

Digital Women's Archive North CIC

105 Northumberland Road
Old Trafford
Manchester
M16 9PY

28-10-20

To whom it may concern -

Digital Women's Archive North [DWAN] is delighted to support Mahboobeh Rajabi's application to Arts Council England, evolving our creative collaboration.

DWAN is a feminist arts and heritage organisation, founded by Jenna C. Ashton and Kevin Malone. DWAN supports women to identify, collect, disseminate and celebrate their cultural heritage and practices through creative and digital interventions. We use feminist curatorial and archival methods to support women's active citizenship and self empowerment, using cultural heritage and arts archives as a basis for finding solutions to inequalities.

Through our focus on equity, equality and empowerment, our work directly contributes to supporting the diversification of heritage-making, heritage skilling, and the visibility of marginalised heritage.

Core activities:

1. Co-creating our digital space that will function as an archive, educational resource and alternative media outlet, supporting the connectivity, campaigns and cultural resistance and resilience of female practitioners and organisations.
2. Collaborative and creative feminist archival and heritage projects.
3. Delivering educational public engagement events around arts, heritage and feminist practice.

new approaches for digital and material archiving and curation. We have engaged 60 international partners and organisations in identifying areas of excellence within feminist museological practice.

Our creative collaboration with Mahboobeh began in 2017, with The Travelling Heritage Bureau: a co-research project and supportive network with and for international women artists based in the North West of England. Since then, we worked with Mahboobeh as part of a diverse artist studio experiment, the Centre for International Women Artists (CIWA). Most recently, we facilitated the project “Girlhood” in response to an ESRC research project, working with 5 international women artists as Creative Consultants - of which Mahboobeh was one. This work supported Mahboobeh to engage with an intergenerational and global exploration of girlhood experiences frequently negated or suppressed within cultural memory. The discussion and creative outcomes of this project will soon be live via our archive site.

We are delighted to continue working with Mahboobeh as a Partner on this project around arts, women’s rights and histories in Iran.

We will support the project in the following ways:

- Advice and guidance regarding a feminist archival practice, and methods for archiving and documenting the project.
- Promote and disseminate the project - focusing on networks and outlets on women’s cultural heritage and archiving.
- Support Mahboobeh’s public engagement plans and activities.
- Connect the project with our own arts and culture contacts in Iran/ Iranian diaspora. - Continue to advocate for international and BIPOC women artists.

Mahboobeh is a very talented, generous, and insightful female arts leader of her generation, and we wholly encourage you support this application. She has a fabulous career ahead of her.

Thank you for your attention.

Creative Directors, [DWAN]



commonword cultureword crocus books

21 September 2020

Dear Madam/Sir

Re. Mahboobeh Rajabi GFA Application

Commonword wholeheartedly supports Mahboobeh Rajabi in her application to Grants for the Arts. We have worked with Mahboobeh on a number of projects over the last three years and have been impressed by her commitment and work practices.

Mahboobeh has an excellent understanding of the social and cultural barriers within the arts faced by both practitioners and audiences from marginalised groups. She has proven herself an asset in engaging marginalised communities and in delivering project goals through inclusive practice. In particular, her experience of co-creative working as a pathway to artistic excellence has proven invaluable.

We are extremely keen to work with Mahboobeh on her Research and Development project. The stories of women from the Middle East and now living in the UK remain largely hidden, particularly in Greater Manchester. We believe Mahboobeh's project and research will help to widen views on women's struggles and shed light on the global nature of the challenges that women face.

Yours faithfully



Martin De Mello
Co-CEO/Co-Artistic Director

Helping new writers become more successful

No 3 Planetree House 21-31 Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JG

T: 0161 832 3777

E: enquiries@cultureword.org.uk W:

www.cultureword.org.uk

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Cultureword and Crocus Books are a part of
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financial support from Arts Council England





9 October 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to confirm Global Arts Manchester's partnership with Mahboobeh Rajabi as she develops her new piece. We are committed to providing Artistic Quality Support for the duration of the project. In-kind value of this support is £750 (£250/day for up to equivalent of 3 days).

