

## M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

<b>Project Title</b>				
Nottingham Playhouse: A Cultural History and Analysis of its Community Engagement				
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>				
Name of HEI institution	Nottingham Trent University			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>				
Name of organisation	Nottingham Playhouse			
Website URL	<a href="https://www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/">https://www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/</a>			
<b>THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>				
<p>Nottingham Playhouse is one of the city's leading cultural sector organizations. In 2017-18, over 130,000 people attended more than 502 events that it organized. As well as a valuable resource for emerging artists across the region, Nottingham Playhouse also supports and develops various community programmes, working with aspiring creatives, traditionally white working-class communities, African Caribbean and South Asian communities, new immigrant groups, and disabled theatre participants. In 2018, the Playhouse inaugurated a new chapter in its regional theatre making ecology by launching Amplify, a project for artists in the region by building on the work of the theatre's Participation Department.</p> <p>This CDA project will explore Nottingham Playhouse's engagement with local communities across the theatre's lifetime, from its opening 1948 on Goldsmith Street, through its current location in Wellington Circus in the building inaugurated in 1963, its restoration in 2004, to its role in the city and region today. Nottingham Playhouse's conception of theatre extends beyond the idea that audiences are the only recipients or beneficiaries of its activities. It has developed programmes that reach out to individuals and groups from childhood to old age, provided work experience for young people with learning and/or physical disabilities, supported a weekly "In House" theatre group for vulnerable adults, and offered community-facing initiatives and performances. This CDA will examine these initiatives and activities, and it will provide a detailed analysis of how they coalesce through the community-facing life of a major regional arts institution.</p> <p>The successful applicant will work with supervisors to determine the final shape and scope of the core research to be undertaken for this project, though key research questions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to what extent and in what ways has the theatre engaged with audiences and communities from its inception?</li> <li>• to what extent does local expertise contribute to the creation of stage sets; the making of costumes and attendant props (prosthetics, wigs); the painting of scenery; production of lighting and sound?</li> <li>• what is the impact of engaging with Nottingham Playhouse on individuals and groups (particularly those who have not traditionally considered the integration of theatre in their lives and who did not experience theatre or performance before relationships developed with Nottingham Playhouse)? How might these be measured and stories shared?</li> <li>• how might the history of Nottingham Playhouse's community engagement activities be shared, showcased, and promoted to maximum effect for the theatre and the city and communities it serves?</li> </ul> <p>The CDA will involve the creation of community-facing digital material (such as podcasts, films, interviews, photo-essays, journalism) in collaboration with Nottingham Playhouse and under its direction. It will also include project sharing activities, such as community outreach workshops.</p>				

This fully-funded PhD is a collaboration between NTU's College of Art, Architecture, Design, and Humanities, led by Prof. Sharon Monteith, and Nottingham Playhouse, led by Stephanie Sirr. The successful applicant will join vibrant research communities in the Schools of Arts & Humanities and Art & Design at NTU. Staff and postgraduate researchers work collaboratively with many regional, national, and international partners, resulting in a thriving research culture which provides outstanding collaborative opportunities and offers excellent opportunities for participating in a wide range of cultural and creative activities. NTU and Nottingham Playhouse collaborate on the Nottingham Civic Exchange, an access initiative to careers in the theatre industry for young local people. Nottingham Playhouse is also one of the founding partners of the Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership, and a key M4C partner.

#### **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE**

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Prof. Sharon Monteith
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	<a href="mailto:sharon.monteith@ntu.ac.uk">sharon.monteith@ntu.ac.uk</a>