

With One Voice Evaluation Report 2017-18

Compiled by evaluator Phyllida Shaw

With One Voice is an international movement set up to strengthen the arts and homelessness sector through exchanges in practice and policy. Developed by Streetwise Opera and launched in Rio de Janeiro in July 2016, the movement's activities range from supporting arts and homelessness activities on the ground to increasing awareness of the role of the arts in the lives of people who have become homeless. Its four 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

In 2016, with the support of Streetwise, an evaluation framework was created to guide the collection, analysis and presentation of evidence of the movement's outcomes. The following paragraphs summarise the main outputs and outcomes of the past year (April 2017 -March 2018).

Outputs 2017-18

- By the March 2018, WOV had identified a total of **257 arts and homelessness projects, in 22 countries**, an increase of 60% on the previous year.
- It had **made 2,430 new contacts**, making a total of 4,190 contacts since the launch.
- It **engaged directly with 129 arts and homelessness organisations**, an increase of 127% on the previous year.
- WOV **engaged with and supported 47 policy makers**, up 81% on the previous year.
- WOV **gave 15 presentations** and ran **20 workshops, involving 1,478 people**.
- The WOV **website received 3,567 unique visitors**, a 129% increase on the previous year and the number of users of all other communication methods used by WOV increased.
- WOV published the **USA/Canada Arts and Homelessness Review** commissioned from Beth Knowles, Head of Homelessness for Greater Manchester and With One Voice Chair.
- Edinburgh University PhD student Shelley Coyne and a team of co-researchers with lived experience started work on the **Scotland Arts and Homelessness Review** and in September 2017, Creative Scotland, Edinburgh University and WOV hosted an event to share initial findings and gather responses from the arts and homelessness sector.
- WOV commissioned a **literature review on arts and homelessness and research into cultural spaces** that are learning how to be more open to people who have become homeless.
- The **first Canada-USA-UK arts and homelessness exchange** took place in Montreal in November 2017.
- 250 people attended the launch event for the international summit to be held in Manchester in November 2018.
- In Brazil, **five choirs (Corais Uma Só Voz) supported by WOV continued to meet and to enjoy an increasingly positive public profile**. In the past year, Corais Uma Só Voz has featured in 58 news articles or features in print, on line and in broadcast media.

The countries where there has been most direct contact are those in which WOV research and events have taken place in the past year: 57 projects in the USA (partly connected with Beth Knowles' research), 18 in Canada (linked to Beth Knowles' research but also to the exchange in Montreal in November), 66 in the UK (with increasing activity in Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow), 26 in Brazil, 12 in India, 9 in Japan

(anticipating the Tokyo Olympics) and 9 in Australia.

The literature review and research into cultural spaces currently under way are raising the profile of With One Voice and identifying other countries that are active in this field. For example, Greece does not currently feature on the list, but the Director will be speaking at a conference in Athens in June hosted by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and this will provide him with an introduction to arts and homelessness activity there. The British Council's continuing support for With One Voice and its interest in countries in receipt of Official Development Assistance (ODA) will also expand the movement this year.

Outcomes 2017-18. What is changing as result of WOV?

1. Strengthening existing arts and homelessness activity

The first arts and homelessness review of **North America** by Beth Knowles increased North American colleagues' awareness of each other and helped to shape the USA-Canada-UK exchange and public sessions in Montreal. The **Montreal exchange produced 106 different pledges from participants to work with each other and adopt new ways of working** and WOV went on to support several individual visits.

In **Japan**, WOV is continuing to support links between organisations, particularly in Tokyo and to increase the capacity of the arts and homelessness sector nationally in anticipation of the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. The dance company Sokerissa (already an active player in WOV) is planning a UK tour involving Streetwise Opera groups.

In **Rio** the five Corais Uma Só Voz had between 18 and 29 members each, met around three times a month each, totalling 165 sessions during the year. They gave almost 50 performances at venues including the Teatro Municipal, Candelária Square, Cruzeiro Do Sul High School and the church of Christ the Redeemer. **In 2017-18, 12% of choir participants left the streets and 3% found jobs.** Choir members have said they find it **easier to access essential services** and they have got involved in other activities, including Yoga in the Streets and a project that trains people with experience of homelessness to **work in catering**.

