

BARING FOUNDATION

OPEN TENDER

ARTS PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Purpose

This paper gives a brief for potential applicants to undertake an independent evaluation of our [arts and mental health programme](#) from 2020 until late 2024.

About the Baring Foundation

We are an independent grant-maker with a human rights focus. Founded in 1969 by Barings Bank, we have run as an independent charity since 1995, using an endowment. More details can be found in [1969-2019: A history of the Baring Foundation in fifty grants](#).

About the Arts Programme

The arts have been a major focus for the Foundation's grantmaking since our inception. Our approach for the last two decades has been to focus on a neglected area of arts funding after considering a range of potential options. Our ambition is to have some level of strategic impact over a period of time in a limited but important part of the arts field that relates to people facing discrimination and disadvantage. From 2004-2009 this was arts and refugees, and from 2010-2019 the focus was arts and older people.

Since January 2020 the Foundation has focussed most of its arts funding on creative opportunities for people with mental health problems. (Our residual funding for our legacy programme on arts and older people is not part of this tender.) The programme does not fund arts therapy and most grants are to arts organisations using participatory arts methods. The programme is UK wide (with occasional international exchange) and across art form.

Our overall mission for the programme is:

To promote access to culture and creativity as a right for people with experience of mental health problems

This is underpinned by further objectives:

- To fund work that gives voice to people with mental health problems and challenges stigma;
- To increase the quantity and quality of arts activity for people with mental health problems;
- To demonstrate models of good practice;
- To increase the public profile of this work;
- To engage the support of policy makers and funders.

Our grants usually fall into one of three categories:

- Open calls with guidelines.
- Invited applications. These are intended to have a 'strategic element', often to test models or to create good practice resources.
- Funding partnerships. This can be where another funder will administer our funding along with their own, as has been the case with the Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland and with the Arts Council for Northern Ireland.

We use these approaches as opportunities present themselves rather than to an annual formula, meaning that grant making can look quite different from year to year.

The general approach of the Foundation in this and its other programmes might be described as 'field building'. Accepting the many complexities around defining people with mental health problems, we try to consider how arts organisations can make a better offer of creative opportunities to them. We do this acknowledging that we are only one actor in a complex field and frequently acting in collaboration with others, particularly national Arts Councils.

We launched the programme with our own [exploration of the field](#) and since then have published [a series of publications on aspects of arts and mental health](#).

Since then we have spent around £5.8 million in 200 grants. [All grants are listed on our website](#).

Our grants are typically for one to three years. This means that most of the grants made in 2023 are still in progress and all of those in 2024. All grantees are required to submit narrative monitoring or final evaluation reports which are assessed by staff and reported to trustees.

Alongside this, we have held a number of meetings and commissioned or written publications all of which are on our website.

The Foundation has a sub-committee of five trustees which meets three times a year to consider the programme including to make grants. Some grants are made under delegated authority through the year outside the meetings when necessary.

Support for the process

The Baring Foundation has a small team and our time is limited. In staffing terms, it is a major aspect of the work of the Director, David Cutler, who is supported by the Communications and Research Manager, Harriet Lowe. Other team members give mainly administrative support. We also have the freelance services of two expert advisers, Sabra Khan and Daniel Regan. We can make available any successful grant applications and assessments.

Staff will hold an inception meeting, be available as interviewees and would expect another discussion towards the end of the process to consider emerging findings. We will also comment on the draft report.

Eligibility to tender

We welcome tenders from any qualified individual/s or organisations, including not-for-profit organisations, companies, and universities. Individuals will need to be able to demonstrate that they have the skills, capacity, and infrastructure to fulfil the aims of this evaluation.

Issues to be considered by the evaluation

We wish the evaluation to be both backward looking and forward looking.

How well has our funding and other actions helped to build the arts and mental health field over almost five years and how should we be focusing our efforts to do this over the next five years? What have we done well and what do we need to improve? Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and human rights are central to our work – how well are we working in this regard? What relevant changes have occurred in this field in the last five years? Have we contributed to these and if so, to what extent? How well have we succeeded in supporting arts organisations working in this field? What changes do we need to make, assuming similar levels of resources from the Baring Foundation (up to £2 million per year very roughly)?

In order to assess our impact, we would assume that you will need to speak to some key actors in the field in addition to our grant recipients.

We are looking for an analysis and your judgement on our approach. While there should be a 'stocktaking' element to evaluation as to what we have done, this alone would add little value to our programme.

What we don't want – a bland retelling of interviews that you have held with grant partners and others confirming what we feel we already know in a reassuring fashion. Please surprise us and challenge us. Give us your opinion. We are open to considering radically different approaches so long as these are reasoned and have a practical impact on building the arts and mental health field.

Timetable

Applications must be received by noon on **Thursday 5th September 2024** and sent to baring.foundation@ing.com

We expect to interview one or more preferred candidates in the week commencing 11th October. After this we will make an appointment.

We wish to receive a draft report by Friday 23rd May 2025 and will comment on this before Friday 6th June. The final report must be completed by 20th June.

In addition to the report we would expect the researchers to present their findings to our Arts Committee and may request a short blog on the research (600-1,000 words).

Budget

The maximum available budget is £30k which must include all costs including VAT. Applicants are responsible for their own tax arrangements. Half will be paid in advance and half on completion.

Application

We would like applications to be under 3,000 words in length. Please cover the following issues;

- Why you want to do this work.
- Why you have the rights skills and experience to do it. What research if any have you done in the field of creativity and people with mental health problems? What experience do you have in arts programme evaluations?
- What are the key questions for this review?
- Your methodology.
- What challenges or limitations do you foresee and how they can be overcome.
- A clear budget breakdown. This should include day rates.
- A timeline.

Please attach CVs of people involved in the research.

We retain the right to publish the final report in full or in part and our usual practice has been to publish evaluations. The report should be between 5,000 to 10,000 words plus appendices.

If you have any questions about this brief, please contact david.cutler@ing.com

David Cutler

Director

Baring Foundation

26.04.2024