Global Arts is a Manchester-based, Black women artist-led organisation that is committed to supporting our members with their independent artistic projects, like this one, and ensuring that the arts in Manchester are available for diverse people to create, enjoy and participate in.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Helena Munday
Co-director
Global Arts Manchester
lena@opticonoodle.com | 07742 939104

Global Arts Manchester, St Peters House, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9GH | ga.mcr@outlook.com

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "E. De Bruijs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PANKHURST TRUST

The Pankhurst Centre
60 - 62 Nelson Street
Manchester
M13 9WP

Tel: 0161 820 8414
admin@thepankhurstcentre.org

**RISE
VOICE
VOTE**

THE PANKHURST
(Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid)
Registered Charity No. 1011547
Registered Company No. 02053414

**PANKHURST
TRUST**

**MANCHESTER
WOMEN'S
AID**

**PANKHURST
CENTRE**

To Whom it May Concern,

Here at The Pankhurst Trust (Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid) we are fully in support of Mahboobeh Rajabi's application to the Arts Council for her Research and Development project. We have built strong relationships and trust with Mahboobeh since 2016, in different creative projects that support our women's groups on different levels. Her work with our clients has included work to improve mental health, and capturing stories of the abuse they have suffered in their own words and in a way that can be spread widely without increasing risk to them.

As a woman, mother and artist, Mahboobeh herself has a unique story of growing up in Iran and experiencing extreme hardship herself whilst still a young girl. She has incorporated this into her wonderful career as an artist. She understands issues around women's rights globally through her lived experience and her work with the multi-cultural communities within Manchester and she has been working hard to create platforms to make their voices heard.

The unforgettable animations which she helped our women create of their stories in 2016 are still part of our Pankhurst archive and we support her in the spirit of women's suffrage from the birthplace of the suffragette movement.



The University of Manchester
Institute for Cultural Practices
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
M13 9PL
<https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/icp/>

28-10-20

To whom it may concern -

The Institute for Cultural Practices (ICP), University of Manchester, is delighted to support Mahboobeh Rajabi's application to Arts Council England.

ICP is an exciting contemporary centre that provides a platform for postgraduate study, continuing professional development, research and knowledge exchange with cultural and heritage professionals.

Manchester is recognized worldwide for its vibrant creative sector, with an enviable stock of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

All of our practice-based courses have a vocational emphasis and are designed to facilitate a bridge between education and professional life. They are taught by both those working within academia and professional practitioners in a variety of fields.

We offer three Masters Programmes, in Heritage Studies, Arts Gallery and Museums Studies, and Arts Management, Policy and Practice. Our graduates are trained in different methodological and theoretical approaches in their respective fields and are encouraged to participate in lively interdisciplinary debate, alongside developing their own individual skills as practitioners.

As an Artist, Curator and ICP Lecturer in Heritage Studies, I have collaborated with Mahboobeh since 2017, through my work “The Travelling Heritage Bureau”: a co-

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research project and supportive network with and for international women artists based in the North West of England.

As a Centre we wish to deepen this research relationship with Mahboobeh and her practice, to explore intergenerational Iranian women’s experiences and human rights.

Additionally, we recognise there are significant barriers for young refugees re entering arts and cultural Higher Education. As a Centre, we are committed to redressing the issues of discrimination and racialised disadvantage within our disciplines and our own teaching and research practice, and to decolonising our curriculum. This involves supporting BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and disabled artists to meaningfully co-created solutions to address educational barriers, and ensuring diverse cultural practices are represented.

For the duration of the project, we will support Mahboobeh as an Affiliate Artist Researcher within ICP. We will mentor Mahboobeh through her research, including supporting access to additional resources and methodology needs.

Mahboobeh will also be invited to offer Masterclass sessions for students, and to connect to UoM’s Creative Manchester initiative. Plus, ICP as a whole will support consultation work around the issue of refugee barrier to arts-culture education.

We are delighted to evolve this arts and heritage research relationship with Mahboobeh, and look forward to working with her.

Kind regards



Dr Jenna C. Ashton

**Lecturer and Programme Director,
Heritage Studies, ICP**

Jenna.Ashton@manchester.ac.uk

<https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/jenna.ashton.html>

<https://culturalpractice.org/>