

## Learning Partner – Invitation to Tender

The Wallich's *In the Margins* project support by  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation



# Overview of The Wallich

The Wallich is Wales' leading frontline homelessness charity with over 40 years of experience in providing accommodation and support services to people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in Wales.

The Wallich operates under three core objectives:

- Getting people off the streets: Rough Sleepers' Intervention Teams (RSIT) help those who may be considered most vulnerable by providing hot food, advice, referrals, and pathways out of homelessness.
- Keeping people off the streets: Accommodation and support through residential projects, including hostels, emergency shelters and accommodation for people with specific issues, such as mental health challenges or substance issues. In addition, Floating Support teams provide advice around benefits, budgeting, and tenancy sustainment advice to support people to remain in stable permanent homes and avoid crisis.
- Creating opportunities for people to progress: The Wallich offers several participation and progression opportunities that include learning and employment programmes that use asset-based approach to support people experiencing homelessness to use their current skills, gain new skills and (re)enter volunteering, education or employment.

The Wallich believes that everyone deserves the right to a home and to feel safe, happy and positive about their future.

A team of 401 staff and 177 volunteers deliver services across 18 of Wales' 22 local authorities, and work in partnership with the people we support to design and deliver person-centred trauma informed services.

## Background to the project

The Wallich prioritises participation and progression through the creation of new opportunities for service-users. This includes engagement in creative and arts-based activities. In recent years, The Wallich have co-delivered five arts projects which have been led by external creative partner organisations. This project will break down barriers to participation and test and explore different arts activities and engagement techniques to best develop future arts engagement work across the Wallich and evaluate the benefits and the impact. Using the learning from past projects, together with the organisations' expertise in working with the target participant group, this project enables the organisation to commission arts practitioners to deliver projects, ensuring consistent outcomes for participants, providing high quality experience for staff and practitioners, and promoting longer-term learning and evaluation.

The Wallich involves service-users in the co-design and evaluation of all projects and services. This co-production approach will be embedded within this programme to directly address the barriers and needs of service-users and ensure personalised outcomes. Many will have experienced high levels of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges. Many service-users may not have had the opportunity to access and engage in creative and cultural activities in the past. This programme will explore using arts engagement to introduce creative thinking, build new skills, confidence, and aspirations. We hope that this project will not only challenge stereotypes but foster better understanding of the experiences of our community.

We believe that the arts can inspire and empower.

## Background to the fund

### **The Paul Hamlyn Foundation - Access and Participation Fund - Explore and Test grant**

The Arts Access and Participation Fund addresses the inequalities of opportunity to access and participate in the arts. The fund is designed to support change in the way the arts are created, presented, accessed and experienced.

PHF 'Explore and Test' grants are designed to support organisations to test, pilot and evaluate new approaches, or to gather evidence for the first time about approaches that have



been used before and their potential to make a difference. The grant is designed to give organisations the time and resource to capture learning about these approaches, decide whether they have promise and, if they do, help to decide what to do next.

As a result, the funders approach to evaluation focuses on learning, as well as the project outcomes.

The Wallich have chosen this approach as the organisation has been involved in arts and creative engagement projects in the past and recognises the multiple benefits that can be achieved by engaging and supporting individuals who have experienced homelessness. This project will explore how participation can further progression by developing confidence - the freedom to speak, express, be heard, to experience, to make, to build, to contest, to create.

A grant of £59,000 was awarded to The Wallich in June 2020 however project delivery was delayed until January 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## About the project

### Project aims

This project aims to break down barriers to arts participation and promote the wider benefits that access to creative activities can provide. This project will explore and test creative approaches to better evaluate arts participation sessions and provide robust evidence to measure the impact of creative engagement on people's lives.

The Wallich will pilot and evaluate a 24-month programme of creative engagement offers for individuals who have experienced homelessness, with the view to test and evaluate ways to embed creative delivery within its core offer.

The following concepts will be explored and evaluated:

- Best approaches to commissioning Creative Practitioners to better understand what skill sets and methods are likely to lead to more meaningful outcomes for participants (e.g. practitioners with prior experience of working with vulnerable adults; that use co-production approaches etc).
- The effectiveness of project based creative workshops in maximising participants' engagement in wider support services on offer.
- The appropriate levels of training needed for both The Wallich's frontline/support staff and arts practitioners it commissions to support signposting and effective recruitment and delivery.



## **Creative workshops:**

This project will deliver three workshop series, each lasting 12 weeks.

Each workshop series will focus on a different art form and will be led by external Creative Practitioners commissioned through an open recruitment process. Within each series, three Creative Practitioners will be appointed to deliver sessions across the three regions, South East Wales, South West Wales and Mid/North Wales. Workshops will take a strong co-produced approach with participants co-producing workshop sessions alongside Creative Practitioners.

