 

**Freelance photographer in residence   
Call out for expressions of interest**

***Collaborative Photography in Prison***

***About the project***

Open Eye Gallery is working in collaboration with Novus to deliver its first pilot collaborative photography project with learners and in-house IMedia staff at HMP Risley. The project will also seek to engage with family members of the learners, where sessions will be based both at HMP during family days and off-site at Open Eye Gallery.

# About Novus

[www.novus.ac.uk](http://www.novus.ac.uk)

### Novus is part of the LTE Group, the first integrated education and skills group and largest not for profit social enterprise of its kind. LTE Group exists to improve lives and drive economic success and comprises:

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| * **NOVUS -** The leading education provider in the criminal justice sector |
| * **MOL -** A leading provider  of professional corporate development |
| * **TOTAL PEOPLE -** A leading provider of apprenticeship training |
| * **THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE -** The largest further education college in the UK     Novus is the market leader in the provision of skills, employability and learning support to offenders and other ‘hard to reach’ individuals. With 23 years of experience of delivering in a custodial setting, we currently deliver from 53 prisons, 4 Young Offender Institutions and a Secure Training Centre. Our principal areas of activity are as follows:   ****Skills, employability and education services in the adult prison estate **Education Services to Young People in Custody**  **Resettlement services**  **Vocational training workshops**  **National Employment Brokerage Service**  **About Open Eye Gallery**  We believe photography is for everyone and can be meaningful, informing our present and inspiring positive futures. Open Eye Gallery works with people to explore photography’s unique ability to connect, to tell stories, to inquire, to reflect on humanity’s past and present, and to celebrate its diversity and creativity.  Right now, we’re working towards becoming a more useful gallery for all, putting socially  engaged photography practice at the heart of what we do. The *Collaborative Photography in Prison* programme forms part of our three year socially engaged programme, supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, as part of their Access and Participation Fund.  We believe passionately in delivering projects, which take a co-authored approach to practice, where artist and those they collaborate with share agency in the work produced. We welcome working applications, which demonstrate collaborative methods of working with staff, learners from the Criminal Justice Setting and their family members to explore their own personal narrative and context through photography.  **About HMP Risley & Novus’ IMedia Curriculum**  HMP Risley is a category C prison based between Warrington & Leigh, Cheshire. The prison holds over 1000 men, mainly from the north-west, representing a full range of ages and sentences. Novus delivers IMedia programmes, which incorporates photography, animation and illustration within the allocated education and training provision. The IMedia suite is where the sessions for this project will take place within HMP Risley.  **Aims and objectives of the project**  NOVUS believes creative expression can build confidence and enhance lives, as well as developing skills related to employment. Prisons can be quite insula and with restrictions on access to equipment and modern technology and; social media platforms - including the internet, - it can be very challenging to prepare our learners for the real world.  NOVUS recognise creative/professional use of photography offers many advantages – for example, most goods and services are promoted via photography online, and most people share their lives and advertise themselves by using photography and film on social media. Working with relevant arts professionals who work in this field will bring credibility and up to date knowledge, experience and skills into the classroom. Through the partnership with professional cultural partners, we can provide creative experiences for our learners and; improve their access to employment and; subsequently reduce their chances of reoffending. NOVUS hopes that this opportunity, although focused on photography, can develops wider skills, like responding to a brief, time management and other transferable skills that could be of benefit moving forwards more broadly.  The opportunity to question and work alongside an operating professional in any field gives learners a fresh insight into the real working world but also support in-staff to refresh their own standard skills and techniques. We see this as a development opportunity for staff, which in turn may have positive impact on future learners.  NOVUS and Open Eye Gallery understand the benefits of collaborating with high quality critically engaged photographic artists, and see this pilot as an opportunity for evaluating potential for future partnerships on socially engaged arts projects within HMP settings, and for developing arts as a tool for rehabilitation.  Through this project we aim to: |

* To test pilot a socially engaged process of creative practice within the HMP setting, positively fostering creative learning for all involved
* Test to what extent the accessibility of photography can transcend barriers to creativity
* Create an opportunity for two-way learning between cultural organisation and external freelance artist with in-house IMedia staff within HMP settings. Can this process inspire new approaches to existing curriculum?
* Test if the public showcase of work produced can change wider public perceptions, e.g. reducing stigma of those in and affected by criminal justice sector.
* Connect to family members of learners, opening up opportunities for future family focused groups at Open Eye Gallery.
* Creatively experiment and collaborate with photographers and IMedia staff to produce work, which is meaningful to them.

