



## Invitation to Tender

# State of Mind Evaluation

### About Us

20 Stories High make theatre with, **young people** from excluded communities, emerging & **world-class artists** to tell stories that are...

*gritty, lyrical, melodic, rebellious,  
contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original,  
visual, challenging, youthful, tender  
anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming,  
political, funny, collaborative and heart-felt.*

We bring young people into theatre venues and go out into their communities.

We hail from Liverpool, but our reach is international.

We believe everybody's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it...

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people's theatre companies nationally, and has won a series of prestigious awards and commissions. 20 Stories High tours to theatres, schools, venues and community spaces and runs a range of participatory projects.

## About State of Mind

State of Mind is a **four-year programme** for 20 Stories High (2018-22), funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation. It aims to **better support young people to be resilient and independent**, and those working with them to be **more aware of, and confident in responding to mental health issues**. Through a combination of **outreach, training, collaboration and research**, the project will explore the **positive impact that access to and participation in the arts** can have on the lives of young people. For 20 Stories High, State of Mind is not seen as a separate project – it is something that will be **embedded across all of the company's work**.

At 20 Stories High, we have become **increasingly aware of the prominence of mental health issues** through our existing work with young people - themes and connections that have mental health implications were repeatedly being emphasised and raised. This is within a **wider context** of cuts to local youth services, austerity, and entrenched social issues which mean young people are experiencing increased pressures.

We felt strongly it was the **right time** to put more energy into this area, but recognised that working with vulnerable young people on sensitive issues **requires time, focus, resources and developing staff's knowledge and confidence**. Our **business plan** for 2018-22 places mental health and wellbeing at the centre of the company's practices.

## About the Evaluation

20 Stories High already evaluates the work it undertakes using a variety of methods. State of Mind offers us a new focus for the evaluation of the participant experience. With additional support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we recently worked with Renaisi to develop our 'Theory of Change' framework and now want to appoint an external evaluator for 3.5 years to support us in building an evaluation framework and process around this. We want to undertake a very detailed examination of the impact of our work, and young people's experiences of participating in 20SH activity.

We will expect this long-term rigorous evaluation will be fully documented and shared through online resources as well as specific dissemination events.

We want to work with the successful tendering organisation on building an evaluation framework and test it with 20 Stories High and the young people we work with. Our initial thoughts on what it might include are:

- reflection sessions at the end of workshops/projects
- one-to-one feedback sessions with regular participants
- session observations
- participant interviews
- young people's involvement in a State of Mind steering group
- input from our Board of Trustees, staff and project partners

## Who we want to engage with

The young people 20 Stories High work with are mostly **aged 13-25** from **working class** and **culturally diverse communities** who tend to be under represented or least engaged in mainstream arts activities. Young people **engage with 20 Stories High** in a variety of ways – for example, as participants in a one off event, in short term workshops or projects, or more intensively through the youth theatre, the young actors company, and supporting young people to develop their artistic careers.

Young people **find out about 20 Stories High** through word of mouth, publicity, open events and outreach projects in local community organisations and schools. Interest in the arts is the key driver for young people getting involved, and activities are free to access.

These **principles** will apply to State of Mind. However, **outreach activities will increase** in order to access more young people. These are initially being targeted in the L8 (Toxteth) area of Liverpool, in partnership with organisations such as Merseyside Youth Association, Alder Hey hospital, King's Leadership Academy, and Unity Youth Centre.

There is an assumption that this will mean engaging with young people who are at risk of or already experiencing mental health issues, but it is not explicit. There **is no hierarchy of need** in terms of who takes part, and having an identified mental health issue is not a prerequisite.

## Approach

We would expect the proposed approach to include the following:

- Creating a resource 'library' that includes literature and sign posting information that has been identified to date by 20SH and by the evaluator, is user friendly and is kept up to date.

- Building an evaluation framework out of the Theory of Change we have already worked on with Renaisi and test it with 20SH and the young people we work with.
- Supporting 20SH with the collection of monitoring information and rolling out the evaluation framework.
- Developing appropriate tools for outcomes data collection and feedback from young people/staff, using qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Proposing a clear sampling approach for qualitative work.
- Introducing a process for supporting learning and reflection amongst 20SH staff, stakeholders and other partners.
- Developing ways in which young people can be involved in an ongoing way throughout the evaluation, including liaison with Future Collective (20SH's young people's advisory group)
- Developing a dissemination plan which keeps partners and other relevant stakeholders up to date with progress and learning throughout the programme of work.

