



Getting creative: the Evaluation Exchange x Trellis collaboration

Gemma Moore explains how the Evaluation Exchange will be working with Trellis 4.

The [Evaluation Exchange](#) has begun a new, exciting learning partnership with the [Trellis](#) programme, offering a suite of evaluation support to six east London artist, researcher and community collaborations.

The Evaluation Exchange supports individuals and organisations to reflect and learn in their day-to-day work in a way that is useful and appropriate for them. We are excited to bring our model of evaluation capacity and capability building to the Trellis programme.

Trellis, now in its fourth iteration, is a knowledge exchange programme that brings together artists, UCL researchers and east London communities to co-create work together. Six teams have been awarded £15,000 to work together over the next few months to produce an art commission for an exhibition. Read more about the six funded projects [here](#).

Lizzy Baddeley, Community Engagement Manager (East) states:

“Evaluating arts-research collaborations can raise some challenges, over what can be measured and how, but these challenges encourage us to be creative and innovate in our evaluation practice. We are delighted to be working with the Evaluation Exchange to support us with this task.”

We, the Evaluation Exchange are working with the Trellis projects throughout their Trellis journey, from idea conceptualisation until their exhibition in March 2024, helping them to plan, design, undertake their evaluations and share their learning.

The '[Evaluating the Arts' position paper](#), developed in 2020 through a workshop hosted by the British Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through its PRAXIS project stressed the importance of co-developing evaluations from the beginning of the project, to ensure that evaluation isn't left to the end. This aligns with our approach within the Evaluation Exchange. Furthermore, the position paper also reminds us that, within the arts, and arts-based projects, space should be allowed for evaluations to explore and express different narratives, and this itself can be achieved by using arts-based methods as evaluation methods. With the Evaluation Exchange x Trellis collaboration, we will be encouraging projects to develop evaluations that are appropriate and useful to them, and think creatively about how to embed different methods in their work.

From principles and methods to aims and outcomes, evaluation is all about questions – we have planned interactive and engaged-learning sessions to explore how to answer them for the Trellis 4 projects.

We are planning to:

- delve into the context of collaborative-arts evaluation and consider why it matters
- work with the teams to develop a plan to evaluate their Trellis project
- generate ideas to include creativity and innovation in evaluation methods
- share emerging insights from the evaluations, and support wider connections and routes to sharing their learning

We are looking forward to getting creative with Trellis 4!

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