehensive dissemination plan, alongside Blue Cabin and Nepacs communication teams

5. Application Timetable

Closing date for applications

Monday 30th January 2023 9am

Interviews

Week of 6th February 2023 with decisions made by Wednesday 15th February

Contract start date

ASAP in February 2023, subject to receiving 2 letters of recommendation

Contract end date

31st December 2025

6. Management

The appointed consultant's main contact will be [Jenny Young](#) (Blue Cabin Director) and [Jane Gray](#) (Blue Cabin Associate).

7. Informal discussion

Before applying you may want to attend an informal discussion with members of the Creative Aid team. This will take place via zoom on 18th January at 10am - 11am. To book a place email gloria@wearebluecabin.com.

8. Budget

The budget for this brief is £24,000 inclusive of VAT, travel, and expenses.

9. Applications

This brief invites responses from interested parties, with applications welcomed from both independent freelance practitioners / consultants and organisations.

Your application should include the following:

- Your understanding of this brief and the context for Creative Aid
- Details of who will be responsible for project management, delivery and quality assurance of the evaluation in your team
- Your proposed methodology for data and story collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination
- Two examples that demonstrate a track record of evaluation of community-led creative projects
- Brief CVs of you / the proposed team who would work on this project
- The names and contact details of two people / organisations who we can approach for a letter of recommendation

We welcome applications in written, audio and video format. Please send application documents by email to Gloria at Gloria@wearebluecabin.com by **9am Monday 30th January 2023**.

Thank you!