

DANCING THREADS CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Introduction

This toolkit supports Global Grooves' development of the Dancing Threads Project. It includes covering letters and tailored consultation questions for different stakeholder groups, aligned with NLHF's *Heritage 2033* priorities: inclusion, participation, saving heritage, environmental sustainability, and organisational sustainability – and the wider aims and objectives of the project.

We define heritage as the **intangible cultural practices passed between generations**, including traditional dance, music, costume, oral storytelling, performance, and craft. This project explores the value and relevance of these *living* traditions today – not as relics of the past, but as creative, evolving practices that shape cultural identity and community life.

Toolkit Objectives

- To gather diverse perspectives on heritage from participants, artists, educators, and community leaders.
- To understand needs, aspirations, and barriers to participation.
- To co-develop programme content, success indicators, and legacy ideas.
- To support inclusive evaluation and learning aligned with NLHF investment principles.

Insights from this toolkit will inform the project's evaluation framework, particularly the development of co-created success indicators aligned with NLHF's investment principles. Responses will shape how we measure inclusion, intergenerational impact, and community benefit.

How to Use This Toolkit

Facilitators can use this toolkit in one-to-one conversations, group discussions, workshops, or as a written/digital questionnaire. It includes specific prompts for different audiences and should be adapted where necessary for access, age, or context. Feedback should be recorded clearly, with permission where quotes or images are used. A summary form is included at the end for internal reporting.

Shared Definition of Heritage

We define heritage as the intangible cultural practices passed between generations – including traditional dance, music, costume, oral storytelling, and textiles. These are living traditions, often shaped by migration, memory, and reinvention. This project values heritage as something made and re-made by communities today.

COVERING LETTERS / EMAILS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & GROUP LEADERS (NEW CONSULTATION)

Subject: Help shape a local heritage project in Tameside and Oldham

Hello,

I'm getting in touch from [Global Grooves](#) in Mossley to ask for your help with shaping a new local project called *Dancing Threads*. We're consulting with community groups across Tameside and Oldham to explore and support heritage traditions – including dance, costume, textiles, music, and cultural storytelling – and how these are passed between generations and communities.

We know that many grassroots organisations like yours are doing vital work to keep these traditions alive, often with very little support. This consultation aims to make sure your voice is heard – helping us build a strong case for funding that could benefit cultural groups across our area.

We'd love you to take part by answering a few quick survey questions. Your insights will help us advocate for better support for small cultural groups and develop projects that reflect your priorities and challenges.

We know time is short, but we'd be very grateful if you could complete the survey by **12th June**. Any responses sooner would be greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to take part, please complete the survey here:
<https://forms.gle/Ao5dcyaL8KtMUts99>

Warm regards,

Leon Patel

CEO – Global Grooves

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & GROUP LEADERS (ALREADY ENGAGED)

Subject: Feedback request – and a quick favour!

Dear [Name],

Thank you again for your fantastic support in shaping our collaborative project and NLHF application. As we reach the final submission stage, we're gathering a few final reflections.

Alongside your own response (link below), we'd also be grateful if you could share our short **participant survey** with your group members. Their feedback is vital in demonstrating the real impact of this work on individuals and communities – and could help secure the funding we need to move forward.

We've included a suggested message and link that you can send via email, WhatsApp, or social media. As a bonus, we think this process may offer useful insights for your own group's development too.

Here are your links:

- **Organisational survey:** <https://forms.gle/Ao5dcyaL8KtMUts99>
- **Participant survey to share (suggested email attached):**
<https://forms.gle/gYgnP9BRTtNM8u5v9>

Thank you again – your ongoing support means a lot.

With appreciation,

Leon Patel

CEO – Global Grooves

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

Subject: Share your thoughts – help shape a new creative project

Hi,

We'd love your help. We're exploring how people connect with dance, music, and cultural traditions passed down through generations – and we want to hear from you.

We've created a short survey to hear about your experiences and ideas. What do these kinds of activities mean to you? What have you learned? What would you like to see more of?

It only takes a few minutes, and there are no right or wrong answers. Your responses will help us shape a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund – a project that aims to bring people together through shared cultural experiences.

Please complete the survey by **12th June**:

<https://forms.gle/gYgnP9BRTtNM8u5v9>

Thanks so much,

Leon Patel

Global Grooves

SECTOR EXPERTS (NEW CONTACTS)

Subject: Invitation – expert input for heritage consultation

Dear [Name],

I'm reaching out from Global Grooves, where we're preparing a new bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for *Dancing Threads* – a project focused on celebrating and sustaining intangible heritage, including Carnival, Morris, and South Asian dance traditions.

We're gathering insights from sector experts to help shape our final proposal – particularly around measuring impact, inclusion, sustainability, and intergenerational learning.

Would you be open to answering a few short questions via our online form? We know time is short, but your input would be hugely appreciated before **12th June**. Please also feel free to share it with relevant colleagues or collaborators.

You can respond via this link: <https://forms.gle/5dbUSNoYZpLpEXEb8>

Warm regards,
Leon Patel
CEO – Global Grooves

SECTOR EXPERTS (ALREADY ENGAGED)

Subject: Thank you – final call for expert input

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your continued support and input into our *Dancing Threads* project. As we finalise our NLHF application, we're seeking a few final reflections – particularly on sustainability, legacy, and inclusion.

We've created a short set of questions for sector experts like yourself. If you're able to complete the online form by **12th June**, we'd be incredibly grateful. Please also feel free to share it with relevant colleagues or collaborators.

