

artists practising well

Call for contributions: Affective support for creative practitioners working in participatory arts for health and wellbeing.

Following her Visual Artist Fellowship with the Clore Leadership Programme supported by a-n, The Artists Information Company, Nicola Naismith has been awarded a research grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Clore Leadership Programme to explore the support creative practitioners receive when working in the participatory arts for health and wellbeing sector. She says:

“It is essential that the health and wellbeing of artists is properly supported which in turn will help them to deliver the best quality work in the participatory arts for health and wellbeing sector”.

“The evidence base of the benefits to health and wellbeing from participating in the arts continues to grow but what about the health and wellbeing of the creative practitioners delivering these activities?”

The aim of the research is to collect the experiences of creative practitioners working in any discipline to assess the types and levels of support they receive. The type of support we are interested in is affective support, which relates to moods, feelings and attitudes. The research seeks to collate and analyse the ways in which organisations and commissioners who contract or employ creative practitioners support the wellbeing of the workforce. Naismith wants to find out what kinds of activities practitioners undertake to support themselves. In order to collect these experiences a 10 minute online survey has been designed and a call for respondents is now open.

The survey is looking for:

Individual creative practitioners who are currently working in participatory arts for health and wellbeing or have done so in the last 18 months.

You will have:

- **Undertaken paid work in participatory arts for health and wellbeing using any art form including visual arts, theatre, dance, music and performance, writing or any other creative discipline:**
- **Delivered a minimum of 8 sessions per year or have done so in the last 18 months:**
- **Worked on a freelance or employed basis or both:**
- **Worked primarily in the UK.**

The survey asks you to share your experiences of the support you currently receive from commissioning organisations, the kinds of support you would like, what you do to support yourself and what effect the support has.

You can access the survey here <https://robertgordonuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/affective-support-for-creative-practitioners>

In completing the survey creative practitioners will be making a vital contribution to the analysis of what support is currently being offered, what is preferred and what practitioners do to support themselves, all of which will help to build a picture of current good practice and areas for development and improvement.

To take the survey please follow this link <https://robertgordonuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/affective-support-for-creative-practitioners>

The survey is open now and will close at midnight on the 26th November 2018.

To ask any questions about taking part in the survey or the the research project more widely please email n.naismith@rgu.ac.uk

Image Credit: Nicola Naismith A folder called slogans 2017/18

Project Information

Survey title	Affective support for creative practitioners working in participatory arts for health and wellbeing
Survey link	https://robertgordonuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/affective-support-for-creative-practitioners
Survey dates	Open now - closes on Monday 26th November 2018 at midnight
Researcher	Nicola Naismith, Visual Artist & Clore Fellow https://www.a-n.co.uk/blogs/the-autonomous-artist/
Survey contact email	n.naismith@rgu.ac.uk
Research supervisor	Christopher Fremantle, Senior Research Fellow Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University
Supported by	Arts and Humanities Research Council and Clore Leadership Programme

Useful links / further information

Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing July 2017
http://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry/Publications/Creative_Health_Inquiry_Report_2017.pdf

From the above report recommendation:

5) We recommend that Arts Council England supports arts and cultural organisations in making health and wellbeing outcomes integral to their work and identifies health and wellbeing as a priority in its 10-year strategy for 2020–2030.

If this recommendation is adopted by ACE, provision of participatory arts for health and wellbeing will grow further and it is essential that NPO's understand the importance of affective support for creative practitioners working in this field and how best to offer this support.

Nicola Naismith 12 November 2018