

## **Outreach - Chris**

### **What this committee contributes to the fellowship**

The Alcoholics Anonymous Trustees said that they wanted the hand AA to be there for anyone that needed it. That may now be true, but we can't say the same about ARTS.

Many of us have come to see that doing our art is not just about reaching our creative fulfilment, goes deeper than that. Many of us know that doing our art is a serious matter and may even be a matter of life and death. Yet most budding artists, blocked artists and wannabe artists have no idea that something like ARTS Anonymous even exists.

This is why kickstarting outreach in this ARTS Fellowship is so important. The Outreach committee can be a prime tool for spreading the message of recovery to the artist who still suffers. This is our Primary Purpose as Tradition 5 tells us, but we cannot carry this out without some organisation and direction - that is what the Outreach committee should do.

### **What actions this committee is planning to take to address the group conscience of the Fellowship**

Assuring that the greater ARTS community grows, and connects.

The greater ARTs community can grow with Outreach.

Potential actions to be taken to address this can be viewed in the ARTS Outreach Draft Strategy Document

If the leadership is not expanded, it will lose energy and disappear.

This is true, and the median age of the ARTs Fellowship is probably quite high, we need new blood and Outreach can supply this.

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The ARTS program beautifully assists those of us, who wish to engage our creativity, and share it with others, yet we struggle to do so, for a multitude of recovery issues. We would like to see the ARTS program open up the way it communicates this offer to

others, who also struggle. But a concern that seems to block this desire, might be the interpretation or application of the 11th Tradition of ARTS Anonymous

Outreach is one way that the ARTS programme opens up the way it communicates. This happens by engaging various stakeholders and organisations outside the ARTS programme who have access to those who still suffer and need the solution that ARTs offers. It is true that Tradition 11 is important to take into consideration and needs to be respected. However, when conducting ARTS outreach it is worth mentioning up front that there is a tendency to over-interpret the AA anonymity tradition. It only requires members to maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, film etc. The second cofounder of AA, Dr Robert Smith, argued that maintaining anonymity at any other level, in particular “being so anonymous you can’t be reached by other drunks” was itself a breach of the anonymity tradition. He also considered AA members should let themselves be known as such in the community.

Potential actions to be taken to address this can be viewed in the ARTS Outreach Draft Strategy Document

### **What this committee hopes to achieve before WSC**

To circulate the draft ARTS Strategy documents to interested members and to convene or at least to schedule in an initial scoping session

### **What this committee hopes to achieve if voted in at WSC**

See the Draft ARTs Strategy document for more details. But a first stage would include the following:

#### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS (TO IMPROVE THE DOCUMENT)**

- Circulate document to gain comments
- Set priorities for action in first phase
- Get buy in from relevant stakeholders

### **What sorts of skills this committee is looking for in potential members**

People who love ARTs and that are enthusiastic for spreading the message and doing media or Public relations)

People with design skills for designing engaging collateral – so skills in Creative Suite and Canva would be useful

People with experience doing outreach or with Intergroup officer service positions in other 12 Step fellowships and knowledge of the 12 Traditions (not essential but probably helpful)

**Email contact**

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**A bit about me....**

I'm British born and live in the UK. London, England. I've been in ARTs since about 2012. I came in out of curiosity but started to identify as an artist after making art helped me cope after the tragic death of a close artist friend in early 2013. I dabbled with Artist Pages, an ex was also doing and then started coming to ARTs meetings. I have yet to work the Steps but use all the tools and attend meetings every week (Notting Hill, Wednesdays). I'm mainly a writer and poet, rapper, and Japanese calligrapher but I also have made forays into stand up comedy. I have also started writing a novel and a radio play. For me, art is both a spiritual path, a devotional practice and the process heals various types of trauma.