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# Outreach to Ownership

Grants and Capacity  
Building Programme  
Call for Partners

Date of issue November 2021

# Summary

‘Outreach to Ownership’ is a cross-border research pilot programme that will explore innovative approaches to inclusive community engagement across culture sector organisations in Scotland and England.

Managed in partnership by Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland, the project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and advised by the [AHRC’s Independent Research Organisation Consortium](#). Across the course of the next year a total of £125,000 will be given in grants to up to eight delivery partner organisations to support research into diverse approaches to inclusive community engagement in the culture sector.

We invite expressions of interest from partners well-connected with their local communities and experienced in a broad spectrum of approaches to inclusive engagement: approaches which might range from effective first steps in inclusive outreach with local communities, all the way to exploring the benefits of community groups taking ownership of cultural assets.

## Aims and objectives

This pilot will champion collaboration between large and small organisations and community and interest groups in different parts of the culture sector. It will support and demonstrate a wide range of inclusive and participatory approaches to research and community engagement.

Partners will co-produce their research with their community stakeholders, demonstrating best practice and lessons learned, measuring social and economic impact, and working together to make a strong case for the contribution that an inclusive, community-engaged culture sector can make to local development and national policy.

Partners and their community stakeholders will benefit from a programme of regular capacity and network building workshops designed to support research project development and delivery. Partners will be invited to co-deliver these workshops, sharing their inclusive engagement expertise alongside other sector leading engagement and research professionals. Outputs and learning from these activities will be shared widely across the sector.

Areas of delivery partner expertise will form the research subjects of the research projects. These might include (but are not limited to):

- developing and sustaining inclusive community outreach, networks and partnerships;
- co-commissioning inclusive creative or historic interpretation work;
- inclusive approaches to digital community engagement;
- inclusive engagement in rural and isolated places;
- innovative approaches to volunteering and volunteer development;
- co-design of exhibitions, events and outreach programmes;
- community-led research (archival, object-based, visual, oral historical, or ethnographic, for example);
- community management, leadership and/or ownership of assets.

## Who can apply?

We invite expressions of interest from a range of culture sector organisations (including galleries, libraries, archives, museums, heritage organisations, historic places, parks and gardens) of different sizes and governance structures in Scotland and England.

Successful applicants will be experienced in inclusive approaches to community engagement, with strong existing networks of community stakeholders and a proven track record of inclusive engagement delivery. They will also be well connected, with good experience of partnership working and knowledge exchange with different culture sector organisations. Partners are not necessarily expected to be experienced in developing and delivering research.

Delivery partners will bring their expertise, networks and experience in inclusive community engagement to the partnership, while the lead partners (HE and HES) and IRO advisory organisations will bring funding and programme structure along with research skills. Lead partners will make use of their influencing position with policy and funding makers to advocate for and amplify the leadership role of smaller organisations and their community stakeholders.

Lead partners are keen to support delivery partners in priority places for economic and social development, places that may face challenges from slow economic growth, geographic isolation or disadvantage and deprivation of various kinds. At the same time, we are keen to ensure a good geographic spread of projects across England and Scotland, ensuring that rural, urban, coastal and island communities are represented in the partnership.

Partnerships can either be new or based on existing collaborations but should include representation from across the cultural sector. While our focus is on local and regionally based partnerships, we are also open to applications from national-level partnerships representing communities of interest.

All organisations across England and Scotland **not** accredited as Independent Research Organisations (IROs) are eligible to apply. This includes, but is not limited to, local authorities, charitable trusts and limited companies across England and Scotland.

Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) or UKRI-recognised Independent Research Organisations (IROs) are not eligible to apply. As part of the application process you will be asked for your Company Number, Charities Commission / Scottish Charity Number, or VAT Number.

Individuals and non-incorporated groups and organisations are not eligible to apply as partners but may participate in the programme as part of a partners' community stakeholder groups.

All parties funded by Historic England must be IR35 compliant. This means that you should be able to demonstrate that the correct tax is paid, and that National Insurance Contributions are attributed correctly.

## Evaluation and Impact Assessment

Evaluation and impact form the core of the pilot. Impact assessment is a means of measuring the effectiveness of activities and projects and judging the significance of the changes or benefits brought about by these actions. It is central to the research process in effectively demonstrating the social and economic value of inclusive community engagement; but also in evaluating the delivery of the pilot.

Impact can be gauged in terms of reach (how many people/organisations were influenced by the work) and significance (the difference it made to these people/organisations). Whilst partners will have some experience of evaluation of grant funded programmes, gathering and assessing evidence of social and economic impact will form a regular subject in the capacity building workshops, and partners will be supported by an external evaluation consultant in measuring the impact of the inclusive engagement work, as well as evaluating their delivery of the research pilot.

