



**Call out for an Arts and Health Practitioner for Luke Brown Dance's
Walk of the Dandelion project.**

Luke Brown Dance creates fearless dance-theatre that reaches a broad audience across the UK. We make connections with artists, audiences and participants through a playful and wholehearted approach to story-telling and self-discovery. Our friendly and welcoming approach enables us to encourage brave creative thinking and create meaningful relationships through dance performance and training.

Walk of the Dandelion - is an uplifting community engagement project designed to spread joy, connect families, friends and neighbours in both indoor and outdoor settings. The project is centered on a larger-than-life puppet named Daniel, who holds a dandelion as a symbol of resilience and hope.

In child psychology two flower-types are assigned to characterise children's dispositions, the Orchid, sensitive and in need of nurture and The Dandelion, a resilient survivor.

When an Orchid blossoms into a Dandelion, you have that rare person who is sensitive, strong and resilient. T.W.Ellis

During the autumn Luke Brown Dance undertook a 3-week research and development project to explore the characterisation, operation, and essence of Daniel the puppet. This tested how Daniel engaged with the public and navigated through different communities, whilst spreading his message of resilience. Dandelions, with attached messages of hope, were distributed to audiences by Daniel and the performers.

Arts and Health project details

As a development of this R & D, Luke Brown Dance would like to collaborate with an Arts and Health Practitioner who has mental health experience, who can deliver further trial workshops. The workshops will consist of making dandelions (wool and pipe-cleaners), discussing resilience and creating messages of hope to give to others and possibly discussing techniques to strengthen resilience. We would like the Practitioner to work with us to test how this is best delivered and how the workshop outcomes can integrate with the performance aspect of the walk.

Further development of this collaboration is likely to progress into the Arts and Health Practitioner touring with Daniel and the rest of the team to engage with the public during his walks. The Practitioner would not be asked to perform but to communicate with audiences during the performance.

What we are looking to achieve:

- Find out how to safely start discussions around resilience, survivorship and mental health through dandelion making workshops.
- Find out how can we ask people to write notes of resilience that are shared with other people
- Find out how the “Walk of the Dandelion” performance can safely suggest discussions about resilience and mindfulness whilst on a walk, or how can that be communicated to audiences in a performance setting.
- Work with different groups of people — eg CAMHS, primary & secondary school children, adults with mental health needs and people at risk of isolation.
- Support in the creation of an arts and health engagement program.
- Discover how different people engage with the workshops and discussions as well as how to integrate their messages with the wider project.

The Arts and Health Practitioner would need to be responsible for contacting and setting up the sessions, though this will be supported by the Luke Brown Dance producer, Rosalind Conlon. It may be that the Practitioner has existing client groups that they could work with on this project.

We would like to work with a minimum of 4 different groups in order to achieve our learning outcomes from this collaboration.

Fee

Total fee for this work is £1000. We anticipate the time commitment to be approximately 2 days planning, 2 days delivery and 1 day evaluation. There is a small travel expenses budget, though we would hope to work with someone who is geographically close to the company’s base of Southampton, Hampshire. All workshop materials will be provided.

Anticipated outcomes from the Arts and Health project/ practitioner:

- Understanding of the Walk of the Dandelion project aims.
- Design and plan workshops, in collaboration with Luke Brown Dance, considering how best to engage people with discussions about resilience and hope.
- Collaboration with Luke Brown Dance on identifying and setting up workshop contexts.
- Deliver workshops.
- A short evaluation and reflection to be created and shared considering how Luke Brown Dance could plan this engagement going forward.

Luke Brown Dance is aware that this is a small project that dips a toe into this area of work. We want to make sure the practitioner has relevant experience in order to deliver this work in a short time constraint. We are also open to hearing about other possible options for engagement that will trial dandelion making and resilience discussions with different groups of people with different life experiences.

To apply

Please submit a maximum one page letter, detailing why you are interested in this project and how you would approach it, along with your CV or an outline of your previous experience in Arts and Health work. Send to rosalind@lukebrowndance.com. If preferred you can submit a video application. Please get in touch if you would like any further options for receiving the call out or submitting your application.

Timeline- please note the short deadline and delivery time scales

1st November 2021, deadline for applications

2-5th November 2021, informal chats with shortlisted applicants

8th November 2021, inform all applicants of outcomes

9th - 12th November 2021, project start to discuss details, identify groups to work with.

End December 2021, project completion.

We hope to complete this piece of work by the end of the year 2021, to fit in line with the Arts Council reporting timelines.

Walk of the Dandelion is supported by Arts Council England and Proteus Theatre.