

A New Direction: Early Years

Brief: Programme Development Consultant

Introduction

A New Direction is looking for a consultant or consultants to support our planning and development of work around arts, culture and creativity with and for early years children, their families, their educators, and the cultural sector.

A New Direction is a non-profit working to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

We do this by working with a diverse range of partners, making connections, sharing practice, influencing change, improving the ecology that surrounds children and young people, and by providing real and transformative opportunities - from childhood, through school years and into employment.

Background

A New Direction has a track record of delivering successful, high-quality networking and CPD programmes for teachers, and for the cultural sector, across London. We work with a range of creative and expert facilitators and consultants to bring people together to share and develop their practice and ideas, discuss challenges, solve problems, and innovate.

To date, we have focussed on supporting the ecology of practice around school age children, and are now looking to extend our offer to include those working with the very youngest children.

With myriad childcare and early education settings and offers, and a wide range of cultural opportunities available to families with young children in London, we are aware that this is a busy and complicated space. Our aim through this initial programme development phase is to identify where we can best add value and have a positive impact on creative and cultural opportunities and education for young children in London, without duplicating or competing with existing offers.

Proposed delivery model

Basis

Our proposed delivery model is based on our successful schools and cultural sector programmes, and on our special educational needs and disabilities ([SEND](#)) network, which brings together educators working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to develop and share their practice, seek advice, and develop relationships, working together to improve creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people they work with. Through the network we have also delivered a week-long [festival](#) for children and young people with SEND, through a partnership with Tate Exchange and London special schools.

Proposed programme structure and content

Based on this network and festival model, A New Direction is exploring the following programme structure for our future work with and for early years children.

- **Network:** a series of regular network meetings for the early years sector, exploring the value of creativity, arts and culture for the under 5s, and how to ensure they have access to high quality opportunities to explore and play, and to develop their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts
- **Cultural sector practice sharing:** an opportunity for arts and cultural organisations to share and build good practice in working with early years children, their families and educators, and learning from the early years sector.
- **Possible future direct delivery with young children and their families/ educators:** this will be planned and delivered with the network, and may take the form of:
 - o a festival
 - o a series of arts taster sessions
 - o an early language/ literacy programme delivered in partnership with libraries.

Programme outputs

Outputs for the network programme will be informed by this work, and could include:

- A series of blogs or resources exploring best practice in arts, culture and creativity for early years children and their families
- Recommendations for how to benchmark high quality creative early years education in nurseries and preschools
- Recommendations for possible future direct delivery with early year children and their families / educators

The brief

- To map out existing networks and CPD supporting creativity, culture and arts for early years professionals in London
- To provide up to five examples of innovative / best practice supporting creativity and arts and cultural engagement for the early years. These will be used to inform A New Direction's work and may also form the basis of a series of provocations used in network sessions.
- To scope a potential network offer along the lines described above
- To make recommendations regarding approach, delivery and outputs based on the needs of potential stakeholders.
- To work with A New Direction to devise year 1 of programme activity (and map out possible delivery in years 2 and 3) based on findings.

Deliverables

- Summary of mapping exercise – listing existing networks and CPD supporting creativity, culture and arts for early years professionals
- Five examples of innovative / best practice supporting creativity and arts and cultural engagement for the early years
- Recommendations for scope of the network
- Recommendations regarding approach, delivery and outputs based on the needs of potential stakeholders.

Timeline

- Deadline for proposals **Wednesday 29 Sept 2021 (midday)**
- Consultant(s) confirmed by **Friday 8 Oct 2021**
- Initialisation meeting **w/c 11 or 18 Oct 2021**
- Interim report deadline **Wednesday 24 Nov 2021**
- Final deadline **Wednesday 8 Dec 2021**

Fee

There is a total fee of **up to £3,600 (inclusive of VAT)** available for this work.

How to express interest

To express your interest in this work, please send an expression of interest document no more than three A4 sides in length to laura.fuller@anewdirection.org.uk by **midday on Wednesday 29 September 2021**.

Your expression of interest should outline how you expect to approach the work, and your relevant experience.

Decisions will be based on clarity of approach, alignment with A New Direction's values (equity, connectivity, trust and respect, creative culture, and kindness), relevant experience, and the breadth of voices you hope to involve in the research.

We will respond to all applicants by Friday 8 October 2021 and hope to hold an initialisation meeting within two weeks of confirming our selection.

Contact us

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Laura Fuller, Senior Programme Manager: laura.fuller@anewdirection.org.uk.