# Longer-term programme

This initial pilot project is aimed at establishing a longer-term programme supported by NOVUS and as part of Open Eye Gallery's three year socially engaged photography programme, working with up to 3 regional HMP settings. The successful candidate may be invited to deliver the longer-term programme based on the initial process and outcomes of this pilot project.

**PHOTOGRAPHER’S BRIEF**

The Photographer will be expected to:

* + Deliver up to 12 half-day photography based sessions within the HMP setting. Please note these sessions with be in the morning (AM).
  + Attend an additional 2-3 show and tell and family days.
  + Deliver up to 10 half day sessions with family members based between the HMP setting and some sessions at Open Eye Gallery
  + To attend up to 3 internal review and reflection meetings (to be negotiated between the community and Head of Engagement for dates).
  + Attend up to 2 wider artist sharing labs during the projects duration to share feedback and peer review of other current projects being delivered within the Paul Hamlyn funded programmes.
  + Attend initial site visit and training sessions for working within a HMP setting if appropriate.
  + To work with the Open Eye Gallery’s Head of Engagement, HMP and Novus delivery team and project participants to discuss the selection and preparation of their work for a physical and digital exhibition if participants which to showcase work produced (please note this may be within the HMP setting and / or gallery setting).
  + Contribute to the monitoring data and evaluation reporting
  + Contribute up 1-2 written reflective blogs about the project, for Open Eye Gallery’s website and associated Socially engaged photography network (SEPN)

Open Eye Gallery and NOVUS are keen to work with the best photographer/s interested in exploring the power of photography to develop meaningful personal narratives. We recognise that photographers will have established different process for engaging with different participants/ collaborators, which may range from the co-authoring of the projects (including creating work in dialogue with those participants from start to finish) and / or supporting participants in creating photographic stories themselves and supporting the editing process – or a mixture of all of these.

**BUDGET**

Artist fee (based on an estimated 27 half day sessions @ £200 allowing room for contingency if sessions are changed/ cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances) - **£5400**

Materials for workshops and delivery - **£1000**

Artist travel - **£650**

\*There is an additional budget for participant access costs, marketing and exhibition production costs, which will be discussed and finalised with the successful candidate.

**SUBMISSION DETAILS AND SCHEDULE**

# Deadline for submission of interest: Monday 17 February, 10am

* Please submit up to 2 A4 sides describing why you are interesting in the role, what skills you can bring to the project and the potential lines of enquiries / approaches to delivering you would take when working with a) the HMP based learners and b) the family groups. Please note we envisage family groups to initially include work with Children as well as partners/ parents but this may shifts as the project develops and based on the focus from the family members involved.
* Please consider Open Eye Gallery’s approach to co-authoring photography as a model of practice and NOVUS’s focus on supporting their learners to increase self-expression, and find new modes new creativity through this project.
* A current CV including a website link if you have one.
* Up to 8 images / video links exemplifying your work which you feel is most relevant to this project.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified no later than Friday 21 February

Interviews will take place on Wednesday 4 March

Project start date: Monday 20 April

Sessions are likely to run on Mondays and Thursdays between the HMP setting and Open Eye

Gallery. We will stagger the delivery of the programme so workshops begin with learners before the

family sessions start. The successful candidate must also be available for a pre-

booked family day with learners and their family members at HMP Risley around late April.

Exact date will be confirmed during the interview process.   
  
 If appropriate showcases of the work will take place within the HMP setting Mid June, and externally

in the Summer/ Autumn 2020 if publically showcased.

Evaluation and reporting – Autumn / Winter 2020.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING THE PROVIDED EQUAL

OPPORTUNITIES FORM TO [liz@openeye.org.uk](mailto:liz@openeye.org.uk)

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the development and championing of socially engaged photography practice, we can provide feedback on applications if unsuccessful via email, if requested.

**This project has been supported by**

