



WŌW Inc. Call for Funding Proposals

The Situation

The board of Working for Ōtepoti Women (WŌW) Dunedin wish to invite proposals from organisations working with women in the Dunedin community.

Background: the time came (2019) when the board needed to consider the future of the YWCA in Dunedin. Historically the YWCA Dunedin has been involved in a number of activities, the YWCA hostel, childcare, many clubs, walking groups, holiday programs, encore courses and advocacy work, in the last few years the sole focus has been on the Angel Fund Operation.

Originally, the Angel Fund was set-up under the YWCA Dunedin, as this organisation was women focused and worked in the community, it also had a structure for operational purposes. By 2019 the Angel Fund had become the sole purpose of the YWCA Dunedin.

Up until early in 2018, the YWCA Dunedin employed an Angel Fund Co-ordinator, to facilitate the loan process, promote the service and assist with other operational activities (e.g., grant applications). This was funded by the funds held by the YWCA as investments.

In March 2020, YWCA Dunedin changed its name to be WŌW and continued to hold the assets of the YWCA Dunedin. The board now needs to consider the future use of the funds held by the organisation. In 2020 they commissioned researchers to conduct a research project. From these findings and other board focused work WŌW have identified 3 prongs that could benefit the Ōtepoti community.

The hui will

1. Present the findings of the research
(All that follows needs to be read in conjunction with the research document)
2. Outline the 3 areas of interest likely to attract funding support
3. Seek feedback from you (the audience) regarding the 3 areas outlined
4. Detail the way the funding and support from WŌW will work
5. There is no limit on the number of Expressions of Interest/proposals that may be supported depending on their relationship to the 3 areas of interest and the long-term sustainability.

WŌW's charitable purpose

Committing ourselves to the articles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi and enhancing the well-being of women, we work to empower women by addressing all forms of oppression, particularly sexism, racism, and economic oppression, so that women may together attain social justice.

The key messages heard in the research are discussed below.

Physical space to create, to make, to sew *"We need a physical space to create and to share that is focused specifically for women or is exclusively for women."*

Spaces that encourage women to 'do' – supporting actions/activities *"Hard for artists to get together – be great to have a casual space for people to get together and do art without criteria. Get to adulthood and push it aside. Instead of 10 sessions with a counsellor, you should get nine sessions and a sewing machine!"*

Queer space with a social focus *"Dunedin has no lesbian bars – a space to go to that is ours."*

Safe spaces for women *"Corso building used to be a women's building. Entitled to our own spaces. Fought for that – had to fight for women to have their own space because some men were threatened."*

Spaces that support women-led conversations *"Like to see more seminars, conversations, training – rather than asking bigger questions, I have a genuine interest in what other people think – how do we foster this?"*

Creating homes *in our interviews, we had participants who owned their homes, were homeless, were renting, who were in unstable and illegal housing situations. Despite the diversity, all talked about the important need to create a 'home'.*

The three areas of interest identified through the research

1. Thought document around physical space

Ground up movement, for purpose regenerative

WŌW is seeking an organisation that will create a physical space that is women-centred and nurturing in focus. It will be a place for women to connect or disconnect depending on their needs. A place for creating, sharing, and empowering.

Such a space could include any of the following:

1. A shared working space
2. This may include childcare
3. A space that offers flexibility for working, studying.
4. Space for networking/meetups/support groups

Meetups that encourage conversations and debate about life's big questions.

- A chance to learn about what other people think and their experiences.
- Support groups for uplifting each other, sharing knowledge, experiences.
- A safe and confidential facilitation of personal sharing with a collective intention to build trust on a foundation of respect, honesty, and integrity.
- Book clubs
- Support groups for post-natal depression or women going through relationship break ups.
You can be own your own, you can be self-sufficient, you can do this, we will help you.

5. A Space for Sharing Skills

An opportunity to receive advice and knowledge that will help you navigate systems not built for you. For example, what funding options are out there to help women with costs like uniforms or doctors and making that application together.

- *The floor is yours – hear practical advice from women who have done it. Valuing the knowledge of the cohort.*
- *A workshop series where skills and knowledge are shared while also respecting and valuing each other's time. Bite sized learning at a reasonable price.*
- *Interactive seminars on topics that are about empowering. Learning life hacks that allow women to find security from money management, to cooking, sewing, and upcycling. Delivered in response to requests from the community.*
- *Practical skills from self-defence to knitting/crochet.*

6. A Space for Self Care

A Space that allows women to practice self-care from reading a book to massage or meditation. A place to find peace.

- *A place to feel welcome whatever your background.*
- *Counselling offered by women for women.*
- *Working with a life coach to map out the problems in your life and work through each one. Having space to work out your own solutions and being offered some if requested.*
- *Exercise classes*
- *Massage therapy*

7. A Space for Practical Support

- *Helping women contact organisations that will help them specifically with their needs. Make the phone call together, arrange the appointment there and then.*
- *Inviting knowledge bearers to come in and sit with women creating their CV, working out their budget, applying for university. Work out a plan together for their weekly schedule so that they are using their time efficiently.*
- *A base for the Angel Fund which can offer women the chance to invest in themselves via business or study. It also provides a hack to mainstream loan systems with big interest percentages when needing urgent funding for housing, a car or phone.*

If we cannot change patriarchal systems instantly, we can at least, in the meantime, provide hacks. Working spaces with childcare, micro loans with no interest, working with advocates regarding applying for subsidies or grants – these are just a few ways we rattle the cage and navigate barriers to women's success.

2. Support for Political Activation

What and Why:

As a result of the research, it was identified that local women want to back change-makers in our community. In recognising that much mahi is done to effect change by volunteers and in an unpaid capacity, WōW proposes to financially support women who wish to become involved in the change-making space and support the deeper engagement of women in this space, relieving barriers along the way.

Activities might include:

- Systems change - shifting systems towards equity
- Advocating for political change - bringing women's issue to the forefront
- Amplifying community voice
- Organising grassroots action

What this could look like:

- Employ someone for a period who creates campaigns and community activation in specific areas
- Funding available for individuals or organisations that wish to be active in advocating for change (for example organising hui and writing submissions) that support development of women and aligns with the mission of WōW.
- Funding allocated to fund research/writing of grant applications on behalf of small organisations that wish to meet the needs that align with WōW over the coming two-year period as partnerships are identified that meet the brief.
- Funding available for local individuals who make submissions for policy or legislative changes that align with the mission
- Stipend for an "activist in residence" programme with specific outputs
- Partner with an existing national or national organisation to support local worker with local focus.
- Funding for research publication and promotion that aligns with WōW mission
- Create an 'alumni' network for women who have received funds and may benefit from connecting with each other.

How:

- Social media campaign so women know funds are available and to highlight the awesome work that recipients are doing.
- Provide clear criteria to meet funding requirements
- Develop a matrix to support WōW to allocate funds
- Identify funding frequency and amounts
- Identify recipient responsibilities e.g., outputs, report back to board, profile on social media,
- Fund a set amount per year until funds are exhausted

There are a multitude of ways that individuals and groups are advocating collectively for women at community, city, regional and national levels. If there are things you are doing, or want to be doing, but need additional funding in order to be more effective, then we want to hear from you.

3. Re-Starting Angel fund loans / connecting with other suppliers

Aim:

That the Angel fund be identified as an activity that aligns with a social service/community group who will have the capacity to manage the funds and the Angel Fund programme as part of their offerings.

Research and anecdotal conversations support access to an Angel Fund. Wow holds all information relating to the operation of the YWCA angel fund. There is a successful programme outline that can be accessed, and “Aunts” to mentor if required.

There have been regular enquiries about accessing the funds since applications were paused, and regular questions about where the Fund has gone.

The concept of an Angel Fund links back to many of the underlying principles identified in the research:

- Empowerment/strengths based
- Equity focused: give economic power to those excluded by traditional funding mechanisms
- Impacting policy has the potential to impact policy as stories are gathered/told
- Systematic change
- Accessible inclusive design

Note:

The Angel Fund, as previously run, had a wider scope than just the lending of money.

The co-ordinator also facilitated all sorts of connections because many applicants needed both the Fund and other assistance, or assistance accessing specific agencies and help.

WŌW holds all information for the management of the fund including processes and history.

Support could be offered by people connected to WŌW in the past to a provider.

BUILDING NEW SYSTEMS

If we can't change patriarchal systems instantly, we can at least provide hacks and support activations for change. Working spaces with childcare, micro loans with no interest, working with advocates regarding applying for subsidies or grants – these are just a few ways we rattle the cage and navigate barriers to women's success.

Call for Interest

The criteria for interested organisations/people

- The area of interest must benefit women in Ōtepoti,
- Self-sustaining proposals will be given priority
- A proposal must be strengths based, uplifting and developmental for women (not from crisis centred or deficit approach)

The information that your Expression of Interest should cover

- Please outline your proposal and link to the area of interest identified in the research
- Who will be delivering the project and who will benefit from the project?
- Please outline a brief project plan
- How will you evaluate your project or know that it has had impact?
- To assist us in our assessment of the expressions of interest please indicate the funds you are looking for from WŌW.
- Be aware if you are invited to provide a full proposal, we will ask what other funding you are seeking

Process

- Expressions of Interest will be accepted up to the 30th January 2022 address to WŌW c/- 84 Grendon Street, Maori Hill, Dunedin. Or email to workingotepotiwomen@gmail.com
- By the end of February 2022 WŌW will email out Invitations to submit a full proposal.
- Full proposal due dates will be discussed with each applicant, given their situation- however WŌW are wanting to move this process along so an indication would be a month from invitation for a full proposal.
- WŌW may wish to meet or contact applicants prior to the decisions being made please include the best contact details with the application
- Individuals/ groups completing an Expressions of interest do not need to have any formal organisational structure
- The WŌW board will meet to discuss and make final decisions. No correspondence will be entered into following this process.
- Proposals accepted to be funded will be advised in writing and the funds will be immediately available.

Conditions

The WŌW board wishes to make it known that they do not intend to set up any ongoing organisation - their role was to distribute the funds to worthy recipients in Dunedin undertaking work in the areas that the board and the researchers identified in the research

COVID19

Covid has impacted us all, and we wanted to acknowledge that asking for expression of interest at this time of the year may be challenging, we have been waiting for some time to get this ball rolling and there might never be a “good time” to do this

Contact details for any enquiry/clarification

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