



CHWA AWARDS 2025

The Practising Well Award in collaboration with Nicola Naismith

Practitioner wellbeing and support is a recurring concern and priority for us all working in arts for health and wellbeing. Working in collaboration with [Nicola Naismith](#) (Artist/Researcher and author of the '[Artists Practising Well](#)' and '[Practising Well: Conversations and Support Menu](#)' reports), this award aims to focus on practice that is leading the way in championing, delivering and embedding staff and practitioner care into project design, commissioning, management and organisational development.

This year we are inviting:

- Freelance practitioners to nominate commissioners, employers, peers or organisations for projects or programmes that have supported their own wellbeing. The wellbeing support may have been the main motivator behind the project, or it may be an unexpected outcome, or responsive to an emerging need.
- Organisations to self-nominate in collaboration with a practitioner, a project, initiative or way of working which is focused on practitioner wellbeing.
- Staff to nominate their organisation for an approach or initiative which recognises the importance of staff wellbeing, and places this at the forefront of their organisational approach.

For 2025, CHWA will consider awarding joint winners for this category, recognising equal importance for both freelance and staff support.

Applications will be assessed in line with CHWA’s Creative Health Quality Framework Quality Principles. You can see an explanation of the quality principles below, or read the [full framework on our website](#).



<p>Person-Centred: Value lived experience and enable potential.</p>	<p>Collaborative: Work with others to develop joined-up approaches.</p>
<p>Equitable: Work towards a more just and equitable society.</p>	<p>Realistic: Be realistic about what you can achieve.</p>
<p>Safe: Do no harm, ensure safety, and manage risk.</p>	<p>Reflective: Reflect, evaluate, and learn.</p>
<p>Creative: Engage, inspire and ignite change.</p>	<p>Sustainable: Work towards a positive, long-term legacy for people and planet.</p>

Access is important to us

- Our standard application process is via Microsoft Forms. However, we accept applications in any format that works for you, including audio and video. If you would prefer to apply in a format other than the application form, please use WeTransfer to send your application to awards@culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk. There is also a Word Doc version of the application form below.

Apply via Microsoft Forms: <https://forms.office.com/e/GFNvXgR3ki>

Important Dates

- Applications open **Tuesday 1st October 2024**
- Submission deadline is **Friday 29th November 2024**
- All applicants will be contacted in January 2025 and shortlisted projects published on the CHWA website at the beginning of February 2025
- Winners will be announced at an open online *CHWA Awards 2025 – Celebration Event* on Weds, April 23rd 2025. You can [book your free ticket](#) on Eventbrite now.

Notes for Applicants

- We accept applications in any format that works for you, including audio and video. If you would prefer to apply in a format other than the application form, please use WeTransfer to send your application to awards@culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk. You can also find a word document version of the form below.
- Projects or programmes need to be based in the UK and we can only accept one application per organisation per award.
- Organisations can only win a category once, however they can still be shortlisted for or apply for different awards.
- At least some of the project / programme needs to have taken place since March 2023, but we are happy to hear from projects that began before this period, as long as they also spanned this timescale.
- Projects or programmes can be ongoing, but need to be able to demonstrate impact or change.

- There is no cash prize but the awards will be widely publicised via CHWA and our partners' websites and networks and are an opportunity to showcase your work nationally.

About Nicola Naismith

[Nicola Naismith](#) is a Visual Artist with over 20 years experience of working with socially engaged practice. She was the Visual Artist Fellow on the Clore Leadership Programme in 2017/18. Nicola's work includes residencies and commissioned projects and supporting other artists through mentoring, coaching, teaching and training. She completed an AHRC and Clore Leadership research project [Artists Practising Well](#) in Spring 2019 which explores affective support for creative practitioners working in health and wellbeing contexts. Nicola published her most recent research report [Practising Well: Conversations & Support Menu](#) in January 2022 and continues to advocate for better and more consistent support for practitioners working across all the participatory arts sector.