

CFCCA

CENTRE FOR CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART

CFCCA Revisioning Facilitator Brief July 2020

Overview

Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) is seeking a Facilitator with experience in change management to lead a revisioning process that will shape the next stage in the strategic direction of CFCCA.

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. At key points during our history, we have reviewed and adapted our mission, strategic approach and home to maintain currency and relevance. We now find ourselves again at such a point, a moment to take action, to reflect on our model of cultural production and to consider how we can best engage with all our stakeholders to ensure our work remains effective and relevant.

The revisioning process will review the mission and purpose of our organisation, its relevance and impact, who we are and who we make our work for and why. Through open consultation and conversation it will produce recommendations to inform CFCCA's strategic direction and growth. Central to the process will be reflection on equity and representation within the organisation, considering the importance of diversity and inclusion in our work as an organisation that leads and supports Chinese contemporary art and artists.

An exciting time for the organisation, we are looking for a facilitator to lead this consultation process through close engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including the CFCCA staff team, Board of Trustees and an artist working group specifically recruited to co-design key elements of the approach. By July 2021 the facilitator will produce a final report outlining recommendations for CFCCA's development, purpose and structure which will form the basis of our next strategic plan.

Scope of work

A Facilitator is required from September 2020 – July 2021 to lead a process to realise the following objective:

Reflecting on CFCCA's mission, strategy and structure, what change does the organisation need to make to ensure future relevance, impact and growth?

This study should consider the following:

- The vision, mission, purpose and values of the organisation and whether they are still relevant for artists, audiences, funders and wider stakeholders.
- Problems or barriers, including those of equity and representation, within the organisational structure and how these should be resolved or overcome.
- Opportunities for CFCCA's future growth, locally, nationally and internationally.

A requirement of the work is to provide a report setting out the process taken, outlining conclusions from consultations delivered and providing a set of recommendations for CFCCA's future direction and growth. The successful candidate will need to present this to the CFCCA Board for discussion and approval at their Quarter 2 meeting in July 2021.

Person Specification

We are looking for an individual or consortium with:

- Experience of completing a similar scope of work, this can be within or outside the cultural sector.
- Experience in reviewing organisational diversity and equality, integrating new thinking into organisational process and strategy.
- Experience of seeing a change process through to completion.
- An interest in CFCCA and its work.

Budget

There is a fee of £8,000 - £10,000 to complete this work which should include all travel and expenses. Candidates are invited to provide a budget.

How to apply

Please submit a two page expression of interest detailing:

- Why you are interested in this project.
- How you will respond to the brief.
- What process you will use to deliver the study to include how you will involve CFCCA's staff and stakeholders.
- What relevant experience you bring to the role.
- Budget identifying clear breakdown of cost and deliverables.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Zoe Dunbar, CFCCA Director at: **zoe@cfcca.org.uk** by **12noon on Friday 4 September 2020**.

Successful candidates will be invited to an interview, delivered virtually on **Thursday 10 September 2020**.

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 women 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.