

# Inspiring Change in the Community

## Background to Prison Arts Foundation (PAF)

The Prison Arts Foundation is as important as it is unique. Since 1996 we have championed the arts within Northern Ireland's criminal justice system. Thanks to our pioneering work with people who have offended, lives are being transformed and patterns of behaviour changed for good.

Our team of dedicated and experienced professional artists working across the criminal justice sector in Northern Ireland is offering these people a life-line, helping to improve their creative and communication skills, which we believe is key to personal and social development, building self confidence and unlocking their potential.

## About our Inspiring Change in the Community programme

The criminal justice agenda is a central focus of the government's drive to increase social inclusion. This programme aims to work with some of Northern Ireland's most vulnerable and marginalised groups of people at a pivotal point in their lives.

PAF take seriously the fact that too many people who have a history of being involved with the criminal justice system think the arts are not for them, and our 'Inspiring Change in the Community' programme aims to break down this preconception by making arts fully inclusive.



**Providing access to the arts for marginalised groups of  
people within the Criminal Justice System in Northern  
Ireland**



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland



## Our supporter

This year's programme is funded by the Big Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. PAF are able to deliver short residencies across Northern Ireland. Our innovative weekly programs and opportunities will incorporate the concepts of restorative justice through art instruction with both groups and individuals within the criminal justice system.

## Why is this project important?

Each short residency will work with people who may feel marginalised due to their past, initially to help them explore the arts, build their skills and confidence and increase their opportunities for re-engaging with positive pathways.

PAF believe that making people feel included, valued members of society and part of their community's cultural landscape helps divert them away from pathways of crime and break the cycle of re-offending. Participants will get the opportunity to produce pieces of work which can express their views of the world and/or have a particular resonance to their own community or the area where they live.

We would like to encourage groups to apply to this year's programme. So please forward this leaflet to those who you think may be interested in taking part.



Group Referral forms are available to download on our website [www.prisonartsfoundation.com](http://www.prisonartsfoundation.com)

Please complete the form and return it to the office by email [office@prisonartsfoundation.com](mailto:office@prisonartsfoundation.com) or post to:

Confidential  
Prison Arts Foundation  
Inspiring Change in the Community Programme  
Unit 3 Clanmil Arts & Business Centre  
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We look forward to receiving your applications. If you would like any more information, or help to complete the forms please call Adele our Arts Programme Coordinator on 02890247872.