**Invitation to Tender - *Wise About Words* Evaluator**

*Norwich Theatre are seeking an external evaluator for Wise About Words (WAW), part of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation’s Teacher Development Fund Round 4 Cohort.*

**Context**

**Project Outline**

*Wise About Words* is a partnership project between Norwich Theatre and The Wensum Trust, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Teacher Development Fund.

*Wise About Words* empowers teachers and Senior Leaders working with artists to harness the power of story-sharing and reduce barriers to learning for pupils experiencing disadvantage. Across Norfolk the project will explore the barriers to learning in eight primary schools in urban, rural and coastal locations.

*Wise About Words* supports teacher’s professional development and learning in the delivery of effective arts-based learning in the primary classroom. The project is designed to be immersive and collaborative with teacher, artists and senior leaders in schools working together as co-learners to improve outcomes for pupils. The project will establish a ‘Story-sharing School’ model utilising drama-led practices, which allow pupils to develop literacy skills and their executive functioning skills.

Throughout the two years there will be a series of artist residencies to include team teaching, experimentation and reflective practice. Both artists and teachers will attend development days and twilight sessions to co-learn throughout this project.

**Project Aims and Objectives**

The project has a formative and enquiry drive approach, drawing upon reflective practice and seeks to understand impact through a variety of lenses, such as teachers, pupils, artists and senior school leaders.

The project is taking a blended approach to delivery, including live, in person working, asynchronous online content and CPD sessions.

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| For teachers/leaders:   * Increased understanding of the value of the arts as an agent for school change * Increased confidence and knowledge of how to embed arts-based learning across the curriculum * Increased understanding of needs of staff and pupils * Better equipped for partnership work   For children:   * Improved emotional well-being * Listening, focus and memory * Literacy, language and communication skills   For the Theatre:   * Improved understanding and skills for working with school senior leaders * Increased ability to support CPDL at whole school level * Improved understanding of disadvantage and ways of addressing that through the arts * Improved understand of barrier to learning in coastal, rural and urban setting * Understanding of the impact of blended delivery. |

**Background**

Norwich Theatre

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| Norwich Theatre is at the centre of cultural life in the region. Our charitable aims promote, maintain and improve life chances and wellbeing of individuals, community cohesion and engagement. Norwich Theatre uses creative participation in a transformative manner for participants, but also for the communities it works with.  Wensum Trust  The Wensum Trust is a not-for-profit education Trust with 11 non-selective, free to attend, schools arranged into three geographical hubs across Norfolk. It provides a complete education journey from early years to sixteen plus, creating seamless transitions and delivering an ongoing commitment to providing rich, diverse experiences which enable every child to develop, flourish and reach their full potential.  The Wensum Trust currently has 11 schools situated across Norfolk, ranging from nursery through to sixth form, enabling the Trust to support children and their parents and carers at every stage of the education journey.  The schools within the Wensum Trust are arranged into three geographical hubs:  The City Hub - serving Norwich and the wider area  The Rural Hub - serving Acle and surrounding villages  The Coastal Hub - serving Burnham Market, Wells-next-the-Sea and the North Norfolk coast. |
| Schools  Schools taking part in Wise About Words are;   * Arden Grove Infant and Nursey School * Heather Avenue Infant School * Garrick Green Infant School * Lodge Lane Infant School * Kinsale Junior School * Firside Junior School * Wells-Next-the-Sea Primary and Nursey School * Burnham Market Primary School   **Evaluation Aims and Purposes**  Findings will be used to inform the future work of Norwich Theatre and the Wensum Trust and the wider learning and cultural sectors. Findings will also explore how the project influenced teachers learning, English skills and wellbeing in pupils and the impact this has had on pupil development and progress, especially those facing disadvantages. The evaluator will also be required to feed into the Paul Hamlyn Foundation’s wider teacher development findings.  Evaluation of the impact of a blended approach to learning is also a key part of the evaluation.  We are looking for an evaluation partner who is able to produce a robust evaluation design that will give confidence that the conclusions are valid and objective. |

**Key Evaluation Questions**

Key questions that will form part of the evaluation are as follows;

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| * What impact does the Wise About Words model have on the educational outcomes of children? * How effective is the programme in meeting the specific needs of disadvantaged children in the schools with which we work? * To what extent has the programme impacted on teachers’ confidence in using drama-led techniques in the classroom? * How can artist practitioners develop and embed an asset-based approach to teacher development in their practice? * What evidence is there that the Wise About Words model is ‘transforming’ school culture and embedding arts-based learning into curriculum planning and whole school improvement? * What impact does daily story-sharing have on reading, writing, use of vocabulary, and outcomes at primary level? |

**Project Timeline**

The project will begin on 1st September 2021 and end in July 2023.

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| Year 1  Sept 2021 -July 2022 | Story Sharing Using Drama, Differentiated Learning and Leading Story-Sharing |
| Year 2  Sept 2022 – July 2023 | Story-Sharing across the curriculum, Embedding Story-Sharing in the curriculum and Sharing learning with other teachers. Final Evaluation. |

**Budget**

The value of this freelance contract is £9,000 over the two year duration of the project. We anticipate contracting this work in two phases, based on the two years of the project.

*This is inclusive of costs relating to delivery of evaluation tasks.*

**Outputs**

* At least once termly face to face meeting over the 2 year delivery of the project with the WAW project coordinator.
* A termly update report, 3 times per year, throughout the project.
* A mid-term report after year one of the project
* A final report of the learning and findings to be shared with funders, schools, artists and wider organisations.

Achieved through time spent in classrooms, meeting and interviewing senior school leaders, teachers, artists and pupils where appropriate, attendance of CPDs and Development days and SLT meetings and looking at evidence of planning and children and teachers outputs.

**Criteria**

Tenders should be no more than 6 sides of A4 and should include:

• Statement detailing suitability for this role

• Outline approach to design of evaluation

• Summary of skills, knowledge and experience

• Knowledge and experience of theatre and education sectors

• Experience working and communicating effectively with a range of stakeholders

• Budget breakdown

• References

• DBS Check or willingness to undertake one.

Please also submit a recent example of your evaluation work.

**Deadline for submissions**

Please email applications@norwichtheatre.org by 9am on Monday 20 September 2021.