2. Inspiring new and arts and homelessness activity

Arts and homeless activity is becoming more visible and stimulating new activity by organisations and individuals.

As a direct result of the Montreal exchange, participants from the same city met for the first time, e.g. Dallas City Library and Dallas Street Choir, and Montreal Opera and EXECO. In Los Angeles, the **Integrated Recovery Network began is piloting a new arts programme set up by a client with experience of homelessness, inspired by WOV.**

The British Council paid for two capacity-building workshops for Uma Só Voz, in Rio and São Paulo, led by music organisation Santa Marcellina and the establishment of new choirs in São Paulo has the in principle support of the city's human rights team.

WOV is a founding partner of a new Scottish Arts and Homelessness Network. The profile of arts and homelessness is rising and more non-organisations, such as Simon Community Scotland, are coming forward to find out how the arts can help them to achieve their objectives.

WOV is being asked to **advise new cultural venues on design and operational issues**, one current example being the Factory, in Manchester.

Formerly homeless artist, educator, activist and WOV supporter David Tovey has won an award from Unlimited to produce a new piece for the WOV 2018 summit.

3. Increasing awareness of the importance of the arts for people who have become homeless, anywhere in the world

The team designed and tested a graphic theoretical model of arts and homelessness, **The Jigsaw of Homelessness Support** which advocates how the arts can be integrated into homelessness services. This will be formally launched in the lead up to the Summit. (See 4. Influencing policy, below)

WOV is increasingly asked to contribute to events and reports, speaking directly about arts and homelessness and providing international examples. **WOV was made a case study in the Gulbenkian Foundation's inquiry into the civic role of arts organisations.**

The importance of involving people with first-hand experience of homelessness as co-researchers, co-presenters, co-authors became a principle of WOV during 2017-18.

With One Voice was cited by British Council Brazil as one of the projects that has positively influenced cultural relationships between the UK and Brazil, through its **Transform programme.**

The Country Reviews have raised awareness of arts and homelessness in Brazil, North America and Scotland. During the Montreal exchange, the **Canada High Commission** and the **Quebec Consulate** engaged with arts and homelessness for the first time.

Independent researchers, writers and campaigners have become interested in WOV's message, e.g. Justin Jalea, Canadian musician, academic and human rights specialist; musician and artist Karl Hyde, Underworld responsible for the Manchester Street Poem.

4. Influencing policy in relation to homelessness and the arts

For the benefit of policy makers and others needing to understand and describe the different types of support for people who have become homeless, the WOV team designed and tested a graphic representation showing the integral place of the arts and creativity. The **Jigsaw of Homeless Support** had a soft launch on the WOV website in early 2018 and will have an official launch when it is **adopted by the Greater Manchester and Manchester City homelessness strategies** – this is likely to be the first civic homelessness strategy to include the arts as an official part of policy

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has publicly backed the WOV international summit taking place Manchester in November 2018.

Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government are both engaging with WOV. Homelessness will feature in the Scottish Government's new national cultural strategy and Matt Peacock has become a member of the strategy's advisory group. Creative Scotland is funding research into arts and homelessness and Edinburgh University is looking at the possibility of an interdisciplinary research project on arts and homelessness.

During 2017-18, WOV had meetings with individual **MPs and peers** (e.g. Ed Milliband, Baroness Royall and Rory Stewart).

WOV introduced charities in Brazil to the UK's **No Second Night Out** model as a way to support people



CONNECTING ARTS
AND HOMELESSNESS WORLDWIDE



who have just started sleeping out. The Rio police department has begun to invite the city's Corais USV to sing at events and members of the force have been seen greeting choir members in the street. The Prefeitura of Rio has pledged more support for arts and homelessness.

WOV introduced the lead officer for Scotland's national cultural strategy to the Cultural Affairs Department in Paris, which – through the *pacte parisien de lutte contre la grande exclusion* – is fighting social exclusion, partly through arts and creativity.

