

CFCCA

CENTRE FOR CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART

CFCCA Visioning Consultant Brief February 2020

Overview

Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) is seeking a consultant to produce recommendations for the future growth and direction of the organisation.

Background

CFCCA is the leading authority on Chinese Contemporary Art in the UK. Formed in 1986 as the Chinese View Association, CFCCA is an ambitious organisation that has evolved, grown and reinvented itself over three decades, three venues and two name changes. In 2003 we secured our RIBA award winning building in Manchester's Northern Quarter followed by a rebrand from Chinese Arts Centre to Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art ten years later. This change saw the organisation secure its position as an internationally facing contemporary art centre.

CFCCA is the highest funded Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) for visual arts in the North West, seeing an uplift of 170% in visitors over the last 10 years and rapidly increasing interest in its work from audiences, funders and stakeholders. Building on this success to date, CFCCA is undertaking a scoping study to explore what the future growth and direction of the organisation could look like 7 years on from the rebrand as the organisation looks to the next ACE NPO funding round.

An exciting time for the organisation, we are looking for a consultant to lead this process to reflect on the vision, mission and values of CFCCA and put forwards a set of scaled recommendations for organisational development and growth.

Scope of work

A consultant is required from April - November 2020 to lead a process to explore the following premise:

Taking the successful direction of CFCCA so far, what could the future direction and growth of the organisation look like?

This study should consider the following:

- What could the areas of growth for CFCCA be?
- What opportunities are there locally, nationally and internationally for CFCCA?

A requirement of the work is to provide a report setting out the process taken and providing a scale of different recommendations for CFCCAs future direction and growth. The successful candidate will need to present this to the CFCCA Board for discussion and approval at their meeting on **Friday 13 November 2020**.

Person Specification

We are looking for someone with:

- Demonstrable experience of completing a similar scope of work, this can be within or outside the cultural sector.
- Experience of seeing a change process through to completion.
- An interest in CFCCA and its work.

Budget

There is a fee of **£5,000** to complete this work which should include all travel and expenses.

How to apply

Please submit a one page expression of interest detailing:

- How you will respond to this brief.
- What you can achieve within the timeframe and budget.
- What process you will use to deliver the study to include how you will involve CFCCAs staff and stakeholders.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Zoe Dunbar, CFCCA Director at: **zoe@cfcca.org.uk** by 12noon on **Monday 23 March**.

Successful candidates will be invited to interview at CFCCA on **Tuesday 24 March**.

About CFCCA

CFCCA began as the Chinese View '86 festival organised by artist Amy Lai with the intention of providing a platform for the Chinese artistic community and to develop the positive identity of Chinese culture in Britain.

Following the success of the festival, the Chinese Art Centre was opened in 36 Charlotte Street in 1989, with the aim to reconnect the younger generation of Chinese people in Manchester with traditional Chinese arts and crafts and well as advance the education of the general public. CFCCA's first exhibition was *Descendants of the Dragon* which showcased objects collected from the local Chinese community which best demonstrated their lives in Manchester. While based at Charlotte Street, the Centre organised many large scale exhibitions and events, including the first Chinese Film festival in Manchester in collaboration with the Cornerhouse theatre.

In 1997 the Centre moved to new premises on Edge Street in Manchester's Northern Quarter, opening with an exhibition by Adam Wei. The move signalled the beginning of the Centre's gradual shift from traditional to contemporary Chinese art, and its remit to promote young British based Chinese artists through its 'New Commissions' scheme. The residency scheme discovered artists who went on to have distinguished careers, such as Suki Chan and Joshua Jiang. During this period the Centre also organised several touring exhibitions which promoted Chinese contemporary art to a wider audience. *Representing the People* (1999) and *Made in China* (2001) toured the UK and provide a platform for Chinese artists, many of whom had never exhibited work in the UK before.

In 2003 the Centre moved into its current home on Thomas Street funded by an Arts Council England Big Lottery grant. The new RIBA award winning building featured a large gallery space, a resident artist studio, an education suite, shop and tea shop. The new space gave the Centre the room to expand their activities acting as an agency for Chinese arts in Britain and inviting collaborations with other organisations. The onsite resident artist studio built upon the work developed at Edge Street, and gave artist the space to explore their artistic practice through living and working at the Centre. The Centre's commitment to helping the career development of British-based artist of East Asian descent was also shown in schemes such as *PAD* (Professional Artist Development) and *EAST* (East Asian Strategic Training).

From 2008 the Centre changed its focus to become an international agency for Chinese contemporary art, working with artists and organisations from across East Asia. This led to the rebranding of the organisation to the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) in November 2013. In 2014 CFCCA became a major partner in the third Asia Triennial Manchester, curating Harmonious Society, which brought 30 artists to 6 venues in Manchester, the largest showcase of Chinese contemporary art in the UK to date. In the same year the centre formed the first sole collection of Chinese contemporary art in the UK in collaboration with the University of Salford.

In 2016, the Centre commemorated its 30th anniversary with a programme of events and exhibitions featuring artists, curators and academics who had previously worked with the organisation and in 2018 with support from the China National Art Fund delivered *NOW: A dialogue on women Chinese contemporary artists* working with 5 visual arts venues on the Plus Tate network and the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing to bring one of the largest showcase of female artists from China to the UK. In the same year, the centre formed the *Asia Research Network for Arts and Media* with University of Salford, University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, an interdisciplinary network for the teaching, learning and research of Asia and its global diaspora positioning CFCCA as a leader in new research and knowledge production on Chinese contemporary art.