

Lewisham Arthouse

Expressions of Interest: Strategic Development

INTRODUCTION

Lewisham Arthouse is a not-for-profit, artist-led organisation based in Lewisham. Our focus is artist development through studio provision. Since 1995 we have maintained a building of historic importance and delivered programmes of artist development, education and contemporary visual arts / music. We also host community assemblies including maker fayres, pop-up restaurants and screenings.

Since 1995, Lewisham Council has issued Lewisham Arthouse a rolling yearly license with a notice period of one-month. Lewisham Council has recently asked us to tender for a 35 year repairing lease. We wish to turn this into an opportunity for establishing our organization's long-term security and cultural growth.

We are seeking a suitably-qualified consultancy or individual to lead this process. For example, overseeing feasibility studies, a capitalisation strategy (including long-term income-generation) and other assets to support consultation with partners, funders and stakeholders.

DESCRIPTION

The continued provision of affordable artists' studios is central to Lewisham Arthouse. To sustain this and access opportunities available via Lewisham council, suitable strategies for income generation and quality / consistency of provision must be identified.

These will be based on appropriate uses of the building and enhancing our existing programmes. These include, artist development, arts education, and artist-led contemporary visual arts/music programmes.

The architectural status of the Arthouse building is reflected in its Grade II listed status. Alongside affordable studio provision, the building offers characterful spaces which are currently used to provide a variety of arts based services to wider communities and arts audiences. These facilities are currently configured as:

- Affordable artist studio spaces (originally the lending library, reference library and offices) across basement, ground and first floors that host up to 65 visual artists.
- Workshop space (originally the children's library) which hosts contemporary music recitals, classes and community assemblies.
- Project Space (originally the public reading room) which hosts contemporary visual art exhibitions and short-term projects
- Residency space (originally the public lecture room), currently housing 3 studios, including the Arthouse-funded studio Graduate residency.
- Open access facilities: currently including kilns, darkroom, computer,
- External yard: hosts occasional community social events and art practices unsuitable for studios.

- Affordable, secure storage space for artworks (originally the book stacks) in the basement.

Any developments or reconfiguration needs to be done sensitively, valuing the organisation's history and current users of the building. This includes the ethos of Lewisham Arthouse as an artist-led organisation. We want to build on the sense of ownership from our audiences/ communities and form appropriate long-term partnerships with other organisations such as Lewisham Council, Arts Council England and Heritage Lottery Fund.

We expect the consultant to have a record working with local authorities and arts organisations and understanding of artist-led organisations.

Development will require continued income generation, additional investment and new administrative, advisory and staffing structures to manage Lewisham Arthouse as a recently registered charity. This may include securing a board of Trustees, for our recently-established charitable status. It was also require a review of the studio ethos and operations, as well as new approaches to bringing the historic building

In summary, the Consultant will help establish our long-term organisational aims and successfully communicate this vision to new and existing stakeholders. This will include providing a strong case for long-term investment (including security of tenure) based on a robust business plan, and enhancement of our existing visual arts, music, studio provision and arts education programmes.

SCOPE OF WORK

To achieve security of tenure and forward-thinking organisational identity, we require a qualified external partner to help communicate and realise Lewisham Arthouse's values, strength, and potential for growth.

This will involve an income-generation programme sufficient to secure the organisation's long-term tenancy and continued growth as an effective artist-led organisation. This will culminate in collaborating with, and presenting a comprehensive business plan to Lewisham Council.

The consultant will report to Lewisham Arthouse's internal Management committee: the Chair, Vice-Chair, Administrator, Treasurer – plus representatives from our Education, Exhibition Music programmes.

Applicants may apply for one or both schedules of work:

Schedule A – Review of local cultural and creative business landscape, light touch community consultation.

Maximum budget: £2000

Schedule B – Feasibility studies, vision document, capitalisation strategy (including long-term income-generation), studio operations review, business plan update (including

staffing), partners & stakeholders review, fundraising strategy.
Maximum budget: £7900

TIMETABLE

Work should begin after 11 January and be complete by 31 May 2015.

APPLICATIONS

The application deadline is **Friday 18th December**. Please include the following:

1. Outline of your understanding of the project (max 1 side A4)
2. Examples of 3 comparable projects (max 3 sides A4)
3. Outline project methodology (max 2 sides A4)
4. Proposed team and relevant skills for the project (max 2 sides A4)

Interviews will be held on Friday 8th January 2016