



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES – IMOVE ARTS and THEATRE IN THE MILL

Imove Arts and Theatre in the Mill (Bradford) are looking to support R&D for four new commissions in 2014/5.

Two of these will be in partnership with Theatre in the Mill, two will be separately awarded by Imove Arts.

Imove is committed to supporting emerging artists from all genres, and to providing stretching opportunities for early and mid career artists. We like to do this through new collaborations, especially across art forms.

We are also interested in collaborations between artists who bring different audiences together, introducing each to new forms and experiences.

All Imove's work has a connection to human movement, whether that is through physical forms such as dance and circus or through creative forms which explore physicality and embodiment in new ways. Imove's previous projects have included written and spoken word, visual and digital art, film, music and recreational physical activities (swimming, cycling, walking).

We are passionate about bringing new audiences to the arts, whether that is by doing work in unusual settings, working in partnership with non arts sectors (eg sports, leisure) or sourcing content and narrative from specific communities or groups of citizens.

We also like 'slow art' which engages participants and audiences over a period of time as work is developed so that, in its final form it has a following and a natural constituency of advocates.

Our work has a strong sense of place, whether by being site specific/responsive, or connecting with the rural or urban landscape. Our work is rooted in Yorkshire, but aims to reach beyond the region, to national and international audiences.

Importantly, this will be the start of a partnership with Imove in the development of your project, and one of our producers will work with you to help shape and support its future potential. Our aim is that, beyond the R&D phase, we will work with you to take your project forward and in securing further resources, partnerships and funding which will develop the project into its fuller stages as part of Imove's future programme. We therefore need the R&D period to identify who the project is aimed at or will work with (in funder language, beneficiary groups), where it will happen (geographically specific or general), what it aims to do and how it will engage people.

We will be looking to confirm the awards by mid August, start the R&D in September, with Studio time late October/ November.

www.imovearts.co.uk

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/theatre/>

THE OPPORTUNITIES

There are two levels of R&D awards offered :

Studio Award (two awards available)

The Studio R&D Award offers both a cash grant of £2000 and a week in the studio at Theatre in The Mill, Bradford. This will be in late autumn 2014, although R&D work is expected to start before then, with research into ideas, attending events, lectures or locations, interviews or conversations with particular communities/ groups of people - to gather material to shape for the practical week.

It is expected that at the end of the studio week, there will be a sharing , showing or performative element, either with participants from whom content is being sourced, or with an audience from whom you will seek particular work in progress feedback. Whoever you aim to share your initial work with, we want that sharing to include a discussion on how a more developed iteration of the project could grow to engage a much larger audience which will include people new to the arts.

It is also expected, following the sharing, that you will be able to describe your project's potential future form, audience group, scale and subject.

The Studio Award is intended for either collaborations between artists, or an artist who wants to involve others practically in developing work. Imove and Theatre in the Mill will be creative collaborators within the project, and can provide mentoring and production frameworks for the work to develop.

Research Award (two awards available)

The Research Award offers a cash grant of £1000 for an artist or artists to develop their initial ideas to shape and more fully scope a potential project. This might involve the same range of research activity as in the Studio Award, developing partnerships, identifying collaborators and consulting communities or participant groups. The grant can also be used for some practical development of material, although any studio time would need to be funded from within the award.

It is expected that at the end of the Research period you will be able to describe your project's potential future form, audience group, scale and subject.

The Research Award is intended for individual artists or early stage collaborations with a proposition to populate with content, and develop. The artist will work closely with an Imove Producer who will be able to suggest contacts, directions, potential partners and content to help shape the initial idea.

We are interested in hearing from artists or artist collaborations at all stages in their careers, including emerging artists who are well positioned to benefit from this opportunity, and who:

- have a strong idea they think fits Imove's identity and ways of working
- are passionate about engaging people in unusual ways
- can demonstrate the quality of their work to date
- are excited by new partnerships and collaborations
- have a connection with Yorkshire – this could be either living, working or originating from the region, but we are interested to hear how you might interpret that.

To Apply

Email hello@imovearts.co.uk with the subject heading **R&D PROPOSAL**, telling us in a maximum of two sides of A4 :

- A brief introduction to you as an artist/artists and your work, any recent highlights
- Which Award you are applying for (you can apply for both)
- Why you are interested in working with Imove (And Theatre in the Mill for Studio Awards)
- What is your project idea and how does it connect with Imove's core theme of human movement? Why is it important to you, to us and to the wider world?
- Indicate the key elements of process and methodology within your research and development – which areas do you want to pursue, how will you do this, who else do you want to involve, are there any particular groups or participants you want to get to know/ interview/ gather material from?
- For the Studio Award - what stage of ideas/ content would you expect to be at, before going into the studio and how you would use studio time to progress this ?
- Directions in which the project might develop in the longer term
- An outline budget showing how you'd spend the money.
- Include links to websites for films or images you want to reference and/or you can send low resolution images additional to your written submission.
- Your anticipated timescale and availability

Send us this by Sunday 6th July 2014. In August we'll invite the people with the ideas we like best in to do a pitch for their R&D project. This is really a creative conversation which asks you to present your ideas in a way that is clear and engaging.

And because we know your time and ours is precious and not to be wasted ... we don't want :

- 💡 Projects where you're looking for funding to top up a general project fund as part of a fundraising effort (though we are interested in projects which have potential to involve other partners and funders)*
- 💡 Projects you've been trying to get off the ground which are shoe-horned into meeting our interests (we've got pretty good at spotting these!)*
- 💡 To hear a pitch from your administrator or fund-raiser – we need to hear from the artists behind the ideas*
- 💡 Work which is intensely introspective and the conversation is mainly aimed at other artists or regular arts attenders – our focus is on engaging new audiences*