



Invitation to Tender

Research and Evaluation: Blue Moose Dance Company - Head to Toe

June 2022 – December 2023

Introduction

Head to Toe and everything in between, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Arts-Based Learning Fund, marks a new way of Blue Moose Dance Company working within education; creating a different learning environment, exploring the creative moving body in a different area of the curriculum and developing a longer-term relationship with teaching staff and SLTs.

Engaging with six primary schools across the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde region, we are working with KS2 pupils, their class teachers, senior leadership teams, and our Blue Moose Artists.

We are aiming to develop an approach to embedding the creative moving body into the learning environment, learning about the existing barriers to this approach thus far and capturing successes throughout. Young people's voice is at the heart of our approach and will guide the content of our research, and we aim to encourage pupils to better understand their own learning styles and preferences, to be inquisitive and creative. We are working collaboratively with teaching staff, to shape this project to each school's needs, to the pupils' needs and to allow space for the teacher's own development. INSET will also allow the teachers time for self-enquiry and to explore how we best embed the learning in school life.

Project structure and timeline

The project began in September 2021, but due to delays, it has actively begun in the last few months with teachers engaged and on board to explore potential change in their school environments. The first stages of delivery in the classroom are taking place across April and May 2022. The project runs until December 2023, following a mixed class of Yr3/4 pupils across two academic years, in 6 different Primary Schools across Wyre and Fylde. The project is made up of and aims to include the following:

- 6 Primary schools – 1 member of staff per school, with the potential for a 2nd staff member to join in Year 2
- 2 Artists – working collaboratively together, delivering independently in the schools
- 1 Project Manager, with additional administrative support
- 36 hours of delivery by artists, and co-delivery by artists and teachers per school
- 4 x ½ day cohort INSETs/training days – Artists and Teachers
- 10 Curious Conversations – Artists, Teachers, Evaluators, Senior Leaders
- 1 Whole School INSET per school at the end of the project
- Additional planning, reflection, evaluation, production of outputs for Artists and Teachers as required throughout the project

We have also engaged an audio and visual team to support documentation throughout the project, and a graphic designer to support with branding and production of digital and print media at the culmination of the project.

Summary

Timeframe: June 2022 – December 2023

Budget: £3,500

Please include in your proposal how you would use your time according to this fixed budget.

Tender submission deadline: Friday 10th June 2022 at 5pm

Evaluation Process

To date, we have worked with a mentor to shape an approach to reflective enquiry, integrating a number of observational and reflective tools into our research process;

- Regular reflective conversations
- Pupil observations
- Pupil interviews
- Questionnaires
- Artist letters/blogs
- Lesson Plans and Worksheets

These are methods we are going to explore in our initial stages of practical delivery but are open to shaping these further with the Evaluation Adviser we bring on board.

Evaluation Brief

The Artists on this project are playing a lead role in reflecting and evidencing throughout the project and will be responsible for shaping the content of written/digital/presentation outputs at the culmination of the project; we are seeking a critical friend to help guide the reflective process, helping to establish relevant approaches, evaluate and reflect at regular intervals and refine the evaluative methods as needed and as the project develops. We are looking for an outside eye to the practice to help draw the best learning out of the process and shape how we share this with the wider sector. We are looking for an Evaluator/Mentor to work closely with our Artists and schools to achieve the objectives set out below:

- Work as a critical friend/mentor with Artists and Teachers to guide their reflections towards formulated research outputs
- Facilitate collective dialogue between Artists and Teachers
- Support in guiding the content of outputs (publications, conference presentations, resources for schools and arts organisations)
- Support in analysing emerging findings, developing our process to make findings more robust.

Timeline

Activity	Date
Initial Meeting	June 2022
Research Plan agreed	July 2022
Research carried out	June 2022 - December 2023
Contribution to interim report writing	June - July 2022
Contribution to final report writing	November 2023 - January 2024

Company Background

Blue Moose Dance Company is all about empowering people to discover new potential, develop expression, gain confidence and celebrate themselves and their community.

Blue Moose Dance Company was founded in 2015 bringing together a wealth of experience managing and delivering empowering community dance provision across the North West.

Blue Moose Dance Company works inclusively with and for the benefit of all communities, irrespective of age, gender or background, with a particular emphasis on supporting the development of young people and uniting communities across Lancashire and North Yorkshire.

Our ethos is rooted in our ability and desire to empower people to creatively investigate, explore and analyse themselves, their community and surrounding environment through a participant-led creative approach.

www.bluemosedance.org.uk

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How to Apply

To tender for the work described above, please provide an outline proposal on how you will approach this work and deliver the intended outputs within the required timescale. This can be submitted in any of the formats below:

- Video Recording (maximum 3 minutes)
- Audio Recording (maximum 3 minutes)
- Written Proposal (maximum 500 words)

Within your proposal, please outline:

- Your relevant experience which makes you the ideal evaluator for this project
- An outline of your approach and activity you would undertake
- Two suitable references

Please also clearly identify the budget breakdown for costs including day rate and number of days' work proposed.

All work undertaken by the individual(s) will be carried out both remotely in their own place of work and within each of the school environments. The fee is inclusive of any expenses required to work within the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde region.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5pm on Friday 10th June. We will be unable to consider applications received after this deadline.

Please email your proposal and any accompanying documents to laura@bluemosedancecompany.org.uk. Please also contact Laura with any queries before applying.

Thank you for your interest in working with us.