**All partners will be expected to contribute to the collection of qualitative and quantitative evaluation data throughout the lifetime of their projects.**

## Budget

Outreach to Ownership will support up to 8 delivery partners. Partners may apply for grants of up to £15,000.00 - £30,000.00 (including any VAT that might be payable).

## Pilot Timetable

**Proposals must be submitted by 17:30 on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.**  
**Applicants will be informed of the decision by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Research projects will begin in January 2022 and must be complete with all project deliverables shared with HE and HES by September 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

## Capacity Building Programme Timetable

The capacity building programme will run alongside projects from January 2022 to completion and dissemination in September 2022. It will run in 3 phases:

Development phase (January – March)	c. 4-6 workshops covering topics requested by partners in their partner applications.  Example topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• research design,</li><li>• evaluation,</li><li>• network building,</li><li>• organisational change</li></ul>
Delivery phase (February - September)	c. 8 Monthly workshops designed as a two-part offer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part 1: Workshop (offered by HE/HES/Partner organisations/Evaluation specialist)</li><li>• Part 2: Surgery all attendees working on issues and questions together to share knowledge and ideas.</li></ul>

Dissemination phase (September)	<p>c. 4 workshops covering topics requested by partners over the course of their projects.</p> <p>Example topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing outputs with local culture sector partners,</li> <li>• summative evaluation and reporting,</li> <li>• demonstrating social and economic impact,</li> <li>• recommendations for influencing local and national policy</li> <li>• Securing funding for follow-on work</li> </ul>
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## Assessment of Partner Applications

Partner applications will be assessed by a board made up of HE and HES staff. Recommendations for partner appointments will be reviewed by the AHRC advisory board in January 2022.

HE and HES are hoping to support partners from across the culture sector. We are hoping to work with different types of organisations with diverse governance structures (e.g. small non-research led organisations and/or community-led or owned organisations).

We want to ensure that this pilot programme has wide geographical coverage not just across England and Scotland but also across different types of place (e.g. rural and isolated, towns, cities, villages, coastal places, island communities).

We will prioritise applications from organisations who are able to demonstrate the following:

- A close link between their research proposition and the aims of this pilot.
- A demonstrable commitment to inclusive working, equality and diversity
- A track record of delivering projects in the community.
- Access to an existing network of culture sector organisations and clear buy in for their application from this network.

## How to apply

Proposals should be submitted through our application form (Smart Survey). Proposals must include a task list, timetable and full costs.

[Complete the application form](#)

# Further information

For questions about the pilot please contact  
[OutreachtoOwnership@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:OutreachtoOwnership@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## References

- [ACEVO Legal Structures for Social Enterprise \(amended and updated\)](#)
- [Historic England Future Strategy 2021](#)
- [Levelling Up Fund – list of local authorities by priority category](#)
- [IROC - Independent Research Organisation Consortium for the Arts and Humanities](#)
- Community-led research:
  - [Local Trust - Community-led research: staying in control](#)
  - [CLES - Working with community researchers](#)
- Community research:
  - [The National Archives - Exploring the possibilities of citizen research and heritage data](#)
- Inclusive engagement:
  - [Bang The Table - Inclusive engagement: why knowing your audience matters](#)
  - [Volunteer Scotland - Inclusive volunteering](#)
- Digital engagement:
  - [The Audience Agency - Digital hybridity](#)
- Other relevant AHRC funded sources:
  - [The National Archives - Towards a national collection](#)

- [The Happy Museum - The Lightbox, Woking: community engagement and co-creation](#)
- [SHARE Museums East - Co-creating community projects: an introductory guide](#)
- [Bang The Table - Playing together pays: digital engagement transforms parks and recreation](#)

### Documents in this series:

- Outreach to Ownership – partner application form
- Outreach to Ownership - guidance for partners



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The Arts and Humanities investigate the values and beliefs which underpin both who we are as individuals and how we undertake our responsibilities to our society and to humanity globally.

Visit the AHRC website at: [ahrc.ukri.org](http://ahrc.ukri.org), on Twitter at [@ahrcpress](https://twitter.com/ahrcpress), and on Facebook search for the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](#), or Instagram at [@ahrcpress](https://www.instagram.com/ahrcpress).

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact the Outreach to Ownership team at:

Tel: 0370 333 0607

Email: [OutreachToOwnership@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:OutreachToOwnership@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

All information, contacts and web-links contained in this document are accurate as of the time of publication.

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