

# Wycombe Homeless Connection/Aylesbury Homeless Action Group & Buckinghamshire Culture Artists' Brief

## Sharing Homelessness Stories Project

### 1. Project Summary

Wycombe Homeless Connection/Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (WHC/AHAG) and Buckinghamshire Culture wish to appoint an artist/creative/collective to work with homeless, or previously homeless clients and WHC/AHAG staff in High Wycombe and Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in order to share stories of homelessness through art/cultural means (this might include visual arts, photography, poetry, performance, sharing/displaying objects). We are seeking an artist with experience of working with people with disordered lives and who is able to flex ideas and approaches according to need. We are looking for someone capable of inspiring people and encouraging this cohort to get involved and create and shape new work together or individually. We want to see a final piece/performance/installation that shares experiences of homelessness in interesting ways.

### 2. Background

WHG/AHAG are two charities working together to tackle homelessness. We work to prevent homelessness wherever possible, to minimise the harm which homelessness causes and we work to resettle homeless people into suitable housing.

Buckinghamshire Culture is the cultural partnership for the county, driving forward a vision for a bright creative and cultural future in Bucks.

We are working together to co-commission a project designed to share real stories and experiences of homelessness from the mouths of those that have experienced it. We want to share powerful stories with the public in a new way, and put the individuals at the heart of the work – all of whom have had a very difficult time during Covid-19. We wish to see a temporary exhibition/installation or a performance produced – exactly where is up for discussion based on the artists' interests – that values the voices of this cohort and shares their stories in a meaningful way. We wish to raise awareness and encourage the public to view homeless people with greater insight and understanding.

### 3. Commission Aim

Aim: to engage homeless or previously homeless individuals and WHC/AHAG staff in High Wycombe and Aylesbury in development of an exhibition/installation/performance that will share real stories and experiences of homelessness in a new way.

Objectives:

- a) To engage homeless, or previously homeless, individuals and WHC/AHAG staff in High Wycombe and Aylesbury in developing an exhibition/installation/performance to share stories and raise awareness of homelessness in Bucks
- b) To enable a cohort of staff and patients to engage in activity to support their wellbeing, through engaging with arts/creative processes

- c) To develop, fabricate and deliver a high quality exhibition/installation/performance in Bucks, which values the stories of this cohort and presents their experiences in a meaningful way
- d) To share real stories and not to shy away from difficult content, but to be sensitive to safeguarding/privacy as required and find ways to share stories and experiences regardless
- e) To pilot activity that shows the value of arts and creativity to wellbeing of this often-hidden group.

WHC/AHAG clients may be experiencing challenges and disordered lives and we are keen to work with artists who have experience of working with similar groups previously.

#### 4. Management and Reporting

Regular reporting meetings will be scheduled to review progress.

These will be held by Buckinghamshire Culture and WHC/AHAG representatives.

We aim to work with a photographer to document delivery of this commission and the final output.

#### 5. Budget

We are opening an expression of interest process, from which we will select 3 artists to receive £350 in order to visit Bucks, meet some clients and explore the available spaces for their work before submitting a more detailed proposal.

A budget of £7,640 inclusive of any VAT to be charged is available for the community engagement, development, fabrication and install of the artwork.

This is a fully inclusive fee. There is no additional budget for materials.

#### 6. Skills and Experience

We are seeking an artist(s) able to work in collaboration with staff and clients, to inspire them and empower them to help shape the project.

The successful applicant will have experience of working in similar settings. They will be able to show their track record of community engagement and delivery of exhibitions/installations/performance as appropriate, producing high quality outputs that those involved can be proud of. They will hold public liability insurance and a DBS certificate. They will have a good understanding of safeguarding.

#### 7. Selection Process/Criteria

To submit an expression of interest, please provide the items in the table below:

Please submit the following:	How this will be used for assessment:
Up to 1 A4 page outlining: Artist statement or description of your work/process Sharing relevant experience	Assessed for: Experience of similar delivery Ability to work with the target audience

	Appropriateness of discipline and approach Quality of process/approach
Up to date CV	Experience of similar delivery Quality of work
Up to three examples of previous work	Assessed for quality, ethos of co-production, vibrancy

A panel from WHC/AHAG and Buckinghamshire Culture will shortlist 3 artists, who will be offered a fee to visit Bucks, meet clients, explore spaces and submit a detailed proposal before final selection takes place.

#### **8. Timescales**

Deadline for expressions of interest: 9am, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Site visits for those shortlisted: w/c 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Detailed proposals due by: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Delivery period: September-November 2022

#### **9. Submission of Proposal**

Please email the three items outlined in the table above to Lallie:

[Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org](mailto:Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org) by 9am, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

#### **10. Further Information**

For further information please contact: Lallie – [Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org](mailto:Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org)