**The Mighty Creatives Artsmark Wellbeing and Creative Learning**

**Project Commission – 2022-23**

**Creative Practitioner Brief**

1. **About The Mighty Creatives**

Established in 2009, The Mighty Creatives (TMC) is a registered charity whose mission isto inspire children and young people (CYP) to harness the power of the arts, culture and creativity for positive change, by delivering four programme strands: *Creative Schools*, *Creative Communities*, *Creative Mentoring* and *Creative Futures*. We provide and champion artistic and cultural opportunities for children and young people 0-25 who are the most in need.

Based in Leicester, our remit is to serve the East Midlands, particularly places with high levels of deprivation, including Levelling Up for Culture Places and ACE Priority Places.

Our mission is driven by **five** strategic objectives:

1. Co-design, develop and deliver high quality creative activities to increase CYP participation and skills.
2. Develop and promote creative expertise for the cultural education sector workforce.
3. Build strategic partnerships that strengthen local creative/cultural access and progression for CYP.
4. Develop and promote cultural practice that supports CYP in need.
5. Develop and promote leadership, employment and enterprise progression routes of YP into the cultural and creative industries.

**Four** core principles guide our engagement:

**Listen and act:** a person-centred approach which commits to listening, learning and actively improving access to creative opportunities for CYP.

**Respond to need:** by providing CYP with both access and opportunity for arts, culture and creativity, we support them to improve their personal wellbeing, educational achievement, and life chances—especially those in need who are significantly disadvantaged.

**Champion EDI:** we stand in solidarity with marginalised communities and will speak out against injustice.

**Collaborate:** working with cultural, community and education partners is central to improving creative, sustainable and scalable cultural opportunities for CYP.

1. **The Brief**

We are looking for a creative practitioner to lead sessions in 3 schools as part of our Artsmark Wellbeing and Creative Learning Action Research Project.

**Background:**

Mental Health and wellbeing has been a growing priority for schools for several years but the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many more children and young people being impacted; Children’s Commissioner Anne Longfield’s [annual report 2021](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2021/01/28/damage-to-childrens-mental-health-caused-by-covid-crisis-could-last-for-years-without-a-large-scale-increase-for-childrens-mental-health-services/) concluded that post Covid, 1 in 6 children were living with a mental health issue, rising to 1 in 4 in some areas.

There has been growing recognition for the positive impact arts and cultural projects can have on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people over several years, including in the classroom. The Mighty Creatives commissioned a report, written by Jo Stockdale, Well Within Reach, earlier this year entitled **“**[Wellbeing, Creativity and Young People: A Guide for Education Professionals](https://themightycreatives.com/wellbeing-creativity-and-young-people-a-guide-for-education-professionals-download-for-free/?s=09)”, to explore the relationship between learning and wellbeing and consider the positive impact of creativity on children and young people’s ‘learning brains’.

We are keen to explore this further in the classroom, working with some schools to look at the impact that creativity can have on young people’s wellbeing and also how you can measure this. This action research project will focus on the impact creativity in the classroom can have on young people’s wellbeing and their learning, but also support us to think about how we can capture this more effectively.

When thinking about creativity we are keen to use the [5 Creative Thinking Habits](https://www.tes.com/magazine/archive/how-develop-habits-creative-thinking) as referenced by Bill Lucas and Ellen Spencer - collaboration, inquisitive, persistent, imaginative, and disciplined.

**Project Aims:**

* To examine more closely the impact of creativity on the wellbeing of children and young people in primary schools; testing out and putting into practice the TMC report “Wellbeing, Creativity and Young People: A Guide for Education Professionals”.
* To develop and test an evaluation framework to support schools and partners to measure more easily the impact of creative teaching and learning on wellbeing in a classroom environment.

We are interested in understanding the impacts of wellbeing on engagement, motivation and learning, and how these interchange. The evaluation framework will be shaped and developed throughout the process, informed by the artist, teachers and children and young people. Jo Stockdale will be the lead evaluator and responsible for developing the framework and evaluating the project.

**Our Initial Enquiry question:**

*What is the impact of a more creative approach to teaching and learning on young people’s wellbeing in a classroom environment?*

Other sub-questions may emerge through the planning phase of the project, looking at different competencies.

Wellbeing can be a broad term but we are keen to explore in more detail 3 particular focus areas in relation to the development of self-esteem:-

1. Sense of self
2. Sense of personal power
3. Sense of belonging

**The approach:**

We are looking for a creative practitioner to work with up to 3 schools over the autumn and spring term (6 x half day sessions in each school). We will be working with one class in each school and different age groups/year groups will be targeted at each school.

We are looking for a creative practitioner to work with the schools to explore young people’s sense of self, sense of power and sense of belonging through stories and narrative. We are open to the artform and creative approach to the brief e.g. dance/movement, visual storytelling, drama/theatre, music etc. but we are keen to work with a creative practitioner who uses narratives and storytelling in their work with young people in some way.

We are looking for someone who has experience of working in primary schools, particularly with vulnerable children and young people, and who has an understanding of the positive impact that creative education can have on young people’s mental health and wellbeing.

Training will be provided by our lead evaluator, Jo Stockdale, as part of the project, exploring what we mean by wellbeing and how it can support learning. Jo will also be developing an evaluation framework to be tested and developed through the project and will be supporting reflection and project development.

1. **Criteria**

TMC is seeking to work with an individual or organisation that has:

**Essential**

* At least 2 years experience in working with primary schools
* Experience of working with vulnerable children and young people
* Knowledge and understanding of the positive impact of arts and culture on mental health and wellbeing
* Has experience of using storytelling and narratives in their work with children and young people.

1. **Fees, timescale and contract terms**

**Fees**

We have anticipated that this project would include:-

* 3 days planning/reflection/training
* 9 days delivery (broke down as 18 x half day/2 hour sessions)
* 1 day evaluation

The fee available for this work is **£3575.00** (calculated at £275 per day)

There is also project budget of £450 available for materials.

The above fee is inclusive of any VAT and expenses. However, travel costs can be negotiated.

We have received interest from schools across the region. Please indicate in your application where you are willing to work.

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is an important priority at The Mighty Creatives and as a freelancer working on this programme, we expect you to hold an Enhanced DBS check (within the last 2 years) and follow our Safeguarding Policy and procedures. Our Safeguarding Policy will be supplied separately.

**Contract terms**

This opportunity is offered as a freelance opportunity. The work will be undertaken in accordance with TMC’s standard contract terms and conditions and any additional agreed conditions specifically required for the delivery of this work.

**Timescale**

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| **Application deadline:** | 9am Friday 22nd July 22 |
| **Interviews:** | Thursday 4th August 2022 or Tuesday 9th August 2022 |
| **August:** | Initial planning conversations with core project team |
| **September:** | Planning and training with teachers from schools |
| **October – February:** | Delivery in schools |
| **February** | Evaluation meeting. |

1. **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying, please submit a completed application form, outlining your proposal.

**This should be sent to recruitment@themightycreatives.com by the deadline of 9am Friday 22nd July.**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with us (via video call).

**Equal Opportunities Form**

As part of our commitment to equal opportunities and diversity of our workforce, we would also request that you complete and return the **Equal Opportunities Form** provided with the application form.

**If you have any questions about this brief or project please contact Hazel Townsend -** [**hazel@themightycreatives.com**](mailto:hazel@themightycreatives.com) **or 07725 660525.**

**END**

Prepared by:

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