

Invitation to Tender: Bucks Culture Evaluation and Sector Impact Report

Background

Bucks Culture is an independent charity supporting the cultural sector across Buckinghamshire. Since its inception, the organisation has provided strategic leadership, advocacy, and practical support to cultural organisations, practitioners, and partners across the county.

As Bucks Culture reaches its fifth year, we wish to commission an experienced evaluator to produce a report that reflects on our journey, assesses our impact, and captures learning to inform our future direction.

Purpose of the Commission

The purpose of this evaluation is to:

- Assess Bucks Culture's impact over its first five years
- Analyse progress against strategic aims and priorities
- Capture key achievements, learning, and challenges
- Demonstrate the value of our sector support work
- Provide clear, actionable recommendations for the future.

Scope of Work

The appointed evaluator will be expected to deliver:

1. Organisational and Strategic Review

- Review Bucks Culture's projects, programmes and partnerships
- Assess progress against objectives and intended outcomes

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Undertake interviews and/or surveys with key stakeholders, including:
 - Cultural organisations and practitioners
 - Local authorities and partners
 - Funders and supporters
- Incorporate quotes and insights within the report

3. Impact and Outcomes Analysis

- Evaluate the effectiveness of sector support (e.g. networking, capacity building, advocacy)
- Analyse reach, engagement, and influence across Buckinghamshire
- Identify measurable outcomes and longer-term impact

4. Case Studies (Core Element)

- Develop 3-5 high-quality case studies from individuals across the Buckinghamshire cultural sector
- Case studies should:
 - Represent a range of disciplines and locations
 - Demonstrate Bucks Culture's supporting and enabling role
 - Highlight outcomes, impact, and sector value

5. Recommendations

- Provide strategic, evidence-based recommendations for Bucks Culture's future development
- Identify opportunities for growth, innovation, and strengthened sector support.

Methodology

We expect a mixed-methods approach. Bidders are encouraged to propose their own methodology aligned with the brief.

Outputs

The evaluator will produce:

Bucks Culture is core-funded by Rothschild Foundation & Buckinghamshire Council

Charity number: 1196317 / Website: www.buckinghamshireculture.org

- A final written report, including:
 - Executive summary
 - Key findings and analysis
 - Case studies (also provided separately)
 - Conclusions and recommendations

Audience

The report will be shared with:

- Funders (including Arts Council England)
- Local authorities and partners
- Cultural sector stakeholders
- Bucks Culture trustees

Budget

We invite proposals within a budget of £3–£5,000, inclusive of all fees, expenses, and VAT.

We have a further fee of £1,500 available to support evaluation and creation of case studies for our Creative Catalyst programme, which is due to finish in March 2027.

Timeline (*indicative*)

- Submission deadline: 5pm, 8th June 2026
- Appointment: end June
- Final report: 5th October 2026
- Additional Creative Catalyst Case Studies due: May 2027.

Submission Requirements

Please provide:

- A proposal outlining your approach and methodology
- Relevant experience and examples of similar work
- Proposed timeline
- Detailed budget breakdown
- Details of the lead consultant/team

Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- Understanding of the brief
- Quality and suitability of proposed methodology
- Relevant experience and track record
- Value for money
- Ability to deliver engaging, high-quality outputs

How to Apply

Please submit your proposal to: lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org

Deadline: **5pm, 8th June 2026**

For any queries, contact: lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org