## Who we want to work with on the evaluation

We are interested in hearing from individuals or organisations who:

- Have experience of developing evaluation frameworks with organisations, particularly those that work with young people.
- Have experience of working with voluntary sector organisations whose aim is to deliver positive social impact.
- Are prepared to work collaboratively with 20 Stories High team, young people and partners on the development and implementation of an evaluation framework.
- Have a proven track record in producing reports and materials to disseminate findings to a variety of stakeholders

The successful applicant will be assigned a main point of contact at 20SH and will be asked to submit a progress report every 3 months.

## Timescale

20 Stories High wish to appoint an external evaluator for the State of Mind programme of work by the end of March 2019. The successful applicant will be contracted for 3.5 years, from April 2019-Oct 2022 with annual reviews in the March of each year.

## Key Milestones & Projects in the First Year:

April 2019	External evaluator is appointed and begins work with 20SH
April-June 2019	Initial scoping, review of literature and current evaluation process, meeting with staff team, partners and young people (Future Collective particularly)
June- July 2019	Monitoring framework and tools ready for testing – use on Youth Theatre and Young Actors Company shows
Aug 2019	Review testing
Sept 2019	Framework and tools ready for new academic year of work with young people
Sept 2019-Mar 2020	Using evaluation tools
March of 2020	Annual report and review
Sept 2019	Dissemination plan put in place (to be implemented across the 3.5 years)
TBC	Development of a toolkit – to be confirmed with the successful candidate

<b>Liverpool Based Participation Programme</b>	
Youth Theatre	Weekly sessions for 13-18 year-olds (and creative mentoring opportunities for young people aged 18-20)
Young Actors Company	Weekly sessions for 18-25 year-olds
Future Collective	20SH young people's advisory group, meeting monthly.
Outreach Projects	Creative projects working with looked after young people, local schools, Alder Hey and CAHMS and local communities.
LAUNCH - professional development programme for emerging theatre makers in Merseyside aged 18-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LAUNCH Academy (weekly training and development programme)</li> <li>- LAUNCH Projects (investment for an academy member to develop a creative project)</li> <li>- LAUNCH Trainees (paid training placements)</li> </ul>
Social/Creative additional activities	2 Dinner & Debate evenings; Summer Social; 4+ Theatre trips; involvement in 2 R&D processes for our professional shows; Arts Award Festival with other Merseyside youth theatre partners; Winter Sharing.
<b>Shows</b>	
Youth Theatre Show (July)	Directed by Kitchen Sink
Young Actors Co. show (July)	Created in partnership with Consol Theater (Germany) as part of an International collaboration project, Europefiction.
'The Spine' (Spring 2020)	A new play written and directed by Nathan Powell exploring the football academy system.
Digital (ongoing)	Possible development of a 20 Stories High show into a TV mini series. Continuing to explore presenting "I told my Mum I was going on an RE trip..." at film festivals and as an educational resource.
<b>Research &amp; Development</b>	
Mini-series of TV adaptation of 20SH show	See detail above in 'Digital'
New show for 2021	R&D for an explosive new show by Keith Saha and Julia Samuels working with a team of experienced and emerging artists to make a larger scale show for bigger audiences.
YT/YAC	R&D for Summer 2020 shows
Emerging Artists Development funds	Through LAUNCH, Artistic Directors Leadership Programme and State of Mind, we will create various opportunities for emerging artists to develop their own projects. This includes the development of two new potential shows; Buttercup and BAIT (both working titles) with ex-youth theatre members.

## Application Process

If you are interested in working with 20 Stories High on the evaluation of State of Mind, please submit an expression of interest (no more than 4 sides of A4), telling us why you would like to work with us, your planned approach, cost and how you meet the points set out in 'who we want to work with' by 10am on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Interviews will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019.

There is a budget available of up to £50,000.

Please get in touch with Tina Taylor, Finance & Admin Manager at 20 Stories High if you have any questions about this document or the application process.

More information on 20 Stories High can be found on our website at [www.20storieshigh.org](http://www.20storieshigh.org)