The Creative Arts Facilitator will work with the Area Manager and Projects to match the arts activity and practitioners to the project. We will test and explore different projects to ensure we monitor and evaluate the best approach.

Following each workshop series there will be an exhibition opportunity to showcase creative work and develop partnership opportunities with local venues, galleries and arts organisations.

There will be a period of evaluation and learning following the 12-week project to bring participants and creatives together with the core team to share experiences, evaluate approach and implement learning ahead of the next 12-week block of workshops.

There will be an opportunity for participants to become Creative Peer Mentors and explore progression opportunities through the wider creative programme.

We estimate to engage 125 participants across the 24-month project period.

### **Year 1**

(January 2021- December 2021)

**Visual Arts** (*July-September 2021*)

**Creative writing/Drama** (*October-December 2021*)

### **Year 2**

(January 2022-December 2022)

**Media** (*April-June 2022*)

## **Training and development opportunities:**

Wallich Staff Training: In addition to the Creative Workshop series, this project includes Creative Awareness training for Wallich Staff.



Creative Practitioner Training: Creative Practitioners will receive a one-day induction to enable them to understand how residential projects are run, and complete basic Safeguarding Training in line with our Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy.

Creative Practitioners delivering workshop series within Young People's project will complete the Discover & Explore Advisor Training in order to deliver [Arts Award](#) programmes for Young People supported by The Wallich.

Throughout the project, the Creative Arts Facilitator will strengthen and develop partnerships with arts organisations across Wales, connecting with arts networks, organisations and local galleries and venues to explore new and additional partnership opportunities. To further our knowledge and ensure we continue to explore emerging developments within the arts and health and cultural commissioning framework, we will also connect with support agencies and networks, including Arts Council Wales, Artworks Cymru, Voluntary Arts Wales and Cardiff Fusion.

## **Project Aims and Outcomes:**

### Project Aims:

- Fully explore the potential of engagement with the arts as a way to introduce creative thinking, new skills, confidence and aspiration into participants' lifestyles, ultimately replacing chaotic habits with creative activities and mindsets.
- Explore project-based creative workshops to maximise participation and deepen engagement. This will also provide opportunities for support staff to be involved alongside their clients. This approach is aimed to fully support participants through creative projects to ensure they are getting the most from the engagements, whilst also embedding a greater awareness across the organisation of the diverse benefits of that arts participation can provide.
- Explore the commissioning of experienced practitioners who specialise in working with vulnerable, socially excluded participants. We wish to better understand how important the knowledge of vulnerable adults and co-production elements of delivery are in achieving meaningful outcomes for participants.
- Adopt a person-centred approach to both design and delivery of activities, focussing on working to an individual's strengths to support removal of barriers.
- Explore and test how arts and creative activities could support participation and progression pathways working in partnership with our WISE/ BOSS employment projects.
- Change public perceptions of homelessness through positive engagements, to challenge stereotyping and foster better understanding.

### Outcomes:

#### Outcomes for participants:

- Greater access to the arts
- Improved well-being, enjoyment and sense of achievement
- Using creative outlets to support overcoming personal barriers such as dealing with trauma, mental health, addiction
- Improved skills and knowledge of creative activities and opportunities



- Reduction of social anxiety, participants socially enabled, motivated and confident to engage in the outside world
- High sense of empowerment and feelings of control via co-produced work
- Acquired creative skills, experience and confidence, supporting progression routes
- Participants choosing creative engagements as diversionary activities
- Recovery journeys supported via personal expression through artistic/creative exploration.

Outcomes for the organisation:

