

Could you be a Cultural Learning Evidence Champion?

The RSA is working with the network of Arts Council Bridge Organisations to champion the role of evidence and evaluation in improving the quality and impact of arts and cultural education.

The Evidence Champions Network will connect 100 artists, educators, evaluators, **cultural organisations and funders** who want to see better use of **evidence and evaluation in arts and cultural learning**. Evidence Champions will receive training and take part in peer learning to **develop knowledge and skills** in how to use evidence to **improve their effectiveness** and help **engage others** in conversations about the value of evidence rich practice. The Network will include members with **different levels of experience**, convening **online** and **regionally** across England, to support practitioners right across the country.

What is an Evidence Champion?

When we scoped out the shape of the network earlier this year, practitioners told us that Evidence Champions should be:

1. **Learners:** Motivated and committed to improving their own and their organisation’s practice
2. **Collaborators:** Focused on collegiality, community, cooperation and reciprocity in the Network
3. **Advocates:** Able to make the case for evidence rich practice outside the Network and influence how others think about its importance in ongoing improvement
4. **(Evidence) Specialists:** Knowledgeable about art form/s, participatory practice, pedagogy and school contexts. *Either* knowledgeable about evaluation and evidence *or* aiming to learn through the Network.

How will the Evidence Champions Network operate?

The Network will have four key functions – supporting its members and influencing wider discourse about how evidence and evaluation can be used to improve practice and participant outcomes.

Network	Learn	Support	Champion
<p>A national community with online activity and regional meet-ups, owned by its members but enjoying the support of the RSA and the Arts Council Bridge Organisations.</p> <p>Start or join conversations with other members, gaining new perspectives on how to learn from evidence to improve outcomes for children.</p>	<p>Webinars, and face to face training led by evaluation specialists and experienced practitioners will provide new ideas, expertise and technical knowledge about evidence rich practice.</p>	<p>Structured support from other practitioners in your region will help you to embed evidence and evaluation in your work. Drawing on new and existing skills and reflecting regularly on progress, you set the goal and the Network will help you achieve it.</p>	<p>Support wider engagement with the idea of that arts and cultural learning can improve through better use of evidence and evaluation.</p> <p>Help colleagues engage with the evidence derived from the RSA and Education Endowment Foundation’s Cultural Learning Trials – the biggest evaluation of arts and cultural education ever conducted.</p> <p>RSA-developed resources will help you explain the idea of Evidence Rich Practice and convene local conversations about how the benefits of arts and cultural education are understood.</p>

Can I be an Evidence Champion?

The Network will represent the diversity of the sector, including freelance arts practitioners; arts and cultural organisations; schools; funders and sector support organisations; independent evaluators and HEIs. Champions might be emerging, mid-career or in senior roles in their organisations, they could be enthusiastic newcomers to evidence and evaluation, eager to develop their knowledge and skills or experienced practitioners who are already successfully embedding evidence-rich practice.

What would I have to commit, what would I get out of it?

	Novice	Expert
Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 hours' time over 14 months including; 1 full-day training session and six 2-hour webinars • Identify and work on developing your own evidence-rich practice • Support other colleagues in your organisation to integrate evidence-rich practice in their work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 hours' time over 14 months including; 1 full-day training session and six 2-hour webinars • Convene a thematic conversation within the network
Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in evaluation techniques • Peer support for increased use of evidence and evaluation in your work • A network of colleagues united in their enthusiasm for improving practice through evidence • A stronger voice for practitioners in how evidence and evaluation are considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with different perspectives and approaches with other practitioners • Extend your repertoire of technical knowledge

What's the timescale?

	Activity	Focus	Date
1	<i>Introduction workshop</i>	Full-day network induction held in person in each region; introduce Evidence Rich Practice principles and Theory of Change; identify goals for peer learning process; identify actions for championing evidence within wider networks.	Sep-Oct 2018
2	<i>Monthly webinar with expert practitioners</i>	Webinar on elements of evidence rich practice, followed by member-led online discussion groups.	Nov 2018–Apr 2019
3	<i>Bi-monthly peer learning catch ups</i>	Every two months, following the webinar, peer learning groups convene online or in person to discuss progress on individual projects.	From Dec 2018
4	<i>Monthly Journal Club and conversation night</i>	Key research documents read together and discussed online and the chance for members to host their own thematic conversations.	From Jan 2019
8	<i>Celebration and review</i>	Celebration of first year of the Network; sharing results of peer learning process; discuss future for the Network.	June 2019
9	<i>Engaging with the Cultural Learning Trials</i>	Be the first to engage with the evidence developed through the RSA/EEF Cultural Learning Fund trials and develop ways to support wider engagement with the findings.	Autumn 2019 (exact TBC)

How do I apply?

Apply by following the link to the application form here:

Applications will close at 11:59pm on the 30th June, and we will let you know whether you have been successful by the 20th July.

Please note that we can't give specific feedback to applications before or after the deadline.

Selection process

The applications will be reviewed by the RSA Creative Learning and Development team, and by the Bridge Organisation lead from each of the participating regions. Each Bridge Organisation can be found below:

A New Direction: London

Artswork: South East

Arts Connect: West Midlands

Culture Bridge North East: North East

Curious Minds: North West

Festival Bridge: East

Royal Opera House Bridge: East

The Mighty Creatives: East Midlands

In selecting applicants we are looking to establish a balance within each region in respect of practitioners in different art form, different kinds of organisation, and prior experience of evidence-rich practice. When we make our decisions we will work to ensure that the network is representative of the wide range of practice within the sector, both regionally and nationally.

Further Information

Being an RSA Cultural Learning Evidence Champion is an unpaid role.

Each individual selected to be an Evidence Champion will be given one year's gratis RSA Fellowship. This cannot be transferred to any other individual and a refund will not be possible should you already be an RSA Fellow.

If any applicants with disabilities require additional support to fully engage in the programme we are committed to providing the appropriate support, financial or otherwise. Please let us know on your application form if this applies.