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/5dbUSNoYZpLpEXEb8>

With thanks,
Global Grooves

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

This consultation is designed to support our dialogue with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and the development of our *Dancing Threads* Project. Please respond from the perspective of your group or project.

Your insights will help shape future investment in locally rooted, collaborative heritage work. Findings will be shared with NLHF and the Global Grooves team.

We define heritage as **intangible cultural practices passed between generations**, including traditional dance, music, costume, oral storytelling, performance, and craft.

Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. Group Name
2. What cultural traditions or practices does your group preserve or celebrate? Why are they important to your community?
3. How is knowledge passed between generations in your group? What challenges or successes have you had in involving different age groups?
4. Are there people you'd like to involve more in your activities? What would help make this easier or more accessible?
5. Does your group consider environmental sustainability when planning events or creating work?
6. What kinds of skills do people develop through your group's work? Are there new skills or training you'd like support with?
7. What impact could support through future collaborative heritage projects have on your group?
8. What are the biggest challenges in keeping your traditions or group going?
9. How important is it for your group to collaborate with other cultural traditions? What might you gain from such collaboration?
10. If you could secure funding to develop a project locally what would this look like?

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

This consultation supports our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the development of the 'Dancing Threads' project. Please respond as a participant in [INSERT GROUP NAME], and more broadly as someone involved in cultural or heritage activity.

Your responses will remain anonymous. A summary of findings will be shared with NLHF, Global Grooves, and your group leaders.

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Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. What is the name of your group?
 2. How long have you been involved?
 3. How old are you?
 4. What types of cultural or heritage activities do you enjoy or take part in? (e.g. dance, music, craft, festivals)
 5. Is there a tradition or cultural practice that is special to you or your family?
 6. Have you ever taken part in something with people older or younger than you? What was that like?
 7. What helps you feel welcome and included in a group or activity?
 8. Should cultural activities try to be more eco-friendly? Any ideas?
 9. Have you learned anything new by taking part in creative or cultural activities?
 10. How do these experiences make you feel? (e.g. proud, connected, confident)
 11. Would you like to do more of these kinds of activities in future?
 12. What has been your favourite moment so far when taking part in your group's activities?
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SECTOR EXPERTS

Please complete this consultation from your perspective as an expert, artist, or leader working in the cultural or heritage sector.

Your insights will support project development and strengthen our NLHF application. Findings will be shared with NLHF and the Global Grooves team.

We define heritage as **intangible cultural practices passed between generations**, including traditional dance, music, costume, oral storytelling, performance, and craft.

Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. What is your name?
2. Please briefly describe your experience in delivering or supporting cultural/heritage projects, and your expertise within the sector.
3. Why is the preservation of intangible cultural heritage important?
4. What are the benefits of intergenerational engagement in heritage projects?
5. How can projects ensure inclusive participation across different communities?
6. What practical steps can support environmental sustainability in heritage work?
7. What kinds of skills are most important to develop to keep cultural heritage alive and relevant?
8. What helps support long-term legacy and sustainability for communities and organisations?
9. How would you suggest measuring the impact of projects of this kind?
10. What are your thoughts on collaborating with other cultural or heritage groups? What potential does this hold for enriching your own practice or the wider sector?

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

This consultation supports the development of Dancing Threads and our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is designed for teachers, teaching assistants, and education leaders interested in cultural and heritage learning.

Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. What age group or key stage do you work with?
2. How does your school currently engage with cultural or heritage learning?
3. What value do you see in connecting curriculum topics with local and community-based traditions?
4. What are the challenges you face in embedding creative or heritage-led activities?
5. What support or resources would help you deliver more heritage-based work?
6. How important is it to involve artists and tradition-bearers in school-based delivery?
7. Are there ways your school could support intergenerational or cross-cultural learning?
8. What outcomes would you hope to see from participating in a project like Dancing Threads?

YOUNG PEOPLE (AGES 11–25)

This short consultation is for young people aged 11–25 who have taken part in cultural, heritage, or creative activities—or who are curious about them!

Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. What kinds of creative or cultural activities do you enjoy (e.g. dance, music, fashion, storytelling)?
2. Is there a tradition, celebration, or style that's important to your background or identity?
3. Have you ever learned something from an older person about culture, heritage, or skills?
4. What helps you feel confident to join in and express yourself?
5. What do you think people your age could learn from taking part in heritage activities?
6. How should these activities be made more exciting or relevant to young people?
7. Would you like to help shape future events or activities? If yes, how would you like to be involved?

ELDERS AND TRADITION-BEARERS

This consultation is for older adults who hold traditional skills, stories, or cultural knowledge and wish to support its continuation.

Your response will help shape the Dancing Threads project. By completing this consultation, you agree that your answers may be used (anonymously) in project planning, evaluation, and reporting. Please let us know if you do not wish for your feedback to be included.

Questions:

1. What traditions, stories, or skills are you most proud of passing on?
2. How did you first learn these traditions?
3. Are you currently sharing your knowledge with others? If so, how?
4. What makes it difficult to involve younger people in heritage activities?
5. What support would help you continue teaching or demonstrating your cultural knowledge?
6. How would you feel about working with artists, schools, or other communities?
7. What advice would you give to ensure your heritage is kept alive for future generations?

FINAL NOTE

This toolkit is designed to be flexible, accessible, and easy to use – supporting meaningful contributions from a wide range of stakeholders and strengthening the development of *Dancing Threads*.

Participant responses may inform creative outputs, group storytelling, and project evaluation. With permission, anonymised feedback may be included in final reporting or shared in reflective sessions.