



With One Voice Evaluation Report 2016-17 Compiled by evaluation consultant, Phyllida Shaw

With One Voice is an international movement set up to strengthen the arts and homelessness sector through exchanges in practice and policy. Incubated by Streetwise Opera and officially launched in Rio de Janeiro in July 2016, the movement's aims range in scope from supporting arts and homelessness activities on the ground to influencing policy and increasing awareness of the role of the arts in homeless people's lives. The aims are to:

1. Strengthen existing arts and homelessness activity
2. Inspire new arts and homelessness activity
3. Increase awareness of the importance of arts for people with experience of homelessness around the world
4. Influence policy in relation to homelessness and the arts

With the involvement of the Streetwise evaluation team, an evaluation framework has been designed to guide the collection, analysis and presentation of evidence of the movement's outcomes. The following paragraphs highlight the main outputs and outcomes achieved between April 2016 to April 2017. The movement is at a very early stage but is already making an impact.

Headline Activities and Outputs 2016-17

- The movement has so far identified 160 arts and homelessness projects in 21 countries and included them on a map on the WOV website
- WOV has worked directly with 56 of these projects, representing 35% of the sector
- WOV organised 40 events during the Rio 2016 Cultural Olympiad featuring 20 Brazilian, 15 arts and homelessness organisations from six countries and 300 homeless people
- The Rio 2016 events attracted 67 media stories
- The six new choirs in Rio that WOV has set up have run 295 workshops during the year with 300 individual homeless people attending

Outcomes 2016-17

1. Strengthening existing arts and homelessness activity

WOV has helped to strengthen existing arts and homelessness activity. It has worked directly with 56 projects in its first year. The focus in 2016 was Rio where, in July, 20 Brazilian organisations welcomed 15 delegates from six countries. All the organisations reported benefits to their own work in terms of increased capacity and exchanging ideas. Sokerissa's profile back in Japan has grown and they have been booked for more performances since returning from Rio. Rio Vasconcellos of the Uma só Voz choirs in Rio said: 'It was the most important project with homeless people that we have had in Rio. We've been able to talk to people who work with theatre and homelessness around the world and as a result we have started theatre workshops at the Biblioteca Parque. We've been able to see just how much we can do.'

This has had a direct benefit to the choir members in Rio with 11% (n=34) getting into accommodation and jobs in 2016-17.

The exchange laid the foundations of new working relationships, two examples of which are London-based Café Art with Brazilian artist Helder Oliveira, and Theatre of the Oppressed NYC with the Manchester Homelessness Charter.

2. Inspiring new arts and homelessness activity

A total of 10 new projects have started as a direct result of WOV:

- 6 new choirs in Rio
- Arts and homelessness networks in Rio, London and Japan



- Dave Tovey's One Festival of arts and homelessness in London was set up as a result of having met Brazilian delegates on their visit in March 2016.

In addition, seven resources from different arts and/or homelessness organisations are now available on the WOV website. The site includes provision for baseline surveys of new members of the movement and analysis of these will inform the evaluation report in June 18.

3. Increasing awareness of the importance of the arts for people with experience of homelessness around the world

The WOV programme in Rio in July 2016, in advance of the Olympic Games, was the subject of 39 Brazilian and 21 international pieces of media coverage.

WOV featured in paper-based articles or blogs by a small number of influential individuals or organisations with a primary interest in either the arts or homelessness. These articles were about the arts *and* homelessness. They came from FEANSTA (the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless), Homeless Link, Pavement, the British Council, the Secretary of State for Culture (British government), the Clore Leadership Programme (which supports the continuing professional development of leaders across the cultural sector in the UK) and the Royal Opera House.

The Director of WOV spoke to **200 arts ministers from around the world, at the Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2016** and to 400 practitioners and policy makers in Bogota at the Arts and Social Change Summit in October 2016.

In Japan (where the WOV team has been undertaking preparatory work for Tokyo 2020), the small Japanese arts and homelessness sector has been introduced to the **Labour and Welfare Department** of the national government for the first time. The department had no previous knowledge of this area of work. This development *could* result in a policy outcome in future.

The WOV **North America Country Review** generated 24 new direct connections. Some of the contributing organisations were previously unaware of each other and are looking forward to meeting at the WOV Montreal Exchange in 2017. The arts are on the agenda of the Chicago-based Institute of Global Homelessness for the first time.

The WOV **Scotland Review** (still underway) involves the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and Edinburgh University. The Director has talked to the First Minister of Scotland about WOV. The team has been asked to advise on an access and engagement strategy for a new performing arts venue (a new home for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra) in Edinburgh City Centre. These are all illustrations of effectiveness with which the movement is bringing different parties together, while also establishing itself as a reliable source of information and advice.

4. Policy influence

Some of the awareness-raising listed above may lead to policy-related outcomes this time next year. There have been two tangible policy outcomes in this first year. As a result of the WOV Brazil exchange and subsequent project in Rio, the **Rio Prefeitura** has requested a memorandum of understanding with WOV, formalising its commitment to creating arts opportunities for homeless people and supporting the network of Rio-based choirs, Corais Uma So Voz (see Activity on the ground below).

As a direct result of the UK-Brazil exchange in 2016 and the participation of a strong Manchester contingent, including Cllr Beth Knowles, **Manchester's Homelessness Charter** was created which is the first time a city homeless strategy has included a strong arts strand. All City Council-funded arts organisations have pledged to work with homeless people and the newly elected Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has appointed Cllr Knowles to lead on homelessness. This will further embed the arts into the support of homeless people in Manchester.