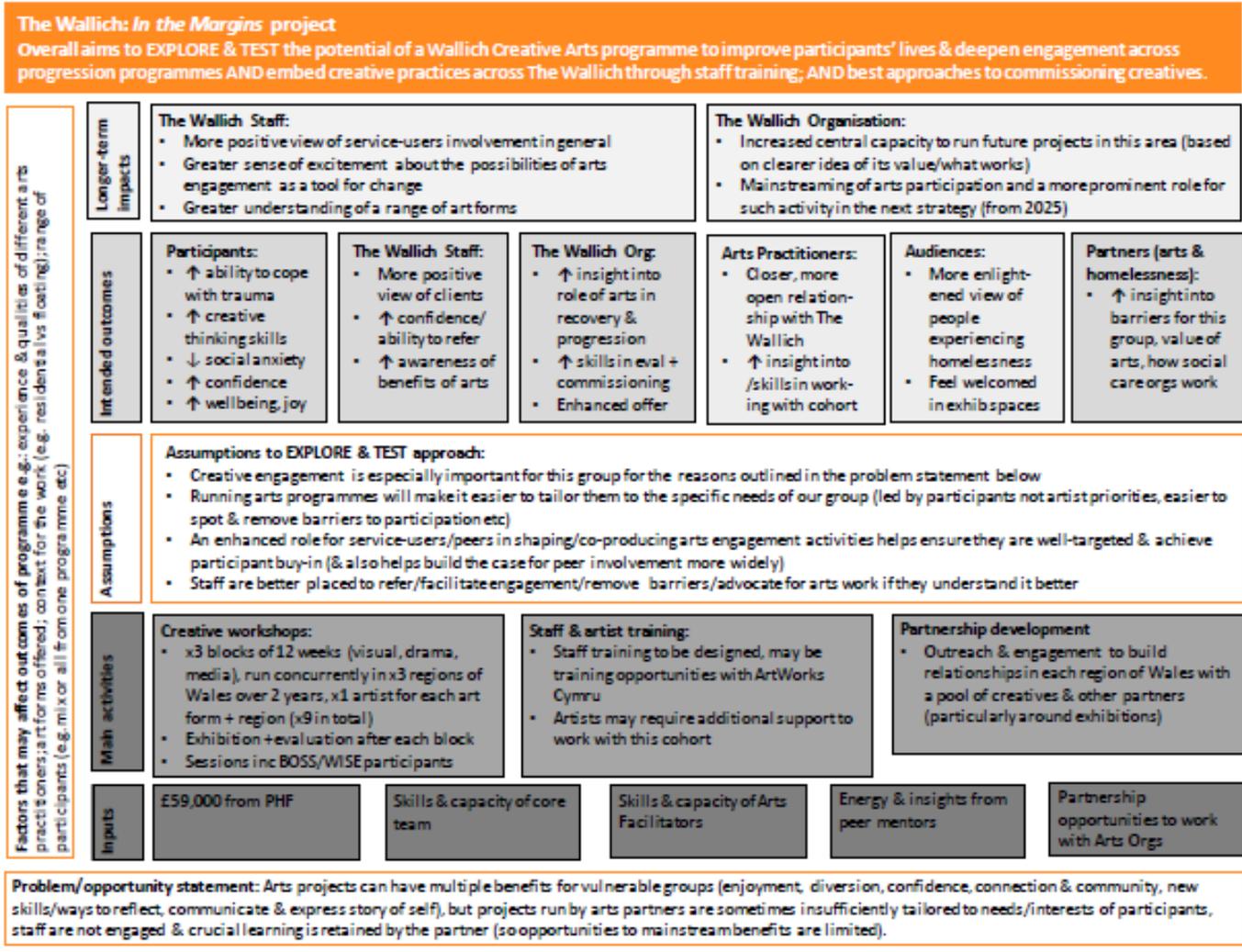
- Residential projects and communities with access to previously unavailable creative engagements
- Frontline staff trained to support the delivery of creative engagements and routinely referring clients to creative opportunities
- A greater organisational understanding of how creative and cultural engagements can support recovery and progression
- The organisation further committing to embedding creative activities into core delivery
- The creation of a robust evidence base for the impact of our arts engagement work
- Skills developed in evaluation and sharing learning.

Outcomes for partners or others:

- Better understanding of vulnerable, socially excluded groups
- Changing the perceptions of homelessness for audiences
- Partners with social informed practice experience, including with Vulnerable Adults
- Deeper understanding of barriers that exclude organisations from engaging people who have experience of homelessness
- Better understanding of social care organisational structure and delivery models and managing risk factors when working with people who have multiple complex needs/barriers.



# Logic Model



## Details of ITT:

### ITT to be released: Wednesday 14 July 2021

**Position:** Learning Partner – PHF Explore & Test *In the Margins* project

**Location:** Wales wide

**Experience:** We are looking for a Learning Partner/ Team with the following skills/experience:

- Strong skills in research design and qualitative and quantitative research strategies
- Experience of developing practical/flexible approaches to evaluation research, especially in the context of pilot programmes/programmes that are developing organically
- Experience of conducting research with vulnerable people
- Experience of evaluating arts participation projects
- Skills in and prior experience of writing publishable-quality reports and in presenting research findings to different audiences
- Skills in and prior experience of supporting organisations to improve their own understanding of and approaches to evaluation.

**Project period:** This is a 24-month project

We require work to be completed in accordance with the project timeline and set milestones.

**Fee:** £10,060.00

**Your proposal:** Your proposal should be limited to no more than 6 sides of A4 and should include the following:

1. Your skills and experience of relevance to this work
2. Your proposed methodology, including the rationale for suggesting particular methods
3. Details of the evaluation team (CVs can be included in an Appendix), with a clear indication of the person who is accountable for the quality of the work
4. A budget breakdown
5. A timeline for completing the evaluation.

