

INVITATION TO TENDER

External Evaluator for *Petrichor* community programme

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ThickSkin is a physical theatre company working across live and digital platforms. From our base in Manchester, we tour the UK and beyond to reach and inspire young, new and diverse audiences through our distinctive physicality and cinematic style. We support young people who are under-represented in UK theatre through education, training and employment in the arts.

We are looking to engage an External Evaluator to measure the impact of our Theatre in VR experience, *Petrichor* which is part of ThickSkin's MATCHBOX programme, as it tours community venues across the North of England this Autumn. The aim of this tour is to connect young people aged 13 to 25 across the North of England with their local community centres and arts venues. In particular, we're targeting those who do not often engage with theatre or live performance. We will do this by visiting 10 venues in the North who receive little or no core funding from Arts Council England. In each setting, we will deliver a viewing of *Petrichor* on VR headsets, followed by a workshop exploring a number of techniques used to create the show.

Petrichor is a MATCHBOX production by ThickSkin. Supported by Arts Council England, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Three Monkeys Trust and Oculus from Facebook.

TENDER BRIEF

ThickSkin invites tenders from experienced External Evaluators.

The purpose of this evaluation is to:

- Provide current funders with key information on the outcomes of the project
- Act as a Case for Support that can be presented to future funders/partners
- Aid the strategic planning of future MATCHBOX projects
- Support internal learning within the ThickSkin team

We would like the evaluation to measure the project's impact against our intended outcomes, which are listed below:

- To **connect with new audiences** by reaching areas where residents do not regularly attend theatre events and where activities for teenagers most need improving.
- To **inspire young people through theatre and related activities**, who currently have limited access to the arts, due to social, geographic, financial, or other barriers
- To **build young people's confidence and unlock creativity** in a professional, safe and nurturing environment within our workshops.
- To **increase young audiences for theatre** by using crossover artforms, such as VR and creating connections to their local community venue or arts centre after participating in the project.

We would like the evaluation to produce the following outputs:

- An in-depth case study that examines the impact of this project on the young people who took part, including interviews with a sample of participants and group leaders and ThickSkin delivery team.
- Overall snapshot of engagement statistics: how many young people took part, where they're from, other measurables to be decided between the evaluator
- Recommendations for next steps.

PROPOSED CONTRACT

The value of this freelance contract is £2,000 over the duration of the project, from October to November 2021. The fee is inclusive of costs relating to delivery of evaluation tasks.

CRITERIA

Tenders should be no more than 2 sides of A4 and should include:

- Statement detailing suitability for this role
- Outline approach to design of evaluation
- Summary of skills, knowledge and experience
- References

Please also submit a recent example of your evaluation work.

Applications should demonstrate:

- Knowledge and experience of the arts sector
- Experience working and communicating effectively with young people
- DBS Check or willingness to undertake one

DEADLINE

The deadline for responses to this tender is 10am Monday 27 September. Your tender proposal should be submitted via email to: ailbhe@thickskintheatre.co.uk.

Interviews shall be held in the week of 27 September and a decision on appointment will be made by Monday 4 October.

www.thickskintheatre.co.uk