

Call Out: Looking for new partners to join the Collaborative Touring Network

The opportunity:

Do you think a regular cultural offer in your town or city could inspire your community and change the way people relate to the place they live and work? If you have a grassroots connection to your community and big ambitions for its future, this could be the opportunity for you.

In 2016-2019, the Collaborative Touring Network (CTN) will give three independent people/organisations an opportunity to join an existing network of five partners from across England, with support from Battersea Arts Centre. You will be supported by the network to run your own bi-annual festivals featuring some of the UK's top artists alongside the best of your community's home grown talent, as well as developing a model of year round creative activity.

"The Collaborative Touring Network is growing a future model of arts engagement that could flourish all over the country and transform the opportunities available to both artists and audiences. That's good for local people: good for theatre too."
Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

The current CTN network is a partnership between Battersea Arts Centre and five independent producing teams based in [Darlington](#), [Gloucester](#), [Hull](#), [Thanet](#) and [Torbay](#). CTN is funded by Arts Council England, and Garfield Weston Charitable Foundation. We currently have further applications pending with Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Jerwood Charitable Foundation. The scale of the project will depend on the outcome of these pending applications. We expect to receive the key funding decisions by April 2016. As part of the development of this project over the next three years, we are currently exploring re-naming the network in collaboration with our partners.

What is the Collaborative Touring Network?

In March 2012, Battersea Arts Centre launched a national call out seeking partners from around the country interested in developing the cultural offer in their community. Over the past three years, we have worked as a network to support artists locally and deliver bi-annual festivals of high-quality touring work, in areas typically associated with low levels of cultural engagement.

Festivals include theatre, music, feasts, workshops, scratch nights, discussions and more, and take place in venues familiar to the community. The network is imagining new contexts for performance that inspire audiences and artists alike; occupying parks, community centres, Quaker meeting houses and nightclubs.

The model of this project has been collaboratively developed over the past three years. We are looking to recruit three new partners who will:

- Produce twice-yearly festivals featuring the UK's top artists, programmed by the network and Battersea Arts Centre, alongside the best of your community's home grown talent;
- Support the development of artists and creative projects in your area that feed into these festivals;
- Deliver year-round creative activity to engage communities and develop audiences;
- Benefit from professional development opportunities to develop your skills as a producer;
- Work within a cultural network that supports you to make change in your local area.

About Battersea Arts Centre:

Battersea Arts Centre is a public space where people come together to be creative, see a show, explore the local heritage, play or relax. The organisation's mission is to inspire people to take creative risks to shape the future. Shows and projects developed at Battersea Arts Centre also travel across the UK and the world.

Who we are looking to work with:

Over the next 3 years, we want to expand CTN to include 3 new partners working in areas of low cultural engagement in the UK.

We are especially encouraging applications from people based in East of England, East and West Midlands and North West England, however our search is not limited to these areas and we welcome applications from any part of England that the network does not currently reach.

We encourage applications from all walks of life and are looking to recruit people who will bring new ideas and fresh approaches to the network's central aim of collaboratively creating unique, accessible, participatory, playful arts experiences, rooted in the local community. You do not need to have a background in the arts, and we welcome a range of applications from partnerships, independent organisations or individuals.

We are looking to work with someone who is:

- Resourceful, resilient and aspirational, who can play a key role in this network of creative change-makers. You could be someone who identifies as a theatre producer, but could also be a community leader who believes in the potential of creativity to raise aspirations and change the place they live;
- Connected to their community at grass-roots level, who knows and is passionate about the people and the place;

- Interested in and would benefit from the opportunity of working in a UK-wide network;
- Interested in programming theatre and cultural activity in non-theatre spaces already occupied by, and familiar to the community;
- Working at a similar organisational level to our current CTN partners i.e. you have been working with your community for 3-5 years but without regular sustainable funding;
- Not working as part of an Arts Council funded National Portfolio Organisation;
- Working or wants to work as a partnership with local organisations i.e. producers working with libraries;
- Working in areas of England that this project does not currently reach.

If these qualities and interests resonate with you, or with someone you know, then we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're already a driving force in your region's cultural scene or if you work closely with your community on a local level unrelated to the arts, your ideas and approaches would be a valued addition to the network and we would encourage you to find out more.

The Application Process

If you are interested in being part of the Collaborative Touring Network, please come along to one of our introductory sessions:

Tuesday 8 March 2016	New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich	1pm-4pm
Thursday 10 March 2016	MAC, Birmingham	1pm-4pm
Tuesday 15 March 2016	HOME, Manchester	1pm-4pm

These sessions will be a chance to find out more about the project, meet the existing partners and engage in a wider dialogue around touring, artist development and cultural regeneration.

If you are interested in the Collaborative Touring Network, but do not expect to deliver the project yourself, we would encourage you to come along. The sessions will facilitate networking opportunities for individuals and organisations to consider applying as a partnership.

How to book a place?

To book a place at one of these introductory sessions, please email Katie Croft (Touring Assistant at Battersea Arts Centre) on katiec@bac.org.uk and include:

- Your name
- Where you are working in the UK (location and organisation if applicable)

If you are unable to attend a session, please feel free to contact Katie Croft via email or phone (020 7326 8248) to find out more about the project.

NB Bursaries of a limited amount are available to support your travel to the introductory sessions. If you would like to apply for a travel bursary please contact Katie Croft to discuss your individual needs.

How to apply?

The application pack is now available to download from Battersea Arts Centre's website. The deadline to apply to be part of the Collaborative Touring Network is **Monday 21st March at 12pm**. Interviews will be held at Battersea Arts Centre in London on **Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th April**.

The successful applicants will join the existing network in delivering their first season of festivals in Autumn 2016.

For any immediate questions about the project, please contact Katie Croft on katiec@bac.org.uk, or by phone on 020 7326 8248.

Timeline of Activity

Timeframe	Activity
January – April 2016	Funding decisions received
February – March 2016	Introductory Sessions and Applications Open
April 2016	Interviews at Battersea Arts Centre
April 2016 – September 2016	New partners visit current festivals. Planning and programming begins.
September – November 2016	Autumn 2016 festivals, Evaluation and Programming
March – May 2017	Spring 2017 festivals, Evaluation and Programming
September – November 2017	Autumn 2017 festivals, Evaluation and Programming
March – May 2018	Spring 2018 festivals, Evaluation and Programming
September – November 2018	Autumn 2018 festivals, Evaluation and Programming
March – May 2019	Spring 2019 festivals, Evaluation

The Collaborative Touring Network 2016-19 is supported by:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
 ENGLAND**