Your proposal should be submitted in word/pdf format to [Bethan.Lewis@thewallich.net](mailto:Bethan.Lewis@thewallich.net) by **5pm Tuesday 3 August 2021.**

### Scoring Matrix

Sections 1-5 of your proposal will be equally weighted and scored out of 5 as per the below scoring matrix. The contract will be awarded to the bidder with the highest overall score.



If a response to any question receives a score of zero, the tender will be disqualified and not considered. Tenders with an overall score of 12 or less, will be disqualified and will not be considered. In the result of two or more suppliers sharing the highest overall score, bidders will be invited to attend a meeting to gain further details as to their suitability to deliver the work which will be considered in making the final selection decision.

Capability	Evidence	Score
Excellent	Comprehensive and detailed response with strong evidence and multiple examples of delivering against project requirements.	5
Good	Criteria met with evidence provided to support answers. Answers demonstrate relevant experience.	4
Satisfactory	Criteria mostly met but with limited evidence / examples provided.	3
Weak	Response provided contains generic statements and little evidence provided to determine capability.	2
Inadequate	Poor Evidence/limited understanding of questions raises questions of whether the supplier would be able to meet the needs of the contract.	1
Not Acceptable	No response / reference to the question or unacceptable response that does not meet requirements in any way.	0

### Timeline:

Deadline for asking questions	Tuesday 27 July – 5pm
Deadline for submission of bids	Tuesday 3 August – 5pm
Successful bidder appointed	Thursday 12 August
Successful bidder available to begin work	Wednesday 1 September

### Further Information:

If you have any questions about this Invitation to tender, please contact [rosie.seager@thewallich.net](mailto:rosie.seager@thewallich.net) by email.

Please note that the deadline for asking questions is 5pm Tuesday 27 July.



## Confidentiality

Details contained within this specification and associated documents should be treated as private and confidential.

## VAT

All prices and/or rates submitted must be inclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT).

## Requirements for Learning Partner

### Learning Areas:

The Learning Partner will work with the Creative Arts Facilitator and Creative Practitioners to gather evidence and assess impact of the *In the Margins* Explore & Test project.

Robust, independent monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and its approaches will be pivotal to the ongoing development of The Wallich's arts provision and development of best practice to embed sustainable creative practices across the homelessness sector.

We would like to explore learning related to the aims of the project (as listed above) and the following potential learning questions:

- How can we evidence the power of the arts in changing people's lives?
- What works for different types of participants? *E.g can similar approaches be used for people at different stages of their recovery journey?*
- How can different arts approaches build participants confidence and self-belief and help individuals progress?
- How well positioned is The Wallich to develop and deliver Creative Arts programmes? And how can partnerships with Arts Organisations enhance this offer?
- How can arts participation work be integrated with PIE/ a Trauma informed approach?
- What can we learn about the benefits of arts participation on health and wellbeing?

We recognise that this is an ambitious set of evaluation objectives and are open to exploring what is within reach, and what is not, within the available budget.

## Methodology

The Learning Partner will work with the Creative Arts Facilitator and Creative Practitioners to define the best approach to evaluation and learning. We would like to undertake a Co-produced approach to the evaluation, including service-users and participants in defining learning questions, making recommendations and ultimately codesigning the future arts provision.



The Creative Arts Facilitator and wider Wallich Staff will support the facilitation of evaluation activity throughout the project. The Learning Partner will:

- Refine draft logic model and priority outcomes for the project (developed with PHF's evaluation advisor)
- Design the overall framework for the evaluation
- Develop the data collection tools for the evaluation
- Support reflection activities within the team and with wider stakeholders, including support to develop a suitable structure for this
- Carrying out some research activities with participants and external partners and stakeholders.

## Required Outputs & Milestones

Output	Date
<b>Revised Project Plan:</b> <i>Work with the Creative Arts Facilitator and Creative Practitioners to revise the Project Plan (to include periods of reflection and a co-produced evaluation approach)</i>	3 September 2021
<b>Evaluation Framework:</b> <i>Work with participants, the Creative Arts Facilitator, Creative Practitioners, and wider Wallich Staff (if necessary) to develop an Evaluation Framework.</i>	10 September 2021
<b>Interim Report (1):</b> A brief interim report sharing emerging project findings	1 October 2021
<b>Interim Report (2):</b> brief interim report sharing emerging project findings	25 February 2022
<b>Final Report:</b> A final report of no more than 25 pages and a presentation to set out project findings, feedback and recommendations.	25 November 2022

## Budget

The budget for the evaluation is £10,060.00, inclusive of VAT and expenses.

An additional budget will be available to facilitate co-production and service-user involvement.



