Voice and Power for Homeless and Vulnerable People through New and Emerging Technologies

A. About the Awards

Lemos&Crane working with Thames Reach and the LankellyChase Foundation presents the LankellyChase Digital Empowerment Awards. A total of £2,500 prize money is offered for projects which utilize the growing potential of digital technologies such as the internet, social media, apps and SMS for the improvement of the lives of homeless and vulnerable people, enhancing their voice, building and expressing their capabilities, facilitating peer-to-peer support and making the services they receive more personalised and enabling.

There will be 5 award categories with a winner and runner-up for each category.

The 5 award categories are:

- **VOICE** – homeless and vulnerable people have new opportunities to express themselves and their experience ‘as citizens’ to reach a public audience and to challenge cultural stereotypes

- **DIALOGUE** – homeless and vulnerable people have new ways to communicate ‘as consumers’ with service providers, redressing the power imbalance between them, and providing feedback to inform and shape service development

- **SUPPORT NEEDS** – providing live information feeds, ‘nudging’ take up, and reminding homeless and vulnerable people of appointments for housing, health, employment and welfare services

- **CAPABILITIES** - improving skills in numeracy and literacy for employment and enterprise, offering volunteering opportunities, and providing information on mainstream / high-street services that make day-to-day life easier, cheaper and safer

- **SOCIAL NETWORKS** – homeless and vulnerable people have new opportunities for contact with family members, peer networking and support, and for friendships through shared-interests and social activities for happiness, well-being and life-enrichment.

Entries are invited from non-profit organisations such as:

- Homeless agencies
- Supported housing agencies
- Charities
- Third sector organisations
- Housing organisations
- Local authorities
- Other public bodies

B. Timetable
- Deadline for entries – Friday 31st January, 2014
- Shortlist announced – End of February
- Winners announced – April

C. Rules and procedures

1. Entries must be completed using this entry form and submitted electronically here

2. Receipt of all entries submitted online will be automatically acknowledged.

3. Entrants may be asked to provide further information.

4. The judges' decision is final. Awards will be made at the judges' discretion and no correspondence will be entered into concerning any decision. Not all the awards advertised may be awarded if the judges consider the criteria have not been met. Additional commendations may be made at the judges' discretion.

5. The content of any entry may be used for informing other practitioners and also for publicity purposes unless the entrant withholds their consent to this in writing.

6. Entrants are deemed to have accepted these rules and procedures and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this competition.

D. Your Entry

Please do not exceed 1500 words in total.

1. Your contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Giuliana Molinari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Core Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>02085109990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmolinari@corearts.co.uk">gmolinari@corearts.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>1 St Barnabas Terrace Homerton London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>E9 6DJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.corearts.co.uk">www.corearts.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Name of the project you are entering for The LankellyChase Digital Empowerment Awards

**Core Voices**: promoting positive mental health through clients creative digital profiles.

3. Award category you are entering

**Voice**: homeless and vulnerable people have new opportunities to express themselves and their experience ‘as citizens’ to reach a public audience and to challenge cultural stereotypes

4. Name and contact details of an independent referee to support this application

Nene Mburu  
Hackney Learning Trust  
Head of Quality Assurance & Curriculum  
Adult Learning Trust **[Nene.mburu@learningtrust.co.uk]**  
Tel. 02088207149

5. Describe your project in one sentence

**Core Voices**: promoting positive mental health, through clients who suffer severe mental distress and isolation creating creative digital profiles that will showcasing their creative talents in music, art and writings.

6. Specify the setting(s) where your project is delivered (eg homeless agency, housing organisation etc )?

Core Arts Creative day centre in Homerton, Hackney, where we have 360 NHS referred service users per year who suffer severe and enduring mental health issues from 20 London Boroughs.

7. What are the project’s objectives?

Core Voices: promotes positive mental health and combats stigma ending isolation by helping to give vulnerable people who suffer severe mental health issues a voice to enhance and express their creative talents to the public, rather than focusing on their perceived difficulties. Clients are able to access 60 creative classes a week and produce their original creative works such as art, poetry and music. The Core Voices project then takes their creative products and helps the individual create an
online digital profile that is individually tailored to their needs. Clients can showcase their work to a large public giving them new opportunities to express themselves and their experience ‘as creative citizens’ and reach a public audience allowing their works to challenge cultural and disabled stereotypes. The Core Voices offers our clients opportunities to end isolation by learning to use the digital platforms to form new friendships through shared-interests and social activities for happiness, well-being and life-enrichment.

8. What are the project’s activities?

Through a series of 4 weekly ICT workshops taught by professional tutors and supported by volunteers our clients learn:
To create a digital creative profile for each of our clients where they can showcase their creative works online.
To learn how to use digital technologies to enhance their opportunities for learning, volunteering and employment.
To provide new opportunities for our Clients to reach new and larger audiences with their creative works through the construction of personal websites, sound cloud, blogs etc.

9. What has been the impact / achievement of the project?

Our clients have reported increased self confidence and better mental health from taking part in the project with increased social communication with others. They have said one of the main achievements is that they can showcase their works to a large number of people with just the click of the mouse. This has helped clients connect and showcase their works to friends, family, peers and the public helping to combat the stigma they feel, making them feel proud of their artistic achievement rather than concentrating on their perceived difficulties.

See some examples of the clients digital profiles:
http://www.seesaw-seatingplan.co.uk/
https://soundcloud.com/corearts-1
http://garymolloy.blogspot.co.uk/
https://soundcloud.com/foskots
http://www.benjamingooch.co.uk/
https://myspace.com/francisbangay
http://themanwithoutreference.blogspot.co.uk/

Please look at our website and facebook for more information
www.corearts.co.uk
http://www.facebook.com/coreartshackney
10. How is your project evaluated?

Core Arts is a service user guided and led organisation as such we have a strong client user voice in all our projects. Clients on referral have a creative work-plan that is devised by the individual and the appropriate tutors, focused on an achievable goal. Once the goal is achieved they have a review and a new goal is discussed, making each target achieved imbued with a feeling of success and achievement. This slowly builds up to significant goals being achieved for example learning to sing, recording a song, putting the song on sound cloud, learning how to use sound cloud and manage their own marketing and publicity, performing the song on a public stage.

As an education centre with 21 years experience of monitoring achievements and PGCE trained tutors we also have registers, class tracking sheets, individual occasional questionnaires and regular skills monitoring questionnaires at the end of each quarter. This helps us keep the projects on track, Our OFSTED praised Core Council meets every month and is a service user led and managed council that looks at all our projects to debate and discuss any issues. Senior staff meet weekly and we have daily debrief sessions with all staff and volunteers teaching that day to discuss any issues.

11. How would you spend the prize money to develop the project?

We have 360 clients a year. Currently we can only have 8 clients per workshop as we only have 8 computers. We would therefore purchase two more computers to add to the 8 we currently have so we could then expand the class to 10 clients at a time. Clients use the computers on their own so this would mean that more clients could develop their digital profiles at the same time on their own increasing the digital literacy, as very few own computers.

E. Submitting your entry

Please return this entry form by Friday 31st January 2014 by uploading it on this page.

If you have problems uploading your entry or would like to add documents, photos, videos or other media that are relevant to your entry, please email them to awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk quoting ‘LankellyChase Digital Empowerment Awards entry’ and your organisation name in the subject heading.

